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STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

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 "Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered this item jointly with item 88 at its 41st, 44th to 48th, 50th, 51st, 53rd and 58th meetings on 5, 10 to 12, 16, 17 and 23 November 1981. The views expressed by representatives of Member States, United Nations bodies and an observer on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/36/SR.41, 44-48, 50, 51, 53 and 58).
3. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General (A/36/295 and Add.1);
 - (b) Letter dated 24 December 1980 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/63).
4. At the 41st meeting, on 5 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement on the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/36/L.54

5. At the 53rd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/36/L.54) sponsored by Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, later joined by Germany, Federal Republic of, Romania, Rwanda, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

6. At the 58th meeting, on 23 November, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the administrative and financial implications of General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which the Assembly had adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/C.3/34/L.78).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.54 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate and contribute, on a basis of equality, in the social, economic and political processes of development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its resolution 35/140 of 11 December 1980,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention, 1/

1/ A/36/295 and Add.1.

1. Notes with appreciation that a significant number of Member States have already ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
2. Welcomes with great satisfaction that, as a result, the Convention entered into force on 2 September 1981;
3. Notes further that an important number of Member States have signed the Convention;
4. Invites all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention by ratifying or acceding to it;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention.
