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THIRD COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 101

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS  
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

United States of America: revised draft resolution

Respect for the right of everyone to own property alone as well as  
in association with others and its contribution to the economic  
and social development of Member States

The General Assembly,

Guided by the desire to promote a higher standard of living, full employment  
and conditions for economic and social development that foster the greatest  
possible use of human resources,

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human  
Rights, 1/

Bearing in mind the right of States freely to choose and develop their  
political, social, economic and cultural systems as well as their right to  
determine their laws and regulations,

Bearing in mind also that all peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose  
of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising  
out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual  
benefit and international law, and that in no case may a people be deprived of its  
own means of subsistence,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

Convinced that the full enjoyment by everyone of the right to own property alone as well as in association with others contributes to securing the goals of economic and social development enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced further that the right to own property alone as well as in association with others, as set forth in article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as reaffirmed in paragraph 11 of the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons 2/ and article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 3/ is of particular significance in fostering widespread enjoyment of other basic human rights,

Reaffirming, in accordance with article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that in the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society,

Recalling the principles associated with the right of individuals to own property described in the relevant articles of regional human rights instruments of the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and the Council of Europe,

1. Recognizes that there exist in Member States many forms of legal property ownership, including private, communal, and state forms, each of which should contribute to ensuring effective development and utilization of human resources through the establishment of sound bases for political, economic and social justice;
2. Emphasizes the role of individual initiative as an invaluable resource in promoting economic and social development;
3. Affirms, in accordance with article 30 of the Universal Declaration, that nothing in the Declaration, including the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others, may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth therein;
4. Invites the United Nations regional commissions to consider the relationship between the full enjoyment of the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others, as set forth in article 17 of the Universal Declaration, and the economic and social development of Member States;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, taking into account the views of Member States, specialized agencies and other competent bodies of the United Nations system, within existing resources, on:

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2/ Resolution 3447 (XXX).

3/ Resolution 34/180.

(a) The relationship between the full enjoyment by individuals of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others, as set forth in article 17 of the Universal Declaration, and the economic and social development of Member States;

(b) The role of the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others, as set forth in article 17 of the Universal Declaration, in ensuring the full participation of individuals in the economic and social systems of States;

6. Invites Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of his report;

7. Invites the specialized agencies and other competent bodies of the United Nations system to contribute their views to the Secretary-General on the subject of his report;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report his findings, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

9. Further requests that a preliminary oral report on this question be made to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

10. Invites the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-third session to resume consideration of the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others;

11. Decides to consider, at its forty-second session, "Respect for the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others and its contribution to the economic and social development of Member States" under the agenda item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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