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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 101: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/3, A/40/77, A/40/173, A/40/361, A/40/398 and A/40/570)

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1. Mr. DUGUAY (Canada) said that the Secretary-General's report on the Human Rights Covenant for the current year (A/40/605) showed that the number of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had remained at 80, while the number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had risen to 84, with the accession by Greece. However, almost half of the Member States of the United Nations had still to become parties to those two fundamental instruments. His country urged States to become parties to them during 1986, which would mark the twentieth anniversary of their adoption. He suggested that the Secretary-General might make informal contact with the Governments of all countries not yet parties to the Covenants with a view to identifying obstacles preventing ratification.

2. Only one further country had during the past year become a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bringing the total to only 35. Furthermore, only 18 States had made the declaration concerning the inter-State complaint mechanism provided for under article 41 of that Covenant itself.

(Mr. Duguay, Canada)

3. The reports of the Human Rights Committee assisted States in meeting their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Canada was pleased to have presented its supplementary report to the Human Rights Committee at its twenty-third session in 1984, his country's first report to the Committee since the incorporation in the Canadian Constitution of a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Committee had decided at its twenty-fifth session to combine its consideration of several States supplementary reports with its consideration of those States second periodic reports, which might be a practical solution to the consideration by the Committee of additional reports. In the view of his Government, however, it was no substitute for developing rules of procedure with respect to when the Committee should exercise its jurisdiction under article 40 (1) (b) of the Covenant to make specific requests for additional reports. His delegation believed that when the Committee was apprised of a significant new development which affected the rights referred to in the Covenant, and the periodic report from that State was not due for two years or more, the Committee should request an additional report. His country had made suggestions with respect to the procedures and possible subjects for further action by the Committee and he looked forward to serious consideration of those suggestions.

4. Canada welcomed the copies it had received of the document entitled "Selected Decisions under the Optional Protocol"; and was also awaiting the bound volumes covering the Committee's activities during 1977 and 1978. That sort of publicity for the work of the Committee was of fundamental importance and should be given priority.

5. His delegation was pleased to note the changes made with respect to the membership, organization and structure of the monitoring mechanisms for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights through the establishment of a Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and hoped that it would enhance awareness of the Covenant. He proposed that the report of the Sessional Working Group, and ultimately of the newly formed Committee, should be forwarded to the General Assembly for consideration along with the Human Rights Committee report, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 32/130.

6. The Secretary-General's report in document A/40/600 and Add.1, drew together basic information that was not easily accessible elsewhere. The views of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, however, did not appear to have been sought or considered, and he stressed that it should be given at least the same consideration in the General Assembly and the Secretariat as, for example, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

7. It was shocking that 384 reports were overdue under the five basic human rights instruments. In many cases the reports might be overdue for lack of expertise or experience: the Human Rights Committee report referred to a visit by a member of the Committee to a State party to ascertain what assistance might be required in preparing its report and to a training course on the preparation and submission of reports organized by UNITAR. He hoped further training courses would be held in the future.

(Mr. Duguay, Canada)

8. His Government had signed the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in August of the current year and was engaged in discussions preliminary to ratification. Since the Convention would not enter into force until 20 States had acceded to or ratified it, the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on torture had added significance, and his delegation was looking forward to his report. Canada had contributed an extra \$50,000 to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 1985 and urged other States and organizations to contribute to it.

9. His delegation would address item 103 more fully before the Commission on Human Rights, which was in the process of drafting a convention on the rights of the child. His country's commitment to the interests of the world's children was exemplified by the recent announcement of a \$25 million programme to assist developing countries in achieving universal child immunization by 1990.

10. It was 23 years since the General Assembly had requested a declaration and a convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, and the prospect of an eventual convention was still uncertain. That indicated that many Member States did not feel able to provide the climate for the free expression of religious convictions called for by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and guaranteed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Governments could do much good in that respect, but, conversely, much harm could result from attempts by Governments to enforce a particular faith. In addition, there were political ideologies that sought to displace all traditional religious beliefs. Most contemporary religious persecution was being committed by Governments. All systems of belief, however, contained ample scope for tolerance, and it was the responsibility of those wielding political power to emphasize those tolerant aspects.

11. There were two tasks to be accomplished: implementing the principles of human rights concerning the protection of children and those suffering from religious intolerance, and correcting the critical imbalance in the United Nations between words and deeds. About half of the Governments of Member States had failed to accede to the relevant fundamental rights instruments, or the optional mechanisms to implement them. His country was suggesting some modest proposals in that regard and hoped all Governments would accept them.

12. Mrs. KRAMARCZYK (German Democratic Republic) said that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were crimes precluded by the socialist system as a matter of principle. Each of the acts described by the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment though not explicitly mentioned in the Penal Code of the German Democratic Republic, was covered by its provisions.

13. Her country had participated in the codification process in respect of an effective international instrument against torture, and had contributed to the achievement of the consensus on the Convention. The current review of that document by her country concerned reservations relating to the far-reaching

(Mrs. Kramarczyk, German
Democratic Republic)

competences of the Expert Committee affecting the sovereignty of States, since such bodies had been abused in the past for purposes of politically motivated confrontation and slander.

14. Her country considered the ban on torture to be valid international law. In that connection, it found it deplorable that one State which supported régimes known to be using systematic methods of torture, and which for its own part did not intend to apply the minimum human rights standards set forth in the 1966 Convention, would announce independent measures for examining and supervising compliance with the ban on torture in sovereign United Nations Member States.

15. Ms. BASNYAT (Nepal) said that her country was a Hindu kingdom but had successfully blended Hinduism and Buddhism, making it one of the few countries in Asia which had never experienced serious religious discord. Her delegation attached great importance to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and believed that it would have a significant effect in promoting religious harmony and world peace.

16. Mrs. SANTHOSO (Indonesia) said that her delegation welcomed the recommendations of the Seminar, held at Geneva in December 1984, on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters Relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief which were in accord with her country's philosophy, Constitution, tradition and policies. Religion had been given a prominent role in the development of Indonesian society, and religious instruction was compulsory from elementary school to university.

17. Different religions varied in their capacity to absorb social change, and the development process might sometimes upset the delicate interreligious balance. A Ministry of Religious Affairs had been established five months after Indonesia gained independence in 1945, to nurture the religious life of the people and promote harmony among the diverse religions, and the right of every citizen freely to choose his or her religion was recognized and guaranteed.

18. With regard to item 103, her delegation felt that a concerted effort should be made to live up to the spirit of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by finalizing the draft convention on the subject as soon as possible. Subsequent to the 1979 International Year of the Child her Government had passed legislation on child welfare and had set up a permanent working group under the Ministry of Peoples' Welfare to formulate programmes and policies for the benefit of children. In 1984, Indonesia had proclaimed the Year of Compulsory Education for the Child, and it was a board member of the International Society on Child Abuse and Neglect.

19. Indonesia was currently finalizing a report on the national implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had joined other countries in signing the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

20. Mr. JONES (United Kingdom) said that it was not enough to continue to devise new instruments and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights: the real need was for all States to adhere to the existing international standards. His country therefore appealed to all Member States which had not yet done so to consider ratifying the two Human Rights Covenants as a matter of priority. He regretted that nine years after those Covenants had entered into force, only about half the States Members of the United Nations had become party to them.

21. He agreed with the emphasis placed by members of the Human Rights Committee in their report (A/40/40) on the importance of publicizing the text of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the work of the Committee itself, and welcomed the steps taken for the speedy publication of the official public records of the Committee in bound volumes.

22. It was crucial that States parties should abide by their reporting obligations, and his delegation was pleased to note the success of the training course organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. He hoped that the programme of advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights would continue to focus on practical measures helpful to the implementation of the Covenants by States parties.

23. To maintain the high calibre of the Committee's membership, his delegation hoped that the Secretariat and States parties would continue to give attention to the need to pay Committee members a realistic amount for the work they did.

24. He welcomed the establishment of a Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to improve the system for monitoring implementation by States parties of their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. That Committee had been established at the recommendation of the meeting held in August 1984 of the Chairmen of the bodies considering reports under the human rights instruments. His delegation would be pleased to see further such meetings held on a regular basis, perhaps every other year, to provide an opportunity for detailed discussion of problems experienced by such bodies.

25. His country welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which it had signed and intended to ratify in due course. The widespread use of torture in many countries throughout the world was one of the more appalling features of Amnesty International's 1985 report, and his country welcomed the appointment by the Commission of a Special Rapporteur on torture, and supported the work of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, to which it had made a contribution in 1984.

26. With regard to item 102, he said that the United Kingdom deplored the abuse of psychiatry through the detention and mistreatment of persons in mental institutions on account of their political views or on other non-medical grounds, and welcomed the extensive report on the subject prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. He

(Mr. Jones, United Kingdom)

urged the Sub-Commission to complete consideration of the draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees for the protection of people detained in mental institutions, and his delegation would again be introducing a draft resolution to that effect. With further reference to that item, he observed that modern developments in science and technology could have a great impact on human rights, and the increasing sophistication of military weapons was often cited as a threat to human rights. Disarmament issues were, however, discussed in other United Nations bodies and his delegation did not believe it would be helpful to have the Committee consider those issues.

27. Religious intolerance or discrimination on religious grounds was as obnoxious as discrimination on grounds of race, ethnic origin or sex. His Government had strongly supported the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief in 1981 and urged Governments which continued to practice intolerance against minority religious groups to reflect upon the provisions of the Declaration. He looked forward to the final report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission and hoped that it would contribute to more effective action to ensure the effective implementation of the principles set out in the Declaration.

28. Mr. HEGYI (Hungary) said with regard to item 101 that his Government attached great importance to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and therefore guaranteed full freedom of religion or belief to all citizens, irrespective of their creed. The Constitution guaranteed freedom of conscience and the conditions under which the churches could operate autonomously. In Hungary, the relationship between church and State was based on an agreement to the effect that the church was prepared to help to achieve the nation's goals. The churches rendered assistance in the solution of social problems by carrying out social and health care activities in respect of the aged, the sick, and so forth. At the same time, the Hungarian Government devoted special attention to the needs of the churches by organizing correspondence courses at theological academies, establishing a charitable monastic order of female social workers and allowing laymen to perform ecclesiastic services. Moreover, there were a number of social and ethical questions which the State was making great efforts to solve in co-operation with the churches. Church leaders also had wide scope for participation in social and political activities, and representatives of Hungarian churches took an active part in international church life. Hungary also provided considerable financial support to churches for the protection of their buildings, which formed part of Hungary's cultural heritage.

29. With regard to item 102, he noted that scientific and technological progress were primary factors in accelerating social and economic development, provided the results of that research and development were used for the benefit of peoples and individuals. He stressed that the threat posed by nuclear weapons was incompatible with the right to life, the most fundamental of all human rights. It must be recognized that scientific and technological progress had opened up vast

(Mr. Hegyi, Hungary)

possibilities for mankind, provided people had access to its benefits. In that context, he stressed the validity of the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

30. As to item 103, he said that the Declaration of the Rights of the Child rightly indicated that the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity needed special safeguards and care, including legal protection, in conditions of freedom, and dignity. He expressed the hope that the valuable work being done, at the initiative of the Polish delegation, in drafting a convention on the rights of the child would be completed at the next session of the Commission on Human Rights. He commended the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), whose efforts complemented national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education and general welfare of children, and his delegation therefore welcomed the commemoration of the Fund's fortieth anniversary in 1986.

31. Turning to item 104, he noted that his country had been among the first to become a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights, and it adhered to their provisions in daily practice. The two Covenants were closely interrelated because the effective exercise by individuals of their human rights and fundamental freedoms must be based on a system of wide-ranging economic and social rights and other measures eliminating the uncertainty of existence for the individual. In preparing its regular reports on the implementation of the Covenants, Hungary carried on a permanent dialogue with the Human Rights Committee and the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which provided it with the opportunity to review what it had achieved and to identify its weaknesses. In view of the fundamental importance of the Covenants, he noted with regret that only slightly more than half of the States Members of the United Nations had acceded to them.

32. Lastly, with regard to item 144, he said that Hungary had welcomed the adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Since its adoption, however, the Hungarian people and Government had had occasion to express revulsion at the widespread persistence of the use of torture and other cruel practices in a number of countries. Those shocking practices were alien to a socialist society and had been explicitly prohibited by Hungary's Constitution, Penal Code and Act on Criminal Procedure. His delegation welcomed the fact that the General Assembly had arrived at a compromise text for the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which demonstrated that the international community condemned the use of inhuman, medieval methods and wanted to take action against them in the field of international law.

33. Ms. PEARCE (Australia) said that the exercise of human rights was limited by the fact that many States had failed to ratify or implement the relevant international instruments. In that connection, she was pleased to announce that her country would soon sign one of the most recent ones, the convention against

(Ms. Pearce, Australia)

torture. It had also contributed in the past year to the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture. Her delegation further welcomed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur to prepare a report on the question of torture, especially since the practice was becoming increasingly widespread, even to the point of involving doctors and scientists.

34. The Australian Government, which had ratified both of the International Covenants on Human Rights, was working with other delegations to promote universal adherence to them and was preparing its own Bill of Rights, based on the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, for consideration by Parliament. The effectiveness of those instruments, however, depended upon implementation as well as universal adherence. The Secretary-General had indicated that many Governments faced difficulties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the five existing human rights instruments and had pointed to the need for Governments and the relevant supervisory bodies to rationalize and consolidate those reporting obligations. Her delegation welcomed in that connection the Secretariat's encouraging efforts to consolidate the guidelines for submission of general information as a first step towards the overall consolidation of guidelines. It would be helpful for the chairmen of the supervisory bodies of the five human rights instruments to meet in the coming year to discuss the problems involved in rationalizing reporting systems.

35. Her delegation commended the Secretariat for intensifying its efforts to help States parties meet their reporting obligations by such measures as regional training courses and felt that further stress should be placed on the practical implementation of reporting procedures, timely submission of reports and measures to facilitate the consideration of reports by the relevant bodies.

36. Given the interdependence of human rights, her delegation welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to reorganize the supervisory body of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights along the model of the Human Rights Committee, which had an excellent record of effectiveness. That Committee deserved special commendation for its efforts to publicize the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its emphasis on the importance of bringing the Covenant to the attention of administrative and judicial authorities and having the text translated into the main local languages of States parties. She had noted with interest paragraph 16 of the report of the Human Rights Committee (A/40/40) and said that her delegation hoped there would be further progress in having the proceedings of the Committee published annually and translated into the official United Nations languages.

37. Turning to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, she said that the working group drafting it must take care not to derogate from the rights and duties laid down in the existing human rights instruments and must give careful consideration to the type of implementing mechanism to be adopted, especially in view of the difficulties indicated with respect to reporting obligations. Her delegation fully supported the working group and urged more Governments to join it in participating in its work so as to expedite the conclusion of the draft.

(Ms. Pearce, Australia)

38. Lastly, her delegation hoped that the Committee could achieve consensus on the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and that it would support the implementation of the proposals in resolution 1985/51 of the Commission on Human Rights.

39. Mr. BUZO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his country fully supported United Nations human rights efforts and attached particular importance in that connection to universal adherence to, and implementation of, the international human rights instruments. Ironically, the countries which were most reluctant to ratify them were the same ones that brazenly lectured others on human rights while exhibiting no shame where their own records were concerned, including their failure to accord economic and social rights the same protections they claimed they accorded political and civil rights, despite the fact that under the Covenants realization of the former was essential to the implementation of the latter. States must take measures to implement all those rights, which were inseparable and constituted fundamental prerequisites for the alleviation of individual and collective human suffering.

40. Human rights in his country were solidly anchored in such social and economic rights as the right to work, leisure, education and health care as the essential prerequisites for the enjoyment of civil and political rights and freedoms. The mere proclamation of civil and political rights meant nothing to those who lacked economic security and suffered from exploitation, inequality, discrimination and exclusion from participation in the management of State and public affairs. His country's legislation went far beyond the International Covenants on Human Rights by providing free secondary and higher education as well as elementary education, by extensive provisions for preventive health care as well as medical treatment, and by ensuring the right to housing. The Human Rights Committee, in its report (A/40/40), had in fact commended his country's most recent report, which described how his country gave effect to the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

41. Of course the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the relevant human rights instruments could not be fully implemented in the absence of peaceful and friendly relations between States at different levels of economic and social development, and genuine international co-operation in human rights must therefore be conducted on the basis of strict observance of the goals and principles of the Charter, without using concern for human rights as a pretext to interfere in the affairs of sovereign countries or to impose one's own values on others.

42. His delegation commended the useful work of the sessional working group of the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Committee and felt that the existing machinery for considering States reports was fully satisfactory. The consolidation referred to in document A/40/600 was unjustified and undermined the procedures agreed upon by the States parties. It might be useful if the States parties did not repeat in subsequent reports information already submitted in previous ones and considered by the supervisory bodies. That would improve the periodic reports by having them reflect changes over the reporting period and would ease the burdens of the reporting State.

(Mr. Buzo, Byelorussian SSR)

43. World-wide implementation of the provisions of the Covenants required overcoming such problems as economic backwardness, hunger, poverty and disease, and that in turn required peace, international security and disarmament.

44. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that scientific and technical progress, despite its vast potential for solving human problems and securing human rights and freedoms, had instead been misused to produce weapons of mass destruction which threatened the foremost human right, the right to life. Respect for human rights and the planning of nuclear war were incompatible, and two world wars in the current century alone showed the terrible consequences of neglecting those rights. The squandering of vast sums for military purposes diverted essential resources from the implementation of such elementary human rights as economic security, health care and education.

45. His country was unalterably opposed to policies aimed at the further militarization of science and technology, the acceleration of the arms race and the development of "star wars" technology. Scientific advancements with respect to outer space and nuclear energy should be made to serve the cause of peace and help solve such problems as the need to find renewable sources of energy. An example of co-operation in that context was the international experimental thermonuclear reactor project in Vienna, instituted in 1978 on the initiative of the Soviet Union. Every statesman and every thinking person must take personal responsibility for averting the threat of war and securing the right to life in the tradition of the great humanitarian scientists of the past.

46. The right to life was enshrined in all international human rights instruments as the most basic right of all peoples and individuals. The Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee were both doing excellent work to protect it and he supported in that connection the adoption of the Commission's resolutions 1982/7, 1983/43 and 1984/28.

AGENDA ITEM 92: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE
(continued) (A/C.3/40/L.29, L.33, L.34/Rev.1, L.36, L.37, L.41, and L.47)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued)
- (c) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (d) PREVENTION OF PROSTITUTION (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.33

47. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.33, said that women had become aware of their responsibility to join in

(Mr. Schlegel, German
Democratic Republic)

efforts to promote peace, as had been demonstrated by the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum held at Nairobi and the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.33 pledged to encourage the full participation of women in the endeavour to promote international peace and co-operation and appealed to all Governments to take the necessary measures for putting into practice the principles and provisions of the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation. In the last line of paragraph 7, the words "Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000" should be inserted after the words "United Nations General Assembly". He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

48. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no financial implications.

49. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.33 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.36

50. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.36, of which the Federal Republic of Germany, Rwanda and Senegal had also become sponsors, said that a threefold concerted effort was urgently needed to combat prostitution, involving prevention, punishment of all forms of procuring, and solidarity in order to facilitate the social rehabilitation of the victims. The draft resolution invited the Economic and Social Council to consider the whole question of the suppression of traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others at its first regular session of 1986, and also requested the Secretary-General to expedite the issuance, as a United Nations document, of the report on the suppression of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/20. In view of the importance of the problem, the sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

51. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no financial implications.

52. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.36 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.37

53. Mrs. MIGNOTT (Jamaica), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.37 of which Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mali, Nigeria and the Philippines had also become sponsors, said that, in paragraph 2, the brackets around the final phrase should be removed and a comma added after the words "seventeenth session".

(Mrs. Mignott, Jamaica)

54. The sponsors were convinced that the new arrangements for the United Nations Development Fund for Women were working satisfactorily and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/125. They hoped that the draft resolution would enjoy the customary consensus within the Committee.

55. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no financial or programme budget implications.

56. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.37 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.41

57. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.41 of which Barbados, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Norway and the Philippines had also become sponsors, said that the resolution had been submitted in response to the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken by the regional commissions to establish senior women's programme officers posts (A/40/838). The sponsors considered the response of the regional commissions to be somewhat disappointing. The incorporation of women's concerns in the commissions' overall work programmes and the establishment of senior women's programme officers posts were even more critical now that the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies had set out a 15-year work programme to advance the status of women.

58. Miss BYRNE (United States of America) said that her delegation could join in a consensus on the draft resolution provided that it had no financial implications.

59. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no financial or programme budget implications.

60. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.41 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47

61. Ms. ILIC (Yugoslavia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47 on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the draft had been the subject of extensive consultations between the Group of 77, other groups and individual countries. The sponsors had attempted to reflect the results of the Nairobi Conference by summarizing the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and the provisions of the Forward-looking Strategies. They believed that it was essential to commence implementation of the Strategies as soon as possible. It should be noted that paragraph 20 did not call for the establishment of new posts but rather the establishment of new targets for women at the decision-making level in the Secretariat. All delegations had had a chance to contribute suggestions on the draft resolution and the sponsors had made a concerted effort to arrive at a consensus text. In view of the importance of the Forward-looking Strategies, which had been adopted by consensus at Nairobi, the sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would also be adopted by consensus.

62. Mr. TELLE (France), supported by Mrs. ANSENG (Cameroon), Mr. SCHASTNY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium), expressed concern at the wording of paragraphs 19 and 20 of the draft resolution. The issues mentioned in those paragraphs had been under discussion for years in the Fifth Committee, which was discussing them again at the current session. He suggested that the Chairman of the Third Committee should contact the Chairman of the Fifth Committee with a view to harmonizing work on the two issues.

63. The CHAIRMAN recalled that it had been agreed that the draft resolution would be introduced but not discussed at the current meeting. If there were no objections, he would discuss the suggestion by the representative of France with the Bureau before the draft resolution was considered in the Committee and would inform the Committee of the outcome of the Bureau's deliberations.

64. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.29

65. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.29 of which the following delegations had also become sponsors: Australia, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe. Many of the delegations present at the current meeting had first-hand experience of the excellent organization of the Nairobi Conference and the warm welcome extended by the people of Kenya. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

66. The CHAIRMAN said that, since it had been agreed that draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.29 would be taken up at the same time as draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47, draft resolution L.29 would not be discussed at the current meeting.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.