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Agenda item 86

QUESTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Naoharu FUJII (Japan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1981, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered this item jointly with items 75, 85, 87 and 91 at its 27th to 38th meetings, on 22 to 30 October, and on 2 and 3 November 1981. The views expressed by representatives of Member States on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/36/SR.27-38).
3. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter XXIII (A/36/3/Add.23 (Part I)); 1/
 - (b) Question of a convention on the rights of the child: document submitted by Poland (A/C.3/36/6).
4. At the 27th meeting, on 22 October, the Deputy Director of the Division of Human Rights made an introductory statement on the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/36/L.14

5. At the 27th meeting, on 22 October, the representative of Poland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/36/L.14) sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, France,

1/ To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/36/3/Rev.1).

the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zaire, later joined by Angola, Bolivia, Chad, Democratic Yemen, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, the Upper Volta, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

6. At its 38th meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Question of a convention on the rights of the child

The General Assembly

Recalling its resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978, 34/4 of 18 October 1979 and 35/131 of 11 December 1980

Mindful of the vital link between programmes benefiting children and the observance of their rights, and a broader and more comprehensive framework of over-all economic and social development in conditions of peace,

Convinced that the fresh and necessary impetus to activities generated by the International Year of the Child should be maintained and that the new perspective it has created should be followed by appropriate action in the years to come,

Reaffirming the important role that the United Nations Children's Fund has to play in the subject-matter concerned,

Aware of the importance of an international convention on the rights of the child for the protection of children's rights and improvement in their situation,

Having in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 20 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978, 2/ 19 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979, 3/ 36 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980 4/ and 6 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981, 5/ as well as Economic and Social Council

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., 1979, Supplement No. 5 (E/1979/36), chap. XXIV, sect. A.

4/ Ibid., 1980, Supplement No. 3 (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

5/ Ibid., 1981, Supplement No. 5 (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

resolutions 1978/18 of 5 May 1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

Noting with appreciation further progress made in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child by the Commission on Human Rights prior to and during its thirty-seventh session,

1. Welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1981/144 by which the Council authorized an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of one week prior to the thirty-eighth session of the Commission to complete the work on the draft convention on the rights of the child;
 2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to the question of completing the draft convention;
 3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Working Group in order to ensure its smooth and efficient work;
 4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".
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