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FAMILIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos CASAJUANA (Spain)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1983, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Families in the development process" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with items 89, 90, 92, 93 and 144 at its 15th to 22nd, 27th, 31st and 40th meetings, on 20, 21, 24 to 26 October and 1, 3 and 11 November 1988. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/43/SR.15-22, 27, 31 and 40).
3. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Families in the development process: International Year of the Family" (A/43/570).
4. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October 1988, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and the Director of the Social Development Division of the Centre made introductory statements (see A/C.3/43/SR.15).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. At the 27th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Poland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.21) entitled "Need to enhance international co-operation in the field of protection and assistance to the family", sponsored by Austria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, the German Democratic Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

6. At the 31st meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Poland introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.21/Rev.1) on behalf of the same sponsors.

7. At the 40th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Poland orally revised the draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.21/Rev.1) as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, after the words "role of the family" the word "as" was deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 5, after the word "Requests", the word "the" was inserted, and after the words "non-governmental organizations", the words "in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council" were inserted.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it amendments submitted by Egypt to the draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.30). The amendments read as follows:

"1. Add the following two paragraphs after operative paragraph 2:

"3. Calls upon all countries when planning family policies and programmes, in accordance with their respective legal systems, cultures and traditions, to take into account the role of these values in combating drug abuse and violence in the family;

"4. Considers that the family is the basic unit of every society, as well as its natural fundamental group unit;

"2. Renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

"3. Substitute the following new text for existing operative paragraph 5:

"7. Requests United Nations agencies and organizations as well as intergovernmental organizations to submit to the Secretary-General proposals on a possible programme for an international year of the family;"

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt made a statement in which he indicated that he would not insist on action on the amendments contained in document A/C.3/43/L.30.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.21/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 4).

11. The representatives of the Netherlands, Australia, the United States of America, Bahrain, New Zealand, Austria, Japan, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Ireland, Canada, Costa Rica and Pakistan made statements after the adoption of the revised draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Need to enhance international co-operation in the field of
protection and assistance to the family

The General Assembly,

Recalling the resolve of the peoples of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations,

Recalling also its resolution 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/46 of 27 May 1988 entitled "Achievement of social justice",

Mindful of the importance of the role of the family in society,

Guided by the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 3/ according to which the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 4/ and that by its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987 it endorsed for action the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, 5/ which called for social welfare policies to give greater attention to the family,

Recognizing the efforts of States at the local, regional and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family, in which the United Nations may have an important role to play, and in raising awareness,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

4/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10) chap. I, sect. A.

5/ See E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

increasing understanding and promoting policies that improve the position and well-being of the family,

Recalling its resolution 42/134 of 7 December 1987 on the need to enhance international co-operation in the field of the protection of and assistance to the family,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 and 1985/29 of 29 May 1985,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, 6/ prepared in pursuance of its resolution 42/134 on the possible proclamation of an international year of the family;
2. Takes note of the responses to the Secretary-General's inquiry as to the desirability of proclaiming an international year of the family, summarized in the report of the Secretary-General; 6/
3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report containing the proposed date and a comprehensive outline of a possible programme for an international year of the family, in conformity with General Assembly decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning the guidelines for international years and anniversaries;
4. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to make their views known to the Secretary-General concerning ways and means of improving the position and well-being of the family and intensifying efforts as part of an international year of the family;
5. Requests the United Nations agencies and organizations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Secretary-General proposals on their participation in an international year of the family, in order to facilitate the preparation of his report;
6. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General and to take a decision on the final date of an international year of the family at its forty-fourth session, under an item entitled "Families in the development process".
