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Thirty-fourth session  
THIRD COMMITTEE

AGENDA OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Note by the Chairman

The items of the agenda of the General Assembly which have been referred to the Third Committee are listed as follows, in a letter dated 21 September 1979, addressed by the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee:

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters II, V, XVI to XXVI, XXXIV and XXXIX).

/General Assembly decided that the chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Fifth Committees as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Chapter XXXIV . . . . .               | Second Committee  |
| (b) Chapters V and XXI to XXIII . . . . . | Fifth Committee   |
| (c) Chapters II and XVI . . . . .         | Second and Fifth<br>Committees                          |
| (d) Chapters XXVI and XXXIX . . . . .     | Plenary meetings and<br>Second and Fifth<br>Committees/ |

2. International Youth Year: report of the Secretary-General (item 72).
3. Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (item 73).
4. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (item 74).
5. Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (item 75).
6. World social situation: report of the Secretary-General (item 76).

7. Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development: report of the Secretary-General (item 77).
8. Question of the elderly and the aged: report of the Secretary-General (item 78).
9. International Year for Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General (item 79).
10. United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (item 80):
  - (a) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX): report of the Secretary-General;
  - (b) Status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (c) International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (d) Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (e) World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.
11. Policies and programmes relating to youth (item 81):
  - (a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (b) Guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations: report of the Secretary-General.
12. Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights: report of the Secretary-General (item 82).
13. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: report of the High Commissioner (item 83).
14. International Covenants on Human Rights (item 84):
  - (a) Report of the Human Rights Committee;
  - (b) Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: report of the Secretary-General.

15. Review and co-ordination of human rights programmes of organizations in the United Nations system and co-operation with other international programmes in the field of human rights (item 85).
16. Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (item 86).
  - (a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
  - (b) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (c) Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid: report of the Secretary-General.
17. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (item 87).
18. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (item 88):
  - (a) Questionnaire on the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (b) Unilateral declarations by Member States against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: report of the Secretary-General;
  - (c) Draft Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials: report of the Secretary-General.

The President of the General Assembly in his letter to the Chairman of the Third Committee also stated:

"May I also invite your attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session, contained in section II of document A/34/250, which were approved by the General Assembly at its 4th plenary meeting. I earnestly request your co-operation in this regard."

Observations on the item "Report of the Economic and Social Council"

2. In connexion with item 12 of the agenda of the General Assembly relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council, the following chapters of the report have been referred to the Third Committee:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Chapter II | - General discussion of international, economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments |
| Chapter V  | - Population questions  |

- Chapter XVI - Social development questions
- Chapter XVII - Activities for the advancement of women: United Nations Decade for Women: equality, development and peace
- Chapter XVIII - Narcotic drugs
- Chapter XIX - Assistance to African student refugees
- Chapter XX - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Chapter XXI - Human rights questions
- Chapter XXII - Decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination
- Chapter XXIII - Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Chapter XXIV - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Chapter XXV - Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers
- Chapter XXVI - Co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system
- Chapter XXXIV - Non-governmental organizations
- Chapter XXXIX - Organizational matters

3. The following subjects dealt with in chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council referred to the Third Committee are separate items on the agenda:

- (i) Activities for the advancement of women: United Nations Decade for Women: equality, development and peace (Chap. XVII)
- (ii) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Chap. XX)
- (iii) Decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination (Chap. XXII)
- (iv) Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chap. XXIII)
- (v) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chap. XXIV)

4. The previous practice of the Committee has been to deal with the chapters of the report of the Council in connexion with its consideration of the independent items of its agenda to which they are related.

5. Chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council referred to the Third Committee which do not form part of independent items are as follows:

- Chapter II (General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments)
- Chapter V (Population questions)

- Chapter XVI (Social development questions) 1/
- Chapter XVIII (Narcotic drugs)
- Chapter XIX (Assistance to African student refugees)
- Chapter XXI (Human rights questions)
- Chapter XXV (Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers)
- Chapter XXVI (Co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system)
- Chapter XXXIV (Non-governmental organizations)
- Chapter XXXIX (Organizational matters)

Order of consideration of the various items

6. With respect to item 86 (a) (Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) the Committee may wish to consider it as it has done last year, independently of the other items of its agenda.

7. In connexion with agenda item 83 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), the United Nations High Commissioner has expressed the hope that the Committee may be able to consider his report on 12, 13 and 14 November 1979.

Documentation

8. The basic documents for the items referred to the Third Committee are as follows:

Item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council, Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/34/3/Rev.1, A/34/345, A/34/359)

Item 72: International Youth Year

Item 73: Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/34/411)

Item 74: Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance (A/33/303)

Item 75: Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (A/34/60 and Corr.1 and 2)

Item 76: World Social Situation (E/CN.5/557 and Add.1 to 3)

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1/ Chapter XVI also refers to the following separate items on the agenda of the Third Committee: 76, 77 and 81.

- Item 77: Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (E/CN.5/563)
- Item 78: Question of the elderly and the aged (E/CN.5/562)
- Item 79: International Year for Disabled Persons (A/34/158 and Corr.1; A/34/309; A/34/290)
- Item 80: United Nations Decade for Women (A/34/321; A/34/391; A/34/113)
- Item 81: Policies and programmes relating to youth (E/CN.5/575; A/34/199)
- Item 82: Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights (A/34/367 and Add.1)
- Item 83: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/34/12; A/34/58; A/34/385)
- Item 84: International Covenants on Human Rights (A/34/40; A/34/440)
- Item 85: Review and co-ordination of human rights programmes of organizations in the United Nations system and co-operation with other international programmes in the field of human rights (E/1979/36; E/CN.4/1347)
- Item 86: Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (A/34/18; A/34/441; A/34/442)
- Item 87: Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (A/34/398; A/34/196)
- Item 88: Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/34/144; A/34/145; A/34/146; A/34/273)

9. It will be recalled that rule 99, paragraph (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

"(b) Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allowed to each item."

10. Since the General Assembly has set 18 December 1979 as the closing date of its thirty-fourth session, the Third Committee may wish to set a date on which it should conclude its work, taking into account the need to give sufficient time for the Rapporteur to prepare the reports on various items of the Committee's agenda and for the consideration of the reports by the plenary. It is suggested therefore that the Committee may wish to complete its work by 7 December 1979.

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