

**United Nations**  
**GENERAL**  
**ASSEMBLY**  
**FORTY-FIRST SESSION**  
**Official Records\***



THIRD COMMITTEE  
42nd meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 11 November 1986  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HAMER (Netherlands)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 99: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN  
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 93: FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE  
YEAR 2000 (continued)

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/41/SR.42  
20 November 1986  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL, FRENCH

26p.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 99: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
(continued) (A/41/12 and Add. 1, A/41/264, 388 and Corr.1, 360 and Corr.1, 380 and Add.1, 385, 391, 397, 452, 460, 477, 499, 514, 515, 516, 520, 531, 553, 572, 695, 701, A/41/782-S/18436)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/41/3 (chap. III, sect. G))

1. Sister CARROLL (Observer for the Holy See) said that a keener awareness of the extreme plight of refugees was necessary in order to solve their problems more quickly and effectively. Not only had they lost everything, but they were not protected by any legislation. For that reason, Pope John Paul II had recently stated that the problem of refugees could be solved only by a genuine reconciliation between nations and between ethnic or population groups.
2. Specifically, work towards durable solutions must be based on the observation of several principles: identification of genuine refugees, in order to ensure that they were not victims of measures taken by Governments against illegal immigrants; objective on-site inspection of areas placed at their disposal; protection of border camps against indiscriminate attacks under the pretext of striking against guerrillas; and installation of camps outside the areas of immediate conflict.
3. Emergency assistance must be accompanied by the search for long-term solutions aimed at ensuring as soon as possible self-sufficiency for refugees in the context of the economic and social reality of the country of asylum or resettlement. Such assistance should be integrated into national development plans and programmes of assistance. Newly arrived persons must be taken into account in development projects and should benefit from legal protection and assistance measures in the areas of health, education and labour in order to become self-sufficient as soon as possible.
4. The principle of non-refoulement must be scrupulously observed. Any repatriation of refugees must be voluntary and carried out with the co-operation of UNHCR.
5. In addition, the Holy See recommended recourse to co-ordinating entities which were distinct from political powers in the countries concerned and which could manage and monitor relief and development assistance and disseminate useful information on the matter.
6. The refugee problem continued to grow and the Holy See believed that its solution required fraternal solidarity and active collaboration in order to re-establish the just conditions to which every refugee had a human right and without which true and lasting peace was not possible. To keep silent on that problem would be a denial of the teachings of the Church on human dignity. If the current era was to be remembered as a century of civilization, it would be less so

/...

(Sister Carroll, Observer, Holy See)

for the technical and cultural progress which would have been accomplished than for the social progress which would have benefited refugees wherever they might be found. Pope John Paul II had earnestly invited mankind to co-ordinate efforts better so as to put an end to all discord, division and rivalry of ideologies and powers, so that respect for humanity would triumph and to build a civilization of truth and love in solidarity between nations everywhere.

7. Mr. CASTELLON (Nicaragua) said that, having been a European phenomenon at the end of the Second World War, the problem of refugees now concerned almost exclusively developing countries. Today it was less the persecution of individuals than generalized violence that started refugee flows. For that reason, Latin America had broadened the definition of refugees, initially set forth in the Convention of 1951 Relating to the Status of Refugees and in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, to include persons fleeing from their countries because their lives, safety or freedom were threatened by aggression, occupation or foreign domination, domestic conflicts, mass violations of human rights or serious public upheavals.

8. The Nicaraguan Government had participated actively in international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the instability of the region, resulting from aggression, oppression and exploitation of which the Central American peoples were victims. However, peace had been made impossible by the policy of the United States. The brutal aggression of the United States cost Nicaragua dearly in human, political and economic terms and had forced some Nicaraguans to flee to neighbouring countries. However, most of those who lived abroad had been driven to it by force or trickery by mercenary bands.

9. The Nicaraguan Government had supported UNHCR since 1979, when more than 100,000 Nicaraguans had been able to return to the country that they had fled to escape the barbaric régime of Somoza. Nicaragua had also welcomed thousands of Salvadorians and legislation concerning refugees had been promulgated for the first time in the country and structures established for their relief. Most of the 17,000 refugees living in Nicaragua were integrated into the activities of the country alongside the Nicaraguan population. They participated in agricultural co-operatives assisted by UNHCR, and had access to all public services on the same footing as Nicaraguans. The Government gave them every help if they wanted to return to their country or to bring their families to Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Government believed that the granting of asylum was a strictly humanitarian obligation which must be removed from political considerations and must not be interpreted as a hostile act against the country of origin.

10. In order to facilitate the repatriation of Nicaraguans, and especially the Miskitos, a tripartite commission composed of Nicaraguan and Honduran Government officials and UNHCR had been formed in Nicaragua. That should help to overcome current obstacles, especially concerning the possibility of informing Nicaraguans in Honduras of the measures taken by the Government politically and materially, and should encourage them to return home. Mention should be made of the peace and co-operation agreements concluded between the Nicaraguan Government and the Miskito organization "Kisan for peace", whereby Miskito communities were given food and

(Mr. Castellon, Nicaragua)

medical assistance and weapons for self-defence. Unfortunately, it had not yet been possible to obtain permission from the Honduran Government for the Miskitos still in Honduras to return to their community via the Atlantic coast. The Nicaraguan Government hoped that Costa Rica would soon join the Commission.

11. The Nicaraguan Government regretted that after five years of discussions, the principles concerning military and armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements had not yet been the subject of a consensus within the Executive Committee, even though attacks against the refugees continued in all regions of the world.

12. Mr. MUGUME (Uganda) said that the world refugee situation remained serious. Their number, estimated at 12 million, continued to grow. There was still an urgent need to find an equitable and durable solution and to analyse the root causes of the problems. Those were primarily two-fold: political instability, resulting from internal warfare, human rights violations, foreign aggression or simply geo-political manoeuvring; and economic crises, due to national disasters, to armed conflicts or to the general deterioration of the economies of the third world.

13. Accordingly, any long-term solution must take into account those political and economic factors and be based on the three principles of voluntary repatriation, integration into the country of asylum and resettlement in third countries. His delegation noted with interest the Danish proposal in favour of a more manageable and orderly system of assistance to refugees and was prepared to co-operate with other delegations in that regard.

14. Uganda was concerned about the growing number of expulsions and violations of the principle of non-refoulement pointed out in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In that connection, efforts should be made to avoid becoming bogged down in controversies over the legal definition of the term "refugee". He emphasized the horror of military attacks against unarmed and defenceless refugee camps, particularly by the racist Pretoria régime, in Angola, Mozambique and Zambia and in other front-line States. Those massacres of innocent civilians, including women and children, constituted a threat to international peace and security.

15. International assistance to refugees must not only provide emergency relief, but should be aimed at the same time at ensuring self-sufficiency in order to preserve their human dignity. He agreed with the High Commissioner's reaffirmation of the need to strengthen the link between assistance to refugees and development, and welcomed the efforts made jointly to that end by UNHCR and UNDP in Uganda and the co-operation of the World Bank and UNHCR in Pakistan.

16. Uganda itself had begun the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees from southern Sudan, Zaire and Rwanda. In the early 1960s, it had received a large number of refugees from eastern and central Africa. Unfortunately, the reigns of terror, despotism and dictatorship imposed on Uganda

(Mr. Muqume, Uganda)

had subsequently caused the flight of thousands of Ugandans and refugees to other countries. In January 1986, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government of National Unity and Reconciliation came to power with a 10-point programme for economic recovery and return to respect for human rights and democratic institutions. Its efforts in that connection had concentrated on the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons and restoring the economic and social infrastructure; correcting the errors which had dislocated entire sections of the population, specifically by establishing a commission to inquire into violations of human rights and abuse of power; co-operation with other African countries to defend human rights and democratic principles in other regions of Africa and to find a permanent solution to the refugee problem; and the establishment of social, economic and political conditions that would encourage all Ugandans to return from abroad to participate in the rebuilding of the country. Thus, more than 120,000 persons returning from southern Sudan had been resettled and the 150,000 persons who were still there, as well as 20,000 who had fled to Zaïre, were being repatriated at the rate of 1,200 a week.

17. In that connection, Uganda thanked friendly countries, UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF for their moral and material support in those difficult times.

18. Finally, his delegation noted that paragraph 109 of document A/41/12 referred to the situation in his country in 1985. The correct situation since the new Government had come into power was reflected in paragraphs 25 to 27 of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees in Africa (A/41/572). Moreover, a comprehensive report on Uganda prepared by a special mission arranged by the Secretary-General was contained in document A/41/593.

19. Mr. HOUFFANE (Djibouti) said he was encouraged by the administrative and other reforms undertaken by the High Commissioner, as well as the new initiatives aimed at mobilizing more energy and aid to find lasting solutions to refugee problems. In that connection, his Government assured the High Commissioner of its entire support.

20. Africa was the continent which had both the largest number of refugees and the largest number of least developed countries. Thus it was most often poor countries that gave asylum to thousands of persons in distress, mostly women, old people and children, the victims of natural disasters or conflicts, or of illegal occupation or the despicable policy of apartheid of the racist régime of South Africa. Moreover, the economic situation of those countries, and hence the already precarious situation of the refugees, was exacerbated by a devastating and prolonged drought. It was against that background that the two international conferences on assistance to refugees in Africa had met and it was essential to implement the Plan of Action which the second had adopted. The execution of various projects which had been submitted to it would help alleviate the sad plight of the refugees and lighten the heavy burden of the countries of asylum. Also, the international community should, in response to the appeal of the General Assembly, accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

(Mr. Houffane, Djibouti)

21. The refugee problem was not limited to Africa, however; it was a world problem which affected millions of people in Asia, Latin America and Europe and greatly exceeded the feeble resources available to the High Commissioner to solve it. It was therefore necessary to encourage the pursuit of lasting solutions, with due consideration for the dignity of the refugees, and without causing them to lose hope of returning to their homes.

22. Since achieving independence, Djibouti had welcomed a large number of refugees, whose presence had caused many problems in the areas of education, health, employment and security. That, incidentally, was why the Government had created the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims. It had also tried to prepare, in close co-operation with UNHCR, long-term emergency programmes by having refugees join agricultural projects together with its own citizens. Unfortunately, those efforts had had very little success because of insufficient resources and adverse circumstances.

23. Despite its limited resources, and with the assistance of the international community and United Nations bodies, his country had been able to bear the heavy burden of refugees.

24. His delegation supported the three types of durable solutions recommended in paragraph 41 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Africa (A/41/380) and noted with satisfaction that several countries had acceded to the international instruments relating to refugees. It was concerned, however, over the increasing number of military attacks against refugee camps in southern Africa and elsewhere.

25. Since the refugee problem concerned the entire international community, the community must help the countries of asylum to deal with it through durable solutions. His country would continue to bear its share of the burden and urged all States to do the same. Renewing its thanks to all those who had participated in the aid and relief programmes for refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, his delegation asked them to continue to support those programmes and, if possible, to contribute even more to them.

26. Mr. KHA. (Pakistan) said that the refugee problem, given its seriousness and its multidimensional aspects, must be approached with due regard for the range of possible solutions and the need to address the root causes of the evil which gave rise to the exodus.

27. No other country had such a large concentration of refugees as Pakistan. Since 1979, it had been receiving every month thousands of Afghans fleeing their country as victims of an act of foreign military intervention. By a strange turn of events, it was the very ones who were responsible for that tragedy who were worried about the extent of the refugee problem. Of nearly 5 million Afghan refugees, nearly 3 million, mostly women, children and aged persons, had found asylum in Pakistan. While Pakistan had welcomed them in the spirit of Muslim

(Mr. Khan, Pakistan)

solidarity and humanitarian concern, they unfortunately represented a great burden for an economy with limited resources. His Government, with the co-operation of UNHCR, had established effective machinery for registering new arrivals and providing the required assistance to the Afghan refugee camps, particularly in the areas of education and health. The camps were fully open to international inspection and the distribution of aid was effectively assured by UNHCR. Despite the humanitarian aid it was receiving from UNHCR, the World Food Programme and other countries and friendly international bodies, to which it was grateful, Pakistan was obliged to assume the major burden which the refugees represented. It therefore hoped that the bodies that distributed humanitarian aid would have their resources increased through the generosity of the international community.

28. His Government agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that voluntary repatriation was the only realistic solution to the problem. Refugee programmes should continue to be developed with that aim in view. In order to protect the safety and dignity of repatriation candidates, the intervention of foreign military forces in Afghanistan must be stopped. That was why Pakistan had tried to promote a political settlement of the Afghan problem under the aegis of the United Nations.

29. Pakistan was also concerned over the renewed outbreak of acts of violence against refugees, particularly the repeated attacks on Afghan refugee camps, and asked the international community not only to condemn them but also take effective action to prevent them. The international community must also take into account that the countries of first asylum, mostly developing countries, must face responsibilities that exceeded their resources, and that they must be given commensurate aid. Pakistan also felt that in respect of the resettlement of refugees, third countries should adopt a position more in line with the humanitarian principles they proclaimed.

30. Denmark's proposal for finding intermediate durable solutions to the refugee problem must be carefully examined to determine whether it was really advisable to introduce new concepts that might jeopardize the equitable distribution of burdens, a principle on which existing humanitarian assistance machinery rested.

31. Pakistan was pleased that in its programmes UNHCR stressed development to help refugees meet their own needs and thus provided relief to the economies of the countries of first asylum. It welcomed the efforts of UNHCR to forge stronger links of co-operation with other specialized agencies and to increase the effectiveness and profitability of its activities both at headquarters and at its field offices. He noted with satisfaction the role played by UNHCR in relief operations in Asia, Africa and Latin America and in the resettlement operations for Indochinese refugees and in the execution of the projects prepared during the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa.

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN  
(A/C.3/41/L.32)

AGENDA ITEM 93: FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE YEAR 2000 (A/C.3/41/L.31, L.35/Rev.1 and L.37, A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1)

32. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) had recommended in paragraph 471 of its report on its twenty-first session (A/36/38), that each chapter of the medium-term plan should be submitted to the appropriate Main Committees of the General Assembly for consideration before being adopted in plenary meeting. In order that the Fifth Committee might take account of the views of the Third Committee concerning proposed revisions to the chapters in the medium-term plan falling within its mandate, he requested that any delegation wishing to comment on the proposed revisions to the two chapters referred to the Third Committee (A/41/6, introduction and chapter 21) should inform him without delay so that he could arrange for the comments to be transmitted to the Fifth Committee by 19 November at the latest.

33. He added that the draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 92 and 93 had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.32

34. Mrs. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in addition to Japan and Nigeria, whose inclusion in the list of sponsors had been announced when the draft resolution had been introduced, Spain, Paraguay and Viet Nam were sponsoring the draft resolution.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

36. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.31

37. The CHAIRMAN recalled the revisions and corrections made by the representative of the German Democratic Republic, on behalf of the sponsors, when introducing the draft resolution.

38. Mrs. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.31, as orally revised and corrected, without a vote.

40. It was so decided.



Draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.35/Rev.1

41. Mrs. BOKOVA (Bulgaria), introducing the revised version of draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.35, said that the text was the result of in-depth consultations with all regional groups. All that had been done was to add a new (third) preambular paragraph recalling General Assembly resolution 40/101 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/27. She added that Rwanda and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt revised draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.35/Rev.1 without a vote.

43. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.37

44. Mr. HACKETT (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) pointed out that the draft resolution had some, if very minor, programme budget implications. In operative paragraph 10, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the measures taken to implement the resolution. There was no provision for the preparation of that report under programme 5 (Global social development issues) of section 6 of the programme budget for the current biennium. However, the Secretary-General intended to prepare the report using available resources, and to include it as an additional output of the Secretariat's programme of activity in that field.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.37 without a vote.

46. It was so decided.

Draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1

47. Miss NIERMANN (Canada) said that the sponsors of draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38 had considered it necessary to revise its paragraph (a) concerning subprogramme 5A (programme 1 of chapter 21 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989), entitled "Promotion and monitoring of the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward looking Strategies". The point was that during the Decade a number of objectives had been set forth in important documents, such as the Mexico World Plan of Action and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (Copenhagen), but the international community had had difficulty in monitoring their implementation. Subprogramme 5A proposed by the Secretary-General would help to rectify those shortcomings. The sponsors were merely emphasizing in paragraph (a) that subprogramme 5A was fully in conformity with the texts adopted by consensus in Nairobi and discussed in the course of lengthy consultations at the fortieth session when resolution 40/108 was adopted, as well as at the first regular session of the Economic and Social

(Miss Niemann, Canada)

Council. The sponsors' aim in presenting the draft resolution was merely to give the Third Committee, as a Main Committee of the General Assembly, the opportunity to make its views known to the Fifth Committee so that the latter could take them into account when deciding on revisions to the medium-term plan.

48. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he did not share the Canadian delegation's view. At a time of financial crisis, it was the duty of the States members of the various committees to work to preserve the Organization, which should not be jeopardized by a vote on draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1. Certain United Nations bodies, including the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, had been specifically entrusted with financial matters. That Committee had unanimously decided that subprogramme 5A should be deleted, and the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session in 1986, had unanimously decided to accept CPC's recommendation. Now was not the time to criticize that decision. In the circumstances, the Federal Republic of Germany would not be in a position to join a consensus on the draft decision. It hoped, however, that a solution could yet be found and was prepared to pursue negotiations on that highly important issue.

49. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that he remained optimistic and thought that the difficulties could still be overcome if the negotiations were resumed. It would be regrettable to forgo the spirit of consensus which had prevailed in discussions on the subject throughout the Decade. He therefore asked delegations to make a final effort to reach a consensus, despite the strict deadlines to which the Third Committee had to work.

50. Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso) said that the Third Committee should be able to make its point of view known on a recommendation by a subsidiary organ, namely CPC. The latter was perfectly entitled to consider from a technical point of view that on account of the financial crisis the Secretary-General's proposal to introduce into the medium-term plan a subprogramme 5A on the monitoring of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies was not advisable. But the Third Committee, once it was informed of the financial implications of including subprogramme 5A in the medium-term plan, should be able to state its opinion freely, with all the facts to hand and notwithstanding the CPC decision, and shoulder its responsibilities in regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies. It would of course be preferable if a compromise were reached, and Burkina Faso was prepared to seek such a compromise, but felt that if that were not possible, the Third Committee should be in a position to state its views on draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1. In the event of a vote on the draft decision submitted by Canada, Burkina Faso would vote in favour.

51. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that, as always, women were the first to suffer from the economic and financial crisis. The CPC had requested that all the Main Committees should state their position on the chapters of the medium-term plan falling within their mandate. Draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1 concerned a matter within the mandate of the Third Committee, which was therefore entitled to state its position on the subject. Decisions of CPC were not sacred. Moreover,

(Mrs. Warzazi, Morocco)

the decision taken on that subject by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1986 was contrary to the decisions it had taken at its first regular session in the spring. The Third Committee must therefore take a decision, preferably by consensus. Before the Fifth Committee dealt with the question of discrimination against women, it should be informed of the position of the Third Committee.

52. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Third Committee's decision should be deferred so as to give any delegations that so wished time to make contact with the Canadian delegation in order to reach a compromise on draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1.

53. Miss NIEMANN (Canada) said that she was ready to resume the consultations on the clear understanding that she wished to hear the views of all the regional groups and on the condition that the discussions should be conducted under the guidance of the Chairman of the Committee.

54. Mr. LY (Senegal) said that a departure from consensus on so fundamental an issue would be regrettable. He therefore subscribed to the idea of resuming the consultations, and stressed that it should be clear from the outset what direction the discussions were expected to take.

55. CPC was entitled to give an opinion, which could but be technical in nature. Meanwhile, the scope of draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1 submitted to the Third Committee must not be exaggerated; it contained no more than a statement of fact since it merely specified that the Secretary-General's proposals were in conformity with the decisions adopted by consensus in Nairobi and those taken by the Third Committee at the fortieth session of the General Assembly. In adopting the draft decision, the Third Committee would not prejudge any sovereign decision taken by the Fifth Committee on the subprogramme in question.

56. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) supported the Senegalese delegation, stressing that the consensus sought by way of those negotiations should not be to the detriment of women.

57. The CHAIRMAN, recalling the very tight deadlines that the Third Committee would have to meet if it was to submit its views to the Fifth Committee in time for its consideration, said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone its decision on draft decision A/C.3/41/L.38/Rev.1.

58. It was so decided.

59. The CHAIRMAN invited the delegations wishing to do so to make statements on the proposals which had just been adopted.

60. Miss BARKER-HARLAND (United Kingdom), commenting on draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.37, said that the immediate and full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies was certainly important but no one could expect them to be implemented immediately since, as their name indicated, the strategies pertained to the advancement of women to the year 2000. Concerning paragraphs 7 and 8, the

(Miss Barker-Harland, United Kingdom)

United Kingdom was a staunch defender of equality between the sexes in all sectors, in particular employment, and considered that the States Members of the United Nations must take effective steps to increase the proportion of women in all professional and decision-making positions. However, her delegation was not convinced that the best means of doing so was by establishing specific targets. With regard to United Nations personnel questions, the Fifth Committee alone had the power to decide.

61. Ms. BYRNE (United States of America) said that, even though her delegation had chosen not to break the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.35/Rev.1, it still wished to express some reservations. Factors other than those cited in the ninth preambular paragraph prevented women from participating fully in the decision-making process in their countries; foremost among them was the absence of civil and political liberties in a number of societies. The paragraph as worded was nothing but a set of Marxist clichés, which her country could not accept. With regard to paragraph 4, while some United States communities had accepted the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, the principle officially accepted at the national level was that of equal pay for equal work. Her country had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.31 but was concerned about its impact on the already full agenda of the special session to be held by the Commission on the Status of Women.

62. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that it was disappointing that the Committee had not adopted his proposal to insert, in draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.37, a paragraph requesting that, at its next session, the Commission on the Status of Women should consider as a matter of priority the budgetary and planning aspects of its programmes. It also seemed that a five-day meeting did not give the Commission much time to give priority consideration to those basic aspects of its activities. The same held true for documents A/C.3/41/L.35/Rev.1 and A/C.3/41/L.31.

63. Mrs. DE BACCA (Paraguay) announced that her country, which had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.32, had just ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

64. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Third Committee had concluded its work on agenda item 92 and would accordingly resume consideration of agenda items 99 and 12.

65. Mr. NABIEL (Afghanistan) said that, in addition to the traditional causes of refugee flows, whether natural or man-made, imperialists and reactionaries had adopted a selective policy of "refugee-making" designed to undermine the stability of countries which had chosen an independent course.

66. In Afghanistan's case, a distinction must be made between persons who had been duped by counter-revolutionaries and led to seek refuge in neighbouring countries and criminals who were involved in terrorist activities. The latter were not real refugees and the United Nations was simply putting its reputation on the line by continuing to provide them with assistance. With regard to those who had been duped and detained against their will by the leaders of counter-revolutionary

/...

(Mr. Nabil, Afghanistan)

bands, his country asked the authorities of the countries in which they were located to help in their repatriation.

67. In order to facilitate that repatriation, the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan had proclaimed a general amnesty as a result of which thousands of Afghans had returned to their homes, and had established a national commission for repatriates and refugees, which provided those individuals with lodging, food and job opportunities.

68. He expressed his support for the humanitarian action of UNHCR on behalf of genuine refugees, in particular its activities to promote voluntary repatriation. Many countries like his own were concerned that refugees were being used as hostages and instruments of political pressure for purposes unrelated to the improvement of their plight.

69. Mrs. KOZAKOU MARCOULLIS (Cyprus) said that the humanitarian functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contributed to the alleviation of the plight of the 12 million refugees and displaced persons the world over.

70. The question of the definition of a refugee had been debated on many occasions and in many forums. According to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, a refugee was essentially someone who was outside his or her country of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Yet current refugee movements were very different from those envisaged by the drafters of the conventions. Refugees today were people seeking refuge, frequently in large numbers, because they had been displaced owing to armed conflicts or serious international disturbances which involved grave violations of human rights. In the years following the establishment of UNHCR, the High Commissioner had repeatedly been called upon by the General Assembly to lend his good offices in situations which did not necessarily fall within the definition of "refugees" contained in the 1951 Convention. Her country supported that broader definition.

71. The Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees had identified the root causes of massive refugee flows: wars and armed conflicts, acts of aggression, alien domination, foreign armed intervention and occupation and violations of human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.

72. The recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts were primarily addressed to Member States, which were called upon to respect a number of obligations, including the principles contained in the Charter (in particular, by refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations) and the provisions of existing international instruments in the field of human rights. Furthermore, they should comply with the

(Mrs. Kozakou Marcoullia, Cyprus)

decisions of the Security Council and respect the decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other organs.

73. Those recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts were aimed at preventing new massive flows of refugees and creating the necessary conditions for refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes. Cyprus hoped in particular that the States responsible for causing the forcible expulsion of people would live up to their obligations and responsibilities.

74. As stated in paragraph 129 of document A/41/12, UNHCR continued as the co-ordinator of the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance for Cyprus. She would not dwell on what had taken place in Cyprus in 1974, but wished to touch on those aspects of the problem that fell under the question under consideration, namely, the creation by the Turkish invasion and occupation of a tragic refugee problem.

75. Since the invader of Cyprus had wanted territory without inhabitants, nearly 200,000 Cypriots, or one third of the island's population, had, in the summer of 1974, been stripped of all their possessions, driven out of their homes and ancestral lands and subjected to a campaign of terror. Those who had remained in their homes had been herded into refugee camps and later dispatched to Government-controlled areas, in complete disregard of the human rights of the civilian population in the occupied areas. Twelve years later, 40 per cent of the territory remained under military occupation and one third of the population was still uprooted and living under unbearable conditions in refugee camps. The occupying Power continued to refuse to allow Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes and property, and even continued to expel the few Greek Cypriots still remaining in the occupied areas. Greeks, Maronites, Armenians and Catholics suffered discrimination, harassment and intimidation, the ultimate objective being to achieve absolute segregation of the communities in Cyprus and homogeneity of the occupied territory. The best evidence of that was that the number of Greek Cypriots remaining in the occupied areas had dropped from 12,289 at the end of 1974 to 723 in 1986. That expulsion policy had been accompanied by colonization of the occupied areas, 60,000 settlers had come from Anatolia for that purpose, and that was defined by article 85.5 of the 1977 Protocol to the Geneva Convention as a war crime, the ultimate aim of which was to change the demographic character of the occupied areas.

76. By so doing, Turkey had violated Article 1, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was particularly significant since Turkey had not ratified the two Covenants. The Declaration contained binding provisions which formed part of customary law. Turkey had also violated the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, particularly articles 27 and 49; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of the victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I of 10 June 1977), particularly article 51, paragraph 2, and article 85, paragraph 4; the 1907 Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the European Convention on Human Rights, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the

(Mrs. Kozakou Marcoullis, Cyprus)

Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Commonwealth, and the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in September 1986 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

77. The first task of the Cypriot Government had been to reconstruct the country's devastated economy. Approximately 69 per cent of the 49,000 displaced families had been adequately rehoused, and the Government was seeking to improve the quality of their housing. However, it would be ridiculous to imagine that, their economic and social needs having been largely satisfied, the refugees had thereby lost the right to return to their homes.

78. The way in which Turkey had treated the Greek Cypriots together with the human-rights violations committed inside Turkey, showed how much Turkey respected human rights. She was astonished at a certain reference to Turkey's "humanitarian record". The criterion for deciding whether a country had lived up to the humanitarian principles which formed the basis of the United Nations should be not its willingness to accept refugees on its territory, but the way in which it abided by the Charter and fulfilled the responsibilities embodied in international human-rights instruments.

79. Cypriot refugees did not merely hope to return to their homes; they were determined to do so.

80. Mr. ZARIF (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the humanitarian efforts of the international community had not prevented a steady increase in the number of refugees and a deterioration in their situation. Some régimes, such as that of Pretoria and the racist régime which occupied Palestine, had actually specialized in attacks on refugee camps.

81. Although UNHCR must remain a humanitarian body and refrain from introducing political considerations into its activities, it must not confuse short-term remedies with durable solutions, which would require it to tackle the root causes of the phenomenon - in the case of Palestinian and Afghan refugees, the occupation of their homelands by foreign Powers. The experience of those two displaced peoples showed that social and cultural differences, the breaking of family ties and the reaction of the local population presented so many obstacles to any real assimilation of the refugees into the society of the host country that permanent resettlement should be considered only as a last resort. All efforts should be concentrated on voluntary repatriation and the improvement of the situation which had caused the flows of refugees.

82. In conformity with the Islamic principles of hospitality, his country had taken in more than 1.8 million Afghan refugees, despite its limited resources and the inadequate support it received from the international community. In proportion to the number of refugees the country had taken in, UNHCR's financial contribution to the Iranian Council for Afghan Refugees was minimal compared with the sums given to other countries. The international community, through UNHCR, should do more to share the burden borne by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(Mr. Zarif, Islamic Republic of Iran)

83. His delegation considered that assistance to refugees should be aimed at their self-sufficiency and that UNHCR should accordingly devote more resources to income-generating and employment-generating activities as well as long-term development projects, which would enable the refugees to preserve their self-respect.

84. The Islamic Republic of Iran had religious, cultural and linguistic links with Afghanistan, but the provision of permanent asylum for refugees fleeing from foreign occupation and persecution would only hamper the search for effective and durable solutions. The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan by a foreign army had caused one of the largest population movements in recent history, and the phenomenon was on the increase because of the invaders' campaign to break the resistance of the Afghan people. Until the withdrawal of the foreign forces, followed by the voluntary repatriation of the refugees, the situation could only deteriorate. In the same way, only the removal of the Zionist entity could provide any real solution to the problems of Palestinian refugees. It was essential to ensure that UNHCR itself remained free from political manipulation and attempts to use it for short-sighted political objectives.

85. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that imperialism, hegemonism, interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States and the policies of oppression, repression and aggression of racist, Zionist and dictatorial régimes were at the heart of the refugee problem, which was still a matter for concern among the international community.

86. In South Africa, as shown by the Secretary-General's comments on the role of UNHCR in Africa (A/41/380/Add.1), the apartheid system was clearly the main reason behind the flight of refugees; until that system was dismantled, there could be no question of voluntary repatriation. It was ludicrous to see that those who openly supported an inhuman system, which had caused millions of people to flee, now claimed to stand up for the rights of other people who had fled their countries in other parts of the world.

87. In the Middle East, the situation of Palestinian refugees was no less tragic. The Sabra and Chatila massacres were still fresh in everyone's memory, and other refugee camps in Beirut and Southern Lebanon were enduring a bloody ordeal. The international community, and particularly the main allies of the Zionist authorities, should spare no effort to put an end to those campaigns of annihilation and guarantee the security of the Palestinian refugees.

88. Since the total liberation of Laos from the neo-colonialist yoke in December 1975, part of the Lao population had left the country, deceived by imperialist and hegemonist propaganda and refusing to face the difficulties inevitable during the first years of the revolution. The Lao Government had solemnly declared that, with the exception of a small number of criminals, traitors and counter-revolutionaries, anyone who wished to return to Laos could do so without apprehension. Several thousand Lao had accordingly returned from refugee camps in Thailand, either with official assistance or on their own initiative. In 1986, the



(Mr. Kittikhoun, Lao People's  
Democratic Republic)

Lao Government had officially welcomed 118 people who had returned with the assistance of UNHCR. Despite the difficulties of implementing the principle of voluntary repatriation, the Government would continue its humanitarian efforts in strict conformity with generally-accepted legal norms and principles.

89. Because of the complexity of the refugee problem, any solution would require an honest analysis of all aspects. For example, it was essential to ensure that alleged cases of oppression and repression in a given country were not merely propaganda, and to keep in mind that in some regions, imperialist and hegemonist circles, in collusion with their reactionary local surrogates, actively encouraged people to flee for military and political reasons.

90. In such a situation, his delegation doubted whether the establishment of new procedures would help solve such complex problems. It would, therefore, find it difficult to endorse a draft proposal annexed to Denmark's statement of the week before, but he wished to assure UNHCR of the Lao Government's co-operation.

91. Mr. PASTOR (Honduras) recalled that the refugee problem was also urgent in the countries of Central America, where the phenomenon had appeared a little over 25 years before. Owing to its geopolitical situation, Honduras attracted thousands of refugees. The Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees had indicated in its report (A/41/324) that while civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights were flagrantly violated, the danger of massive new flows of refugees would continue.

92. Despite the fratricidal war caused by the lack of political will on the part of one Government in the region, the situation in Central America had improved, particularly in El Salvador and Guatemala, and Salvadorian and Guatemalan refugees, especially women and children, were beginning to return to their countries. The High Commissioner had provided assistance for the voluntary repatriation of refugees in Honduras. With regard to refugees in El Salvador, a tripartite commission composed of representatives of UNHCR and the Salvadorian and Honduran Government had been created. That should encourage the participation of national and international organizations in operations involving voluntary repatriation and should serve as a model for other, similar commissions. In particular, there was a need to ensure the humanitarian and apolitical character of repatriation, its voluntary and individual nature and its gradual and planned introduction, with the co-operation of the Government of the country of origin. Honduras invited Nicaragua to join that commission, of which it was not yet a member contrary to what had been previously asserted.

93. Yet at the same time as refugees were being repatriated, Nicaraguan citizens were being deported by their Government; in particular, the Nicaraguan Government had expelled nearly 8,000 Miskito Indians, who had been given refuge with the assistance of UNHCR, the co-operation of Honduras and the dedication of various international bodies. The daily food ration of refugees was 2,100 calories, which was in keeping with World Health Organization recommendations. If that ration

(Mr. Pastor, Honduras)

occasionally had to be reduced, that by no means indicated that Honduras wished to put pressure on its refugees but, quite simply that it was compelled to do so for logistical reasons.

94. Although Honduras was not a signatory to any treaty relating to refugees, its humanitarian concern had led it to take in 45,000 refugees according to official figures, and nearly 100,000 in reality. However illogical it might seem, some had claimed that those refugees were being held against their will. The presence of refugees was a heavy burden for the Honduran population, especially as far as its economy was concerned. Honduras appreciated the considerable assistance it had received, but emphasized that the Honduran population in no way benefited from it.

95. The scope of Honduras' task of providing humanitarian assistance to refugees had, however, long exceeded its capabilities, especially with regard to food and sanitation. Honduras would therefore be pleased to see other countries of Latin America and from other parts of the world put their humanitarian principles into practice and open their doors to refugees without imposing restrictions. That invitation was addressed, in particular, to certain large countries in the region which possessed much greater resources than did Honduras.

96. Honduras recognized that certain disruptive elements had infiltrated into Honduras and had profited from the great autonomy which refugee camps enjoyed in the country. However, Honduras reserved its sovereign right to inspect and intervene in those camps. Refugee status did not ensure judicial immunity.

97. Honduras was convinced that a durable solution in Central America would include national reconciliation, the reinforcement of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

98. Mr. HOCKE (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) emphasized the importance he attached to the tradition of consensus which had characterized the work of the Third Committee regarding refugees. Consensus was the only means of obtaining the firm commitment of the international community when the fate of so many innocent people was at stake. He also attached importance to the universal endorsement of the rules and principles proclaimed in the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and in its 1967 Protocol. He was therefore pleased that there had been support for the Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Executive Committee at Geneva in early October 1986. One hundred and one countries had already acceded to the 1951 Convention and he hoped that others would soon follow their example.

99. With regard to durable solutions to the refugee problem, he could only reiterate the appeal he had made in his opening statement, once again entreating Governments to show the necessary will to create the political framework which would make possible the implementation of durable solutions.

100. During the debate, reference had been made to the problems of persons seeking asylum in Europe. He noted in that regard the support which had been expressed for

/...

(Mr. Hocke, UNHCR)

the launching of consultations among the countries affected by that problem, a process which should be vigorously pursued. It was already intended to extend those consultations to non-European countries which could contribute to the search for a solution.

101. With regard to the reorganization of UNHCR and the efforts to establish working relations with institutions which dealt with development problems, he considered that UNHCR was on the right track.

102. He was encouraged by the support which he received from the international community and which was so vital for all who worked with such dedication in the field, either directly with UNHCR, or through non-governmental or national organizations.

103. He thanked all who had expressed their support for UNHCR in concrete terms and especially Morocco which, the day before, had given a cheque to UNHCR as a token of its support.

104. Mr. ABUSHAALA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, at the 41st meeting, the representative of the rebel entity of Ndjamena had made totally unfounded allegations whose source was obvious to all. Those allegations were part of the disinformation campaign which the rebel entity was waging against the Jamahiriya. The rebel entity was protected by mercenaries and imperialists and in no way represented the Chadian people. For that reason it deserved no reply.

105. Mr. NABIEL (Afghanistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Pakistan had expressed concern for the plight of so-called "Afghan refugees" but had tried to camouflage reality with a web of allegations and lies in order to hide the fact that the Afghans were constrained by armed force, intimidation, deceit and empty promises to live in Pakistan. The Pakistan Government had deliberately prevented the dissemination among the Afghans living in Pakistan of the Afghan Government's declaration of general amnesty.

106. The representative of Pakistan had said that the "Afghan refugees" were a burden on the Pakistani economy. The number of Afghans in Pakistan had been greatly exaggerated, as was made clear by official United Nations documents, particularly, the study prepared by United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, which indicated that, in certain camps and regions, the number of "refugees" was 60 per cent less than the figures provided by the Pakistani authorities. The "refugees" were a way for Pakistan to obtain hard currency and consumer goods; they were a source of cheap labour as had even been openly admitted by high-ranking Pakistani officials and were enlisted in counter-revolutionary bands used by the Government to crush progressive and democratic movements in Pakistan. Pakistan's humanitarian assistance served as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan; if the presence of "refugees" was such a burden for the Pakistani economy, why was Pakistan making it difficult for them to return to their country?

(Mr. Nasir, Afghanistan)

107. The representative of Pakistan had spoken about setting up an efficient mechanism for registering refugees - one which had no doubt been used in Pakistan and consisted in registering refugees twice, or registering as "refugees" nomads and the local population, or Afghans who had already returned home.

108. He was surprised that those who were responsible for the undeclared war against Afghanistan, those who sent terrorist bands against Afghanistan, were lecturing the Committee with their talk about humanitarian assistance. Only a solution based on Afghanistan's proposals of 4 May 1980 and 24 August 1981 and the good offices of the United Nations could have a positive result. Pakistan should therefore adopt a constructive and business-like attitude.

109. Mr. HISSEIN-MI (Chad), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, in the statement which it had made at the 41st meeting his delegation had emphasized the principal cause of the ills which Chad suffered, namely the war imposed on it by the racist, terrorist and expansionist Libyan régime. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya occupied more than half the territory of Chad and, although it hid behind a phantom régime, it was well known that Libyan regulars and mercenaries of the Islamic Legion organized the massacres of the population in the occupied zone. The true scope of Libyan aggression had been recognized at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in August 1986 at Addis Ababa, which had reactivated the Ad Hoc Committee on the Dispute between Chad and Libya. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was clearly the aggressor against Chad, which was to serve as a stepping stone in its plan to destabilize the region. Its expansionist aims were no mystery to the well-informed observer. In the face of a heavily armed Libya, Chad was making enormous sacrifices in order to preserve its freedom and territorial integrity. It only wished to live in peace within the borders inherited from colonialism, in peace with its neighbours, including the Jamahiriya, if the latter ended its occupation.

110. If the Libyan representative resorted to coarse remarks, it was because he had no argument to justify the Libyan presence in Chad. In order not to be outdone, the Libyan tribal entity was doing its utmost to convince the international community that the current Government in Chad was a rebel régime. But it was worth recalling that Mr. Qaddafi had come to power following a coup d'état prepared and carried out from abroad. The representative of the tribal entity dared to say that the Chadian Government was protected by mercenaries; in fact there were 100 times more foreign soldiers in the Jamahiriya than in Chad. Moreover, he had claimed to know the source of Chad's "allegations". In reply, he said that the issue had been and continued to be discussed by the Organization of African Unity.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.