



General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr. General
18 November 2002
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 49th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman : Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein)

Contents

Agenda item 109 : Human rights questions (*continued*)

- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.



The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 109: Human rights questions

(continued)

(b) Questions relating to human rights, alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms *(continued)* (A/C.3/57/L.41, L.44, L.45, L.46, L.47, L.51, L.52, L.54 and L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.41: Human rights and cultural diversity

1. **Mr. Alaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) introduced the draft resolution on behalf the sponsors, which had been joined by the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Viet Nam. Stressing the vital character of cultural diversity and of its connection with human rights questions, as well as the challenges posed and the possibilities offered by globalization in that context, he added that the draft resolution's purpose was to make the international community and all major national and international actors aware that they must respect that diversity. He drew the Committee's attention in particular to the eighth preambular paragraph and paragraph 6 of the draft resolution proper, and noted that the sponsors regarded the adoption of the draft resolution as a major step towards strengthening relations of friendship, tolerance, justice and human rights. He expressed the hope that, as in the past, the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

2. **The Chairman** announced that Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sri Lanka would also join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.44: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

3. **Ms. Khalil** (Egypt), after stating that Saudi Arabia would join the sponsors of the draft resolution, recalled that 50 years previously the international community had declared, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that "everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized". According to the norms and rules of

international law, that social and international order should be one that defended the inherent dignity of human beings, respected the right of peoples to self-determination, and sought to achieve social progress by encouraging participatory development, as well as equality and non-discrimination, in a peaceful, interdependent and responsible world. Thus, the sponsors of the draft resolution intended neither to condemn nor endorse globalization, but rather to help ensure that globalization represented a dynamic force, used on behalf of all countries, and that all the necessary steps would be taken to ensure that human rights were neither neglected nor forgotten. His delegation would soon be requesting an official debate on the draft resolution, which, it hoped, the Committee would adopt by consensus.

4. **The Chairman** announced that Congo, Ghana, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe would also join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.45: Human rights education

5. **Ms. Loemban Tobing-Klein** (Surinam) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors. She stressed the indivisible and interdependent nature of human rights and noted that education was an indispensable tool in efforts to combat violations of those rights and to combat the injustice and inequalities that people in many countries continued to suffer.

6. **The Chairman** announced that Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.46: Missing persons

7. **Ms. Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Burundi, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Yugoslavia, said that, even though the question of missing persons had been the subject of several Security Council Resolutions, and was included in the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed International Conflicts, many countries were still confronted with the tragic phenomenon of missing

persons. She also noted that the Commission on Human Rights had considered the question at its 58th session and had adopted resolution No. 2002/60 (E/CN.4/2002/60) and related matters, by consensus. The draft resolution had been formulated in strict compliance with the requirements of international humanitarian law, and her delegation hoped that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

8. **The Chairman** announced that Mauritania and the Sudan would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.47: Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

9. **Ms. Duffy** (Ireland), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, drew particular attention to the first preambular paragraph and to the urgent appeal to States to ensure full respect for the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, as well as the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Her delegation also wished to draw particular attention to paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12 of the draft resolution proper and to the eighth preambular paragraph, and hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus, as in previous years.

10. **The Chairman** announced that Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Kenya, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Zambia and Zimbabwe would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.51: Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

11. **Ms. Baardvik** (Norway), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Brazil and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said that the draft resolution was the result of open bilateral consultations and was based on General Assembly Resolution 56/163 (A/Res/56/163) and Resolution 2002/70 of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2002/70). Drawing particular attention to the third and fifth preambular paragraphs and to paragraphs 2, 4, 6 and 11 of the draft resolution proper,

she expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

12. **The Chairman** announced that Andorra, France and Panama would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.52: Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

13. **Mr. Maertens** (Belgium) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Noting the importance of the World Conference on Human Rights, he said that the draft resolution was based mainly on the Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/57/283). He drew particular attention to paragraphs 2, 5, 6 and 7 of the draft resolution, as well as to the various initiatives taken by States over recent months. The draft resolution demonstrated the significant efforts made by countries in various regions to promote and protect human rights, and the sponsors hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus, as in the past.

14. **The Chairman** announced that Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone and Surinam would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.54: United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1994-2004

15. **Mr. McKenna** (Australia) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Eritrea, and Portugal. Noting that the Third Committee had discussed the draft resolution every year since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, he said that only the essential elements had been retained in the present version, in order to highlight the usefulness of the Decade as a means to promote the full realization of human rights. Recalling the general content of the draft resolution, he expressed the hope that other countries would also become sponsors, and that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

16. **The Chairman** announced that the following countries wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution: Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Gambia, Ghana, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Surinam and Tunisia.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.55: Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

17. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Angola, Gambia, Jamaica, Islamic Republic of Iran and Swaziland. He noted that the draft resolution attracted a large number of sponsors every year and was a part of the international community's efforts on behalf of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Drawing particular attention to the ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs and to paragraphs 3 and 13 of the draft resolution proper, he urged other Member States to become sponsors and thus reaffirm their commitment to the right of every individual to live within the context of a democratic and equitable international order.

18. **The Chairman** announced that Eritrea, Ghana, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria and Zimbabwe would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*)
(A/C.3/57/L.43, L.48, and L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.43: Situation of human rights in the Sudan

19. **Ms. Eskjaer** (Denmark) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the European Union and the sponsor countries. Stressing that the European Union was strongly committed to the peace process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) - a process that was regarded as vital - and reaffirming her delegation's desire to support that process, she expressed the hope that all parties concerned would seize the opportunity being offered to them to promote human rights, democratization, and the rule of law.

20. The European Union welcomed the encouraging developments observed over the past year in the Sudan, but remained particularly concerned by the human rights situation and the humanitarian situation in that country.

21. In 2002 the European Union had decided to review all its draft resolutions regarding countries. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.43 had therefore been formulated in the light of the present situation and had been couched in more rational terms. It referred in particular to the major initiatives aimed at improving the human rights situation in the Sudan, such as the Machakos Protocol, the Khartoum agreement to protect civilians and civilian facilities from military attacks, the memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement and the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to set up an advisory council for Christians and to promote inter-religious dialogue. He also drew particular attention to subparagraphs (a) and (h) of paragraph 1; subparagraphs (f), (h) and (j) of paragraph 2; subparagraphs (a), (b) and (g) of paragraph 3, as well as paragraphs 4 and 5. He said that the European Union was still negotiating the text of the draft resolution with the delegations concerned, and would thus be introducing a revised version. He hoped that the revised version would receive broad support.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48: Situation of human rights in Myanmar

22. **Mr. Hahn** (Denmark), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Lithuania, said that the proposed amendments had been largely taken into account. Drawing particular attention to subparagraphs (a) and (c) of paragraph 1; subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 3; and subparagraphs (a), (d) and (h) of paragraph 5, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would receive broad support and that the Committee would adopt it by consensus, as in previous years.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.49: Situation of human rights in Iraq

23. **Mr. Hahn** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, introduced the draft resolution of behalf of the sponsors. Drawing particular attention to subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1; paragraph 3; subparagraph (a) of paragraph 4; and subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (i) and (p) of paragraph 5, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would receive the broadest possible support.

24. **The Chairman** announced that Israel would join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.50: Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

25. **Mr. Hahn** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, introduced the draft resolution of behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Lithuania and Romania. Many people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to suffer violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The peace accords should therefore be followed by tangible results. In that regard, the provisions of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 3; and subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 4 were particularly worthy of attention. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would receive the broadest possible support.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.