
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued) (A/C.3/35/L.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that the draft programme of work prepared by the Bureau on the basis of the available documentation and of the exchanges of views among delegations and submitted informally, would be approved at the present meeting. The Committee would then be able to begin its work at the next meeting. He stressed the need to maintain flexibility, and said that if the Committee completed its consideration of any item before the date planned, it should be able to take up another item.
2. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that her delegation was prepared to approve the proposal made by the Bureau. She drew attention to General Assembly resolution 34/172, in which it had been decided "to create a working group open to all Member States to elaborate an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families". That decision amounted to a mandate to the Committee to ensure that the working group began its work at the beginning of the current session. Upon the conclusion of the thirty-fourth session, an informal group of representatives of interested countries had held consultations on the basis of General Assembly resolution 34/172 concerning the preparation of the convention. The text concerning the results of its deliberations would be submitted to the Committee during the next few days in order that delegations might exchange views on the subject. Her delegation believed that the subject of migrant workers was very important and hoped that the Committee would prepare a convention on their protection at the current session. It wished to propose that, once the working group entrusted with the study of the subject had been officially established by the Committee, it should meet twice a week starting at the beginning of October; it further wished to nominate Ambassador González de León, of Mexico, for the office of Chairman. Mr. González de León had participated in the meetings held in the International Labour Organisation on the subject, and his presence in the working group would help ensure that the convention drawn up by the United Nations did not duplicate the work done by ILO.
3. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to General Assembly resolution 34/172, by which it had been decided to create the open-ended working group. He said that during the exchanges of views held in the course of the week, two other delegations had each submitted a proposal to establish an additional working group. There had been insufficient time to hold consultations on the subject, and he would report back on the matter about the middle of the following week.
4. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) expressed surprise at some aspects of the draft programme of work submitted informally. First, it would have been useful to know the number of meetings allocated to each item, in order to be able to judge whether the division of time was equitable. In his view, too much time was allotted to the subject of women. Although that subject was important, devoting two weeks to it was excessive, especially in view of the fact that little time was allocated to the consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council, notwithstanding what

(Mr. Edis, United Kingdom)

the Chairman had said about flexibility. In that connexion, he felt that it was important that the list of speakers should be closed soon. He also felt that the order of items was not altogether appropriate, particularly in respect of the items relating to women.

5. The United Kingdom had already drawn attention to the need to establish a working group to prepare a declaration on the human rights of individuals who were not citizens of the country in which they lived. His delegation continued to believe that the group must be established as a matter of urgency; he did not think that his proposal would give rise to any objections.

6. Lastly, he felt that attention should be drawn to the inadequacy of the services provided by the Secretariat to the Committee in comparison, for example, with the services provided to the Second Committee, which did not have such a full programme. He called for better services in general, and particularly in the production of documents.

7. The CHAIRMAN, responding to the observations made by the representative of the United Kingdom, said that, although no final decision could be taken at the present stage, he believed that about seven meetings a week would be held, in addition to two meetings of the working groups. He intended to guide the work in such a way that it would be possible to consider all the items. He reminded all delegations of the need for discipline and said that, in his view, the proposal to close the lists of speakers shortly was very appropriate. With regard to documentation, he had been assured that the necessary documents would be available in time, specifically those relating to the subject of women. Lastly, he agreed that the Secretariat provided comparatively few services to the Committee and said that the problem had already been called to the attention of the Secretariat.

8. Mrs. SUTHERLAND (Canada) said that her delegation attached great importance to items 80 and 83 of the agenda, concerned with the United Nations Decade for Women and the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It felt that, since the final version of the report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women was not yet available, the date indicated in the programme of work proposed by the Bureau (15 October) was perhaps too early to begin the debate on the subject. It agreed with the delegation of the United Kingdom that it was necessary to decide on the number of meetings which would be allocated for the consideration of each item on the agenda instead of simply mentioning dates, which could lead to mistakes.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that during the following week he would discuss the situation regarding the report of the World Conference with Mrs. Mair, the Secretary-General of the Conference. According to available information, it seemed that the Committee would have the necessary documentation on items 80 and 83 by the middle of October.

10. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that he fully supported the programme of work proposed by the Bureau. Pointing out that two weeks had already gone by since the beginning of the thirty-fifth session, he said that it was time for the Committee to begin the consideration of the items which had been allocated to it.

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(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

11. His delegation agreed with the distribution of items and with the number of meetings proposed by the Bureau. As the Chairman had pointed out, the Committee would maintain flexibility and would make any appropriate adjustments as the need arose. He appealed to the United Kingdom and Canada not to press for any change in the distribution of items, particularly those concerned with women. If there were any delays in the publication of the necessary documentation, the Committee could consider the social items until the delayed documentation was published.

12. His delegation fully agreed with the delegation of the United Kingdom that inadequate services were being provided to the Committee, particularly in respect of the preparation of documents. He therefore called on those responsible to do everything possible to facilitate the work of the Committee. He also supported the Algerian proposals concerning the preparation of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families and concerning the election of the Chairman of the working group which would be responsible for drafting the convention.

13. Mrs. RODRIGUEZ CALDERON (Cuba) said that her delegation would have preferred a different ordering of the items relating to social questions. It also felt that the time allocated to the consideration of those items was insufficient. Nevertheless, in a spirit of co-operation and because it agreed that the programme of work should be approved at the present meeting, her delegation accepted the programme of work proposed by the Bureau. It fully supported the Algerian proposal regarding the working group which was to be established under General Assembly resolution 34/172 and also agreed that Mr. González de León was the appropriate person to be the Chairman of that group.

14. Mr. NORDENFELT (Sweden) said that he supported the Algerian proposals concerning the establishment of the working group envisaged in General Assembly resolution 34/172 and concerning the nomination of the Chairman and felt that the group should begin its work as soon as possible, in view of the importance of that work. Sweden would make an active and constructive contribution. Furthermore, his delegation felt that everything possible should be done to facilitate the work of the working group which would be responsible for preparing a declaration on the human rights of individuals who were not citizens of the country in which they lived and the draft body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment.

15. Ms. RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation had still not received the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. With regard to item 79 (International Year of Disabled Persons), the Assembly should adopt decisions with a view to making the necessary arrangements for observance of the Year. The matter was of some urgency, since 1981 was the year which had been designated. It would thus be desirable for the Committee to take up the item in October. She supported the proposals made by the representative of Algeria on the establishment of the working group and the nomination of Mr. González de León as Chairman.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services had assured him that everything possible was being done to expedite the issuance of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He agreed with

the representative of Argentina that the item on the International Year of Disabled Persons was urgent. As he had already stated, he would exercise flexibility so that, if necessary, the date on which the item was to be considered could be changed. Nevertheless, for the time being it was preferable to retain the proposed organization of work.

17. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) also expressed concern about the time of issuance of the documentation necessary for consideration of items 80 and 83, since he had been notified that it would not be ready before the end of October. It would therefore be appropriate to ascertain the status of that documentation. He agreed with the proposal that, if it were not available before 15 October, the Committee should consider social questions.

18. The Algerian delegation had made some useful proposals. He trusted that the Committee's decision to establish the working group provided for in General Assembly resolution 34/172 would not prejudice in any way the establishment of the working groups requested by the United Kingdom and the United States.

19. It was very important for the Committee to have sufficient time to consider the items which had been allocated to it. It would be useful if the Chairman and the Officers of the Committee indicated at some point the approximate number of meetings to be devoted to each item.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/172, the Committee should establish the working group on the elaboration of a convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families. Nevertheless, that did not preclude the establishment of the working groups proposed by the United Kingdom and the United States. As for the number of meetings to be devoted to each item, it was still not possible to establish exact numbers.

21. Mr. KOMISAROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the programme of work submitted by the Officers of the Committee displayed balance and a spirit of compromise. His delegation supported that programme, particularly so given the Chairman's declared intent to implement the programme with due flexibility. His delegation was prepared to co-operate fully in the Committee's work and to act in a disciplined manner. His delegation also supported the Algerian proposals on the establishment of the working group and the appointment of its Chairman. He called upon the Secretariat to ensure the prompt issuance of all the documentation necessary for the Committee's work.

22. Mr. VOLLERS (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the list of speakers should be closed as soon as possible. He endorsed the arrangement suggested by the Officers of the Committee on the composition of the working groups that would take into account the interests of all.

23. Miss ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) said that the Committee's programme of work as proposed by the Officers of the Committee was balanced, and she hoped that it would be adopted. *Those items relating to the status of women should remain where they were;*

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(Miss Aboul-Naga, Egypt)

an attempt to elucidate the problem of documentation would be made later. With reference to the proposed working groups, she asked the Chair to bear in mind that, given the limited number of members in each delegation, the proliferation of working groups could create difficulties.

24. Mr. DOMINGUEZ PASIER (Spain) said that he agreed with the programme of work, and endorsed the Algerian proposal to establish the working group on the elaboration of a convention on the protection of the rights of migrant workers. He also supported the Algerian proposal that its Chairman should be Ambassador González de León, of Mexico.

25. Mr. HLA (Burma) thanked the Officers of the Committee for the felicitous programme of work which they had proposed. So that the Committee could conclude its work in good time, he proposed that a time-limit should be set by the Committee for statements made in debates, explanations of votes, etc.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that it was premature to specify at that stage how long speakers might be allowed for their statements.

27. Mr. BERGTHUN (Norway) said that he was gratified to note the just balance of men and women among the Officers of the Committee. In view of the uncertainty as to the availability of the documentation for items 80 and 83, relating to the status of women, items 69 and 81, relating to youth, should be considered first, thus avoiding problems created by last-minute changes. Given that several delegations were sending representatives from young people's and women's organizations to the Committee's debates, it was necessary to adhere to the programme of work as far as possible. The allocation of three days for the consideration of item 77 (Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms) was inadequate. The programme of work proposed by the Officers of the Committee was otherwise acceptable to his delegation.

28. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that the number of days allocated to items 80 and 83, relating to the status of women, was excessive. More emphasis should be placed on the items relating to consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council and to migrant workers. She agreed with the representative of Cuba that more time should be allowed for consideration of the nine items to be considered between 28 October and 7 November. She also supported the proposal made by the representative of the United Kingdom on the draft declaration on the human rights of individuals who were not citizens of the country in which they lived.

29. Mr. NAGY (Hungary) said that the proposed programme of work was reasonable and should be adopted as it stood. He supported the Algerian proposal concerning the establishment of the working group on the elaboration of a convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families. A decision could be taken later on whether other working groups should be established.

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30. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) requested the establishment of a time-limit for statements. It would be useful to have a chart indicating the meetings to be devoted to each item. He hoped that the meetings devoted to nine items (28 October to 7 November) would not be limited solely to the general debate. Given that the documentation for item 77 was now ready, consideration of that item should be brought forward so that it began on 15 October, using some of the time allocated to items 80 and 83.
31. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) agreed with the programme of work proposed by the Officers of the Committee. He supported the Algerian proposals concerning the working group on the question of migrant workers, particularly the proposal that it should be chaired by Ambassador González de León, of Mexico. With reference to the proposal by Argentina on item 79 (International Year of Disabled Persons), he pointed out that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya accorded special importance to that item and requested that sufficient time should be allocated to it for it to be considered properly. He recognized that there were difficulties with documentation and suggested that, if documents on a particular item were not ready, another item be considered. He endorsed the programme of work proposed by the Officers of the Committee.
32. Mrs. de REYES (Colombia) endorsed the proposal put forward by the representative of Algeria concerning the establishment of a working group to elaborate an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, and supported the candidature of the representative of Mexico for the chairmanship of that group.
33. With regard to the programme of work, she felt that the time set aside for the report of the Economic and Social Council was very short; in her view, the report contained questions of great social importance, and it was necessary to avoid a repetition of what had occurred the previous year, when the time required for detailed consideration of such questions had been lacking.
34. Her delegation felt that it was necessary for the Chairman to explain in greater detail what the methods of work would be, particularly with regard to the date on which each agenda item would be taken up, the duration of consideration of each item, deadlines for the opening and closure of the list of speakers, the role of the Vice-Chairmen, preparation of draft resolutions and the corresponding voting. With regard to the voting, she suggested that, for each item, the vote should be taken immediately after closure of the list of speakers.
35. The CHAIRMAN said that at that stage it would be premature to establish too rigid a programme; as work progressed it would be possible to give more exact details. With regard to draft resolutions, it would be useful if delegations could hold extensive consultations in that connexion; the Vice-Chairmen would play an important role in such consultations.
36. Mr. RANGASHARI (India) said that the proposed programme of work was very balanced and deserved the support it had received from a majority of delegations. His delegation endorsed the suggestions put forward by a number of the preceding speakers, particularly the suggestion by the representative of Yugoslavia concerning

(Mr. Rangashari, India)

the need for delegations to be punctual and for a flexible approach to be adopted towards the work, the suggestion by the representative of the United Kingdom concerning punctual closure of the list of speakers and the need to have adequate support from the Secretariat, and the Algerian proposal concerning the setting-up of a working group on migrant workers and concerning the candidature of the representative of Mexico as its Chairman.

37. Mrs. PADUA (Portugal) said that if the documents were not ready there was no point in setting specific dates for the various meetings. The only detailed remark that she could make was that too many meetings were set aside for questions relating to women, in comparison with the small number of meetings set aside for the report of the Economic and Social Council. Her delegation endorsed the Algerian proposal, both with regard to the working group on the rights of migrant workers and with regard to the candidature of the representative of Mexico to chair the group.

38. Mrs. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that her delegation endorsed the proposed programme of work, which it considered quite feasible, in spite of the fact that at the current stage part of the documentation was still not available. It also endorsed the Algerian proposal concerning the establishment of a working group on the rights of migrant workers and the candidature of the representative of Mexico as its Chairman.

39. Mr. CHUTASMIT (Thailand) said that his delegation believed the proposed programme of work to be satisfactory and endorsed it.

40. Mr. MALUKI (Kenya) said that his delegation favoured adoption of the programme of work and was confident that the Chairman's assurances concerning a flexible approach would facilitate the conduct of work. His delegation endorsed the Algerian proposals with regard to the establishment of a working group on migrant workers and the candidature of the representative of Mexico to chair the group.

41. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proposed programme of work constituted a satisfactory compromise solution and he endorsed it. He believed that, if the necessary flexible approach was adopted, the lack of a number of documents would not hinder work. It was desirable for statements to be brief, so that all delegations would have the opportunity to express their Governments' views.

42. His delegation endorsed the Algerian proposal with regard to the establishment of the working group referred to in Assembly resolution 34/172 and with regard to the candidature of the representative of Mexico to chair the group. As to the proposals that further working groups should be established, it would be premature to take decisions in that connexion at that initial stage of the Committee's work.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that he would contact the Secretariat and make it clear that the Committee's functioning should not depend on the availability of documents and that documents should therefore be made available to the Committee without delay.

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44. Mrs. AKAMATSU (Japan) said that her delegation endorsed the proposed programme of work and believed that, with a flexible approach, the Committee could complete all the tasks on the programme.
45. Ms. OBAFEMI (Nigeria), Rapporteur, thanked the representative of Algeria for her proposals concerning the establishment of a working group and endorsed the candidature of Mr. González de León to chair the group.
46. Mr. SAIF (Democratic Yemen) thanked the Officers of the Committee for preparing the programme of work, which he considered balanced and reasonable, and expressed the hope that it would be adopted at the current meeting. With regard to documentation, he was sure that the difficulties could be overcome.
47. Ms. WELLS (Australia) suggested that, when the Chairman reported to the Committee on the proposals for establishing working groups, he should also report on the situation regarding documentation, and pointed out how important it was to have documents in good time, particularly where documents on the question of women were concerned. With regard to the draft programme of work, she felt that the Committee perhaps did not need to adopt it formally, but should simply take note of it and, if necessary, make changes as the conduct of business progressed.
48. The CHAIRMAN said the programme should be adopted formally and issued as an official document, on the understanding that the Committee agreed that it would be flexible in implementing it.
49. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft programme of work.
50. It was so decided.
51. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposal put forward by the representative of Algeria that a working group should be established to draft an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, and that the group should be chaired by Mr. González de León. Adoption of that proposal would be without prejudice to any consultations that he might hold with other delegations with regard to the establishment of further working groups.
52. It was so decided.
53. The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers for consideration of agenda items 67, 74, 66 and 75 was open. The list would be closed on Tuesday, 30 September at 6 p.m.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.