



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/43/194/Rev.1  
20 September 1988  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-third session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA  
OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION

RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES TO BAN IN THEIR TERRITORY, AND TO REFRAIN FROM INSTIGATING OR SUPPORTING IN THE TERRITORY OF OTHER STATES, CHAUVINISTIC, RACIST AND OTHER MANIFESTATIONS THAT MAY CAUSE DISCORD BETWEEN PEOPLES AND INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE MASS MEDIA IN COMBATING SUCH MANIFESTATIONS AND IN EDUCATING PEOPLES AND YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACEFUL CO-OPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ENTENTE; AND EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION AMONG YOUTH OF THE IDEALS OF PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES

Letter dated 18 August 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Responsibility of States to ban in their territory, and to refrain from instigating or supporting in the territory of other States, chauvinistic, racist and other manifestations that may cause discord between peoples and involvement of Governments and the mass media in combating such manifestations and in educating peoples and youth in the spirit of peaceful co-operation and international entente; and evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the said rules of procedure, I attach an explanatory memorandum.

(Signed) Petre TĂNĂSIE  
Permanent Representative of the  
Socialist Republic of Romania  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

A current theme on which the debates at the United Nations and in other international forums have focused attention is that of the responsibility of States to ban nationalistic, chauvinistic, racist or anti-Semitic demonstrations in their territory and to refrain from instigating or supporting such acts and demonstrations in the territory of other States, and the involvement of Governments and the mass media in combating racist, anti-Semitic and nationalistic ideas and discord between peoples and in educating youth in the spirit of peaceful co-operation and international understanding.

Peace is the most treasured ideal of all mankind. Only under conditions of genuine and lasting peace, and in a climate of détente, mutual respect and fruitful co-operation may peoples and, above all, youth speak out freely.

Hence, all States have a responsibility to ban demonstrations in their territory which are contrary to this goal and to refrain from supporting such acts and demonstrations in the territory of other States.

All Governments, the United Nations and the mass media have the lofty task of working to educate peoples, particularly youth, in the spirit of peaceful co-operation and international understanding in order to combat racist, anti-Semitic and nationalistic ideas and discord between peoples.

The need to carry out these important tasks so sorely felt by the contemporary world has its basis in the very provisions of certain fundamental documents adopted by the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples; the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War; and the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth endorsed by the General Assembly, acting as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year.

In view of these considerations, Romania is requesting the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Responsibility of States to ban in their territory, and to refrain from instigating or supporting in the territory of other States, chauvinistic, racist and other manifestations that may cause discord between peoples and involvement of Governments and the mass media in combating such manifestations and in educating peoples and youth in the spirit of peaceful co-operation and international entente; and evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples". In the debate on this item, in addition to an analysis of the action taken in the context of the United Nations to attain these objectives, it would be useful to

identify action that could be taken by Governments and the mass media to educate peoples and youth in the spirit of peaceful co-operation and international understanding in order to combat racist, anti-Semitic and nationalistic ideas and discord between peoples, as viewed in the light of the responsibility of all States to ban nationalistic, chauvinistic, racist or anti-Semitic demonstrations in their territory and to refrain from instigating or supporting such acts and demonstrations in the territory of other States.

The success of efforts to save peoples from the scourge of war depends largely upon the education and training received by the youth of today, who will lead society in the near future, thereby ensuring mankind's continued progress towards new levels of civilization.

In this connection, Romania believes that all Governments, all governmental and non-governmental organizations and the mass media have a duty to educate peoples, and particularly youth, in the spirit of humanism, understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and respect for the dignity and value of human beings without any distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

At the same time, all available resources must be harnessed to combat manifestations of intolerance and racial hatred and incitements to war. Governments should not allow in their territory any nationalistic, chauvinistic, racist or anti-Semitic demonstrations, nor should they instigate or support the perpetration of such acts in the territory of other States.

Romania believes that the United Nations and UNESCO should emphasize in their own activity programmes the promotion of measures to educate peoples and today's youth in the spirit of the noble ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. It is equally important that Governments should take concrete measures against reactionary circles or groups that promote racism, apartheid, anti-Semitism and nationalism and foster an atmosphere of mistrust between States, discord between peoples and disinformation vis-à-vis international public opinion.

The General Assembly would be invited to entrust the Commission for Social Development with the task of reviewing the implementation of such measures and submitting a report thereon to the General Assembly at its next session.

The report could be prepared by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, with assistance from UNESCO and other international organizations, and considered at the 1989 session of the Commission for Social Development.

The outcome of the discussion on this item in the Commission would be transmitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly with a view to its consideration at the Assembly's forty-fourth session.