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Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/535 and Add.1)
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- (d) 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 (continued)

Letter dated 21 August 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/520-S/19084)

1. Mr. AIOUAZE (Algeria) said that the United Nations, carried forward by its prophetic vision of a future of progress and prosperity for all peoples, had prepared many international instruments. The culmination of its work of codification of international humanitarian law had been the adoption of resolution 41/128 containing the Declaration on the Right to Development. For its part, Africa had adopted the Charter of Human and People's Rights in which it was committed to working for the establishment of an order entitling all peoples to their economic, social and cultural development, with strict respect for their freedom and their identity, and to the equal enjoyment of the common patrimony of mankind. That attachment of Africa to equality, justice and dignity explained the importance which it attributed to the right to development.
2. The emergence of the right to development as an inalienable human right revealed an almost universal awareness of the interdependence of all rights, civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. The right to development, which completed the range of international legal instruments, and particularly the United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development, must become a universal reference point. In fact, the selective pre-eminence accorded to individual human rights over collective rights had not served the cause of human rights. Reality now made it essential to adopt an integrated and global approach towards human rights.
3. In order to promote respect for all human rights, the international community as a whole must show a spirit of solidarity and encourage the achievement of the right to development. It was therefore essential that that inalienable right

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(Miss Alouaze, Algeria)

should be universally recognized and that the means of achieving it should be defined. It would be desirable to amend the work programme and to enlarge the membership of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development, which was called upon to play a basic role in that field. The right to development must enjoy a high priority among the future activities of the United Nations aimed at transforming into reality that vision of a future of well-being for all nations.

4. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia) said that the Declaration on the Right to Development was significant, in the first place, in establishing the framework and characteristics of the right to development, and, secondly, in defining the fields of action in which efforts should be made and co-ordinated in order to implement that right and thus ensure the enjoyment of all human rights. The right to development was not a variant or a derivative of rights already embodied in other international instruments: it was the expression of a more global and more complex reality. It was a right both collective and individual, which required for its implementation and its promotion, the active co-operation not only of States but also of State and private institutions.

5. Development should have not only an economic dimension but also a social and cultural and indeed an ecological dimension. At the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and at the World Commission on Environment and Development, it had been unanimously recognized that the socio-economic environment, in particular at the international level, had steadily deteriorated in recent years and that it was necessary to eliminate the threats which continued to impede the development and enjoyment of human rights. The international community had the means and the imagination necessary to attack the evils which raged practically everywhere in the world.

6. Tunisia, in its desire to consolidate the state of law, uphold human rights and ensure economic and social development in an atmosphere of order and security, had prepared a new development plan with the basic objectives of achieving food self-sufficiency and full employment. It had also adopted a series of measures to improve the domestic social climate and to revitalize economic activity. Tunisia was aware that it must make further sacrifices but was convinced that technical and financial support from the international community would make it possible not only for Tunisia but also for other countries to tackle the present socio-economic situation with greater calm and energy.

7. Mrs. DIEGUEZ (Mexico) said that the General Assembly, by adopting the Declaration on the Right to Development, had made a step forward in the promotion of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. That Declaration complemented the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, adopted twenty years ago and reflected the natural evolution of international norms concerning human rights. In the Declaration, the right to development was defined both as an individual right and as the right of peoples to self-determination and to sovereignty over their wealth and natural resources. Mexico rejected the idea that

(Mrs. Diequez, Mexico)

the promotion of the right to development would weaken individual guarantees or that there was a basic incompatibility between human rights already recognized and the right to development.

8. All States and all international agencies had the essential task of eliminating obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular those concerned with international peace and security, injustice in international economic relations, inequality, apartheid, colonialism, aggression and foreign occupation.

9. Mexico supported the recommendations of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development and its proposal concerning the earliest possible detection and identification of important events likely to have immediate, direct and crucial consequences for the enjoyment of the right to development. Nationally, promotion of the right to development presupposed the adoption of legislative reforms and the creation of machinery for policy making and economic and social planning. Mexico had incorporated in its Constitution articles defining the participation of the public, social and private sectors in the development process, specifying their respective spheres of competence in conformity with the general interest and within the framework of a State based on the rule of law. However, the international economic situation made it difficult for the developing countries fully to apply the principles of the Declaration. International commercial and financial relations needed to be overhauled and the resources currently devoted to the arms race should be reallocated to economic and social development. Because of the huge scale of military spending, on the one hand, and the unmet economic and social needs of vast sectors of the world population, on the other, it was natural to establish a link between disarmament and development. The fact was no longer disputed that the militarization of the economy caused profound structural imbalances, which had repercussions on the viability of development projects.

10. Although certain countries refused to recognize the validity of the right to development, Mexico was confident that in the near future that right would become a reality, through international economic and social co-operation in accordance with the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

11. Ms. YOUNG (United Kingdom) agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights that without respect for human rights there could be no lasting security or economic and social progress and the endeavours of the United Nations could not succeed. In the current financial crisis, when it was crucial for resources to be concentrated in priority areas, particularly for the biennium 1988-1989 and the medium-term plan for 1990-1995, the United Kingdom believed that the resources available for human rights activities must be maintained. The meetings devoted to those questions accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total budget and any cuts in so small a programme might cause disproportionate harm to its objectives.

12. Among the focus activities, her delegation believed that top priority should be given to implementation of the international instruments, including the International Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and

(Ms. Young, United Kingdom)

the two International Covenants on Human Rights), which the United Nations had elaborated over the years for the protection of the individual. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/120 had created growing recognition in the international community of the need to ensure universal respect for existing standards. There was no certainty that the drafting of further instruments would contribute substantially to the promotion of human rights.

13. Although the implementation of existing instruments was primarily the responsibility of States, monitoring of implementation was the essential task of the international community and of the treaty-monitoring bodies, among which the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights played an essential role. Priority must also be given to the system of fact-finding and reporting, and encouragement and advice given to countries. The Commission on Human Rights provided valuable help through the advisory services programme to countries wishing to apply those instruments; it must, however, be careful not to depart from its mandate, which was directly related to human rights. Those priority programmes had suffered from reductions in temporary staff and her delegation asked the Secretariat to reallocate to them sufficient permanent staff.

14. As did the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, her Government recognized the need to increase public awareness of human rights issues; it therefore attached importance to the provision of summary records for the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the treaty-monitoring bodies, without which the voice of the international community in the field of human rights would be silenced. It also supported the work of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights which was preparing a draft declaration on the rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights, since it was essential for individuals to be aware of their rights and of the international machinery existing to help them enjoy those rights. The Under-Secretary-General had made an interesting suggestion concerning a co-ordinated programme for the world-wide dissemination of information on human rights. The United Kingdom would particularly welcome a more extensive programme of publications on human rights matters, an area which had not received enough attention within the United Nations public information programmes. It also hoped that the new section for external relations within the Centre for Human Rights would enhance the ability of the wider human rights community, especially non-governmental organizations, to contribute to work in that domain.

15. There were still widely different interpretations of the right to development - a relatively new concept which required further consideration. Her delegation therefore welcomed the decision taken by the Commission on Human Rights at the conclusion of its 1987 session.

16. Mrs. COLL (Ireland) said that 10 December 1987 would mark the fortieth anniversary of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and would provide an opportunity to foster a deeper understanding of the role and value of that instrument and to highlight the

(Mrs. Coll, Ireland)

question of human rights. As a mark of its commitment to that goal, Ireland had decided to make available a sum of 10,000 pounds to finance activities in that field.

17. In order to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the United Nations should collaborate closely with non-governmental organizations and enlist the support and expertise of the wider human rights community. The Irish delegation supported and would sponsor the draft resolution on public information activities in the field of human rights (A/C.3/42/L.37).

18. The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-third session, had drawn attention to the summary records of its debate and asked that the resources devoted to human rights activities (which represented approximately 0.7 per cent of the total budget) should on no account be reduced and should rather be increased. It was concerned that the reform process should truly enhance the effectiveness of United Nations activities in support of human rights.

19. At the forty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, its Special Commission was to undertake a general review of the Council's functional commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights. The agenda of the latter Commission provided for regular reviews of its own programme and methods of work; reforms initiated by the Commission itself would best guarantee that the human rights programme, which had been praised by many Governments, would be better equipped to face the challenge posed to it.

20. The Irish delegation had been in a position to support Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/23 on the right to development, which had been adopted without a vote. Since work on the question was to proceed in stages, the Commission had started by familiarizing Governments, United Nations agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the general public with the text and stimulating reflection on it. The draft resolution submitted on the subject should faithfully reflect the compromise reached concerning the mandate of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development at its next session.

21. Ms. NGUYEN BINH THANH (Viet Nam) said that Governments were attaching more and more importance to the right to development, which was part and parcel of human rights. That had been acknowledged by the international community for decades, as was evident from the fact that the right to development had been proclaimed in the two human-rights covenants and embodied in United Nations resolutions and documents of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Over the years, there had been an effort to refine the concept of that right and contemplate measures to ensure its realization. During its forty-first session, the General Assembly had adopted the Declaration on the Right to Development, despite diverging viewpoints and perceptions. The Declaration would be a great contribution to the development of international law. It would enhance the common search for the solution to economic and social problems and would foster economic independence and social progress in general.

(Ms. Nguyen Binh Thanh, Viet Nam)

22. The right to development - very much a collective right - was a basic prerequisite for the full enjoyment of human rights. It was a component of inalienable national rights, implying the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and full sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources.

23. Human rights could not be fully guaranteed as long as injustice, backwardness and the threat of war continued to exist. The peace to which peoples so fervently aspired, economic development, the elimination of poverty, protection of the environment and the rational utilization of resources were also of crucial importance. Underdevelopment had not only economic and social, but also civil and political, consequences. Dividing human rights into two separate categories would be but an obstacle to their promotion.

24. As the world economy, and the economies of the developing countries in particular, were currently facing extremely serious difficulties - which were certain to affect the implementation of the right to development - priority should be given to the reform of international economic relations in order to do away with existing injustices. That goal would be best achieved through the establishment of a new international economic order and a system of international economic security.

25. Popular participation in State management and decision-making would be an added spur to economic development. Viet Nam was working to improve technology and management and, as part of that process, had drafted a law on investment, to be enacted by the National Assembly. The law would provide for greater self-government and better management, along with broader participation by the people in decision-making.

26. Despite many remaining obstacles (inadequate legislation, complicated bureaucracy and the non-respect of national independence and sovereignty) much progress had been achieved, and the United Nations had of course played a significant role in that progress. The next step would be to improve international human-rights legislation. In that connection, it would be more fruitful to increase the effectiveness of United Nations bodies already equipped to deal with human rights than to create new ones. That effectiveness should be increased in the spirit of the principles laid down in General Assembly resolution 32/130. To establish the post of United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, for example, would amount to a duplication of effort, and would make the system even more complex and bureaucratic. That was hardly advisable in view of the financial constraints on the Organization.

27. In any case, human rights, including the right to development, could be fully implemented only with greater co-operation from the international community. Viet Nam, for one, was ready to support all initiatives to that end.

28. Mrs. OTUNBAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms must focus on humanizing international relations. It must also focus on the collective pursuit

(Mrs. Otunbaeva, USSR)

of genuine opportunities for broadening international co-operation in the humanitarian sphere, which would be an integral part of a comprehensive system of international security. Any such exchange of views should be based on the report of the Secretary-General (document A/42/585) describing the various influences on the development of humanitarian co-operation. All peoples and all individuals would then be able to lead their lives in dignity, in conditions of peace, freedom and social justice.

29. The Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly, was a fundamental instrument. The elaboration and adoption of that Declaration constituted a good example of the progressive development of international law. The realization of all aspects of the right to development, including individual and collective development in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, must become one of the basic concerns of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development under the Commission on Human Rights. The Working Group must also examine the major obstacles to implementing the provisions of the Declaration and any action that could be taken to remove them.

30. The huge gap between the level of development in developing countries and developed countries was widening steadily. Opportunities for progress were greatly diminished by the external-debt burden, the economic vulnerability of developing countries and their exploitation by transnational corporations. In that connection, the situation of the third world could be summed up by the following figures: in 1985 alone, developing countries had paid \$54 billion in interest on their debt, and an additional \$13 billion had been transferred to Western countries in the form of returns on direct private investments. By contrast, the Western countries had paid developing countries only \$23 billion in aid and direct investments. Moreover, the fall of commodities prices had entailed an additional loss of \$100 billion for third-world countries. The Soviet Union was a constant source of aid to developing countries - mainly bilateral aid - which, in 1986, had amounted to over \$23 billion. It hoped to participate much more in programmes to aid developing countries and would be able to do so once the principle of "disarmament for development" was implemented.

31. The democratization of society was at the heart of the restructuring currently taking place in the Soviet Union. Socialist society recognized the wide range of opinions which came of every individual having his own social experience, culture and way of interpreting events. Through the improvement of the economic and political system, an effort was being made to give all workers a genuine say in public and social affairs. The task of increasing democracy and strengthening human rights encountered certain difficulties, and, sometimes, brought out unexpected contradictions.

32. Her delegation considered the work of national institutions to be of great importance for respect of human rights at the national level. That was why it thought that their contribution to the enjoyment of citizens' rights and freedoms should be strengthened and that exchanges of information and experience in the area should be broadened. The perestroika process was encouraging the activity of

(Mrs. Otunbaeva, USSR)

Soviet institutions concerned with questions of human rights. The role of the soviets of people's deputies, like that of the central legislative and executive authorities which guaranteed the enjoyment of citizens' rights and freedoms, had been considerably strengthened. New instructions were being implemented that consolidated socialist legislation and the protection of citizens' rights and legitimate interests. In particular, the principle of the election of managers by workers' collectives had been introduced at all enterprise levels. Social organizations were playing an increasingly important part in the defence of human rights and new non-governmental organizations of a humanitarian kind had appeared.

33. The Soviet Union wished to see international co-operation reinforced in the field of human rights, on the basis of scrupulous respect for the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. All States should become parties to the existing instruments of international law in the field of human rights and to their implementation procedures, which allowed not only the consideration of reports from States on one problem or another but also a mutually profitable exchange of experience. Perhaps the role played by the United Nations and the Secretary-General in expanding international co-operation in human rights should be strengthened. The Soviet Union for its part was ready to join in such efforts.

34. Mr. MOUNKHOV (Mongolia) said that his country had always attached great importance to the enjoyment of human rights and had unreservedly supported the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session. That instrument marked an important stage in the development of the concept and codification of human rights. All the aspects of the Declaration were indivisible and of equal importance. Development was a global process in which political and economic, civil and social rights should receive the same level of consideration. The right to development represented the chance for every individual and every people to achieve their creative potential. In order to implement it, States should make persistent efforts constantly to improve the well-being of their population as a whole and of every individual.

35. To that end, it was essential to restructure the current system of international relations, particularly economic and financial relations. The establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security would make it possible to ensure the full implementation of the rights and freedoms of peoples and individuals. To do that, a new international economic order and a new international humanitarian order had to be set up. Only then would the most favourable conditions be created for the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to peace, security and development.

36. The right to development was closely connected with concrete measures in the field of disarmament. The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development had shown convincingly that development could be considerably encouraged by disarmament measures. Such measures could free resources needed for development and create a favourable climate for it. In order to implement the right to development, it was also necessary to eradicate all the forms of discrimination, protectionist measures, sanctions and economic blockades

(Mr. Mounkhou, Mongolia)

not approved by the international community that were impeding the nations' socio-economic progress.

37. The United Nations had an important part to play in shaping the concept of human rights and in codifying them. Exchanging national experience of social, economic and cultural development within the United Nations framework could contribute to implementing the Declaration on the Right to Development. International action in that field should be based on scrupulous respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter, the sovereignty of States and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs.

38. Implementation of the right to development had begun in Mongolia with the victory of the people's revolution in 1921, in the course of which the Mongolian people had seized power and undertaken the transformation of the country in order to eradicate its centuries-old backwardness and social inequalities in the name of economic and cultural progress. The Mongolian people had achieved remarkable successes in a very short time and socialism had become a reality in their country.

39. Mongolia's experience showed that implementation of the right to development was indissolubly linked with the sovereignty of the State over its natural resources. It likewise showed that individual and collective work in the interests of society played an important part in implementing the right to development, and that the establishment of State control over the main sectors of the economy and the pursuit of a social policy were of great importance for the complete fulfilment of that right.

40. The impressive achievements of the Mongolian people and their great successes in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, had only been possible thanks to the ideals of the Great October Socialist Revolution, whose seventieth anniversary had been celebrated recently. That revolution had opened up prospects of freedom, independence and social progress previously unknown to the Mongolian and many other peoples.

41. Mr. SCHWANDT (Federal Republic of Germany), recalling the life and example of Georg Büchner, who had been accused of high treason and had died in exile in 1837 for daring to establish a society for human rights, said that the concept of human rights was a revolutionary concept which confirmed the dignity of the human person and limited the power of society and the State over the individual. Human rights were the antithesis of the arrogance of power inherent in all totalitarian ideologies in whatever guise they appeared. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was in the tradition of the Virginia Bill of Rights of 1776 and the French Declaration of Human and Civil Rights. But the battle was far from won. There were attempts to dilute the concept of human rights, to change their essence and thus undermine their role in the relationship between the individual and society. Those attempts had been successful even within the United Nations, which was committed to defending human rights. For example, the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/585) said that the maintenance of international peace and security was a prerequisite for the universal enjoyment of human rights. But quite

(Mr. Schwandt, Federal
Republic of Germany)

the contrary was true. There could be no external peace without internal peace and no internal peace without freedom and respect for human rights.

42. But the most serious threat to human rights arose from attempts to deny their universal character. Human rights were not granted by a single society, or bestowed by a single State, and could not be limited by national frontiers. They transcended the boundaries of national sovereignty. Concern for human rights could never be seen as interference in a State's internal affairs. Everyone was involved in the battle for human rights.

43. While human rights standards were accepted world-wide, their violation was to be witnessed every day. It was the duty of the States Members of the United Nations to take practical steps towards strengthening the Organization's implementation machinery in the field of human rights. For years the Third Committee had been urged to give close attention to the idea of establishing a post of high commissioner for human rights and an international court of justice for human rights. It was to be regretted that neither the Committee nor the Commission on Human Rights had been able to discuss those proposals in depth. His delegation would not cease to call for such a debate, which he was sure would produce useful results.

44. Mr. SANCHEZ (Philippines) said that immediately upon assuming leadership in 1986, the President of the Philippines had moved to restore respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms with the help of a presidential committee on human rights. The 1987 Constitution, which recognized the dignity of every human person and guaranteed full respect for human rights, provided for the creation of an independent commission on human rights entrusted with the formulation of policies and programmes and the integration of human rights in the country's economic and social development in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/144. Although still in its formative stage, the Commission was already in the process, as part of a decentralization effort, of establishing 13 regional offices, two of which were already in existence. It had launched several programmes, in particular in the following fields: human resource development, with the object of providing itself with the skilled staff (lawyers, investigators) necessary for the performance of its functions; public information, to promote public awareness of human rights; and education and training, for the benefit of teachers, government officials, the police and the armed forces as well as of Department of Justice personnel with a view to promoting respect of human rights in the exercise of their duties.

45. The United Nations could usefully support the work being undertaken in the Philippines in all those fields through expert services, fellowships and scholarships, and training courses and seminars under the advisory services programme, which would help in the implementation of international human rights standards. His delegation hoped that a United Nations handbook on national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights based on the Secretary-General's consolidated report (E/CN.4/1987/37) would be issued shortly and would serve as a valuable source of information for countries contemplating the

(Mr. Sanchez, Philippines)

creation or improvement of human rights institutions in their countries. In conclusion, he stressed the urgent need to finalize the work on a draft teaching booklet on human rights, which would be very helpful to his country's Department of Education, Culture and Sports in integrating the study of human rights in the curricula of all educational and training establishments.

46. Ms. DI FELICE (Venezuela) said that, as the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights had pointed out at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council, if States were to implement effectively the many useful instruments drawn up by the United Nations in order to ensure universal respect of human rights which today suffered numerous violations, they had to be helped to incorporate the provisions of those instruments in their national legislations and to strengthen their national institutions entrusted with supervising their implementation. Thanks to international co-operation and with the help of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations was very well placed to give valuable help to countries through exchanges of information and, more particularly, through training programmes intended for Government officials responsible for drafting human rights instruments or monitoring their implementation. Thanks to the generous contributions of some countries, the United Nations had also provided advisory services, whose importance her delegation had repeatedly emphasized, to numerous countries including some Latin American countries. The Organization's role in that field should therefore be strengthened.

47. National institutions occupied a front-rank place in the protection as well as the promotion of human rights. In particular, it was up to them to ensure the widest possible dissemination of national and international human rights instruments and to enhance the awareness of the population as a whole of the importance of human rights, for people could demand respect for human rights only to the extent to which they knew their rights. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the publication of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (E/CN.4/1987/37), which was to serve as a guide to Governments, and its submission for consideration by the Commission on Human Rights. In her country, besides the national institutions mentioned by the Secretary-General, neighbourhood associations for information and training had been established by the inhabitants of various neighbourhoods wishing to take action towards the protection of their individual and collective rights.

48. In conclusion, she recalled that her country had actively participated in the drafting of the Declaration on the Right to Development and subscribed to the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to give priority to that individual and collective right, whose implementation was a corollary of that of all other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and was based upon the equality of access to the benefits of development. All States, specialized agencies and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations should make every effort to submit their views and proposals to the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right of Development, in order to promote the Declaration's implementation.

49. Mr. KIM Hae Hon (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that in a statement on agenda item 105 the representative of the United States had spoken at length on economic and social rights implying that democracy was assured only in the United States and that the peoples of the socialist countries did not enjoy those rights. Could a country be described as truly democratic where millions of individuals suffered hunger and unemployment and lived in the streets - a country which, moreover, supported at gun-point dictatorial régimes such as that which had massacred thousands of people calling for the establishment of democracy?

50. The United States would be remembered, not as a pioneer of freedom and human rights, but as a violator of democracy. The representative of the United States would do well to remember the saying about the mote and the beam.

51. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was surprised by the reaction of the observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the United States delegation had made no mention whatsoever of that country and had referred only to a totalitarian country. He would confine himself to replying with a proverb: "If the shoe fits, wear it".

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.