



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/40/968  
3 December 1985  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fortieth session  
Agenda item 101

### ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

#### Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul-Désiré KABORE (Burkina Faso)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance: report of the Secretary-General" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with items 102, 103, 104 and 144 at its 46th to 48th, 50th to 53rd, 58th and 60th meetings on 19 to 22, 25 and 29 November and 2 December 1985. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/40/SR.46-48, 50-53, 58 and 60).

3. The Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter V, section A (A/40/3), 1/

(b) Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief: note by the Secretary-General (A/40/361);

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1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/40/3/Rev.1).

(c) Letter dated 10 January 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/77);

(d) Note verbale dated 11 March 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of and resolutions adopted at the Fifteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Sanaa from 18 to 22 December 1984 (A/40/173-S/17033);

(e) Letter dated 17 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/398-S/17292);

(f) Note verbale dated 22 August 1985 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/570);

(g) Letter dated 2 December 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/966-S/17665).

4. At the 46th meeting, on 19 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/40/L.61

5. At the 58th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Ireland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/40/L.61), entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance", sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, the Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Suriname, Sweden and the United States of America as well as Australia, the Gambia, Honduras, and Uganda, the representative of Ireland orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "presented" was replaced by "submitted";

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 4, the words "at its fortieth session" were replaced by "as soon as possible";

(c) In operative paragraph 11, the word "fortieth" was replaced by "forty-first".

6. At its 60th meeting, on 2 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling subsequent resolutions, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider what measures might be necessary to implement the Declaration,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/39 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to entrust its Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a study, in accordance with the terms of Sub-Commission resolution 1983/31 of 6 September 1983, 2/ on the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief,

Noting the progress report thereon submitted by the Special Rapporteur to the Sub-Commission at its thirty-eighth session, 3/

Concerned that the Special Rapporteur has not yet received sufficiently relevant or detailed information to discharge her tasks effectively,

Recalling the Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief, held at Geneva from 3 to 14 December 1984,

Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

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2/ See E/CN.4/1984/3-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/43 and Corr.1 and 2, chap. XXI, sect. A.

3/ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1985/28.

Aware that intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief continue to exist in many parts of the world,

Believing that further efforts are therefore required in order to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

1. Reaffirms that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a right guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. Urges States, therefore, in accordance with their respective constitutional systems, to provide, where they have not already done so, adequate constitutional and legal guarantees for freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief;

3. Endorses the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Secretary-General, contained in its resolution 1985/51 of 14 March 1985, 4/ to prepare a compendium of the national legislation and regulations of States on the question of freedom of religion or belief, with particular regard to the measures taken to combat intolerance or discrimination in this field;

4. Encourages Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to supply the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as requested, with information relevant to the study she is preparing on the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, so as to enable her to submit the final report to the Sub-Commission as soon as possible;

5. Notes with appreciation the report of the Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief; 5/

6. Urges all States to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and, in this context, to examine where necessary the supervision and training of their civil servants, educators and other public officials to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, they respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

7. Invites the United Nations University and other academic and research institutions to undertake programmes and studies on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

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4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 2 (E/1985/22), chap. II, sect A.

5/ See A/40/361, annex.

8. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in all official languages of the United Nations, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres as well as by other interested bodies;

9. Requests the Secretary-General in this context to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing regarding the dissemination of the Declaration in national and local languages;

10. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration and to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights under that item.

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