



**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait)**

**later: Mr. JATIVA (Ecuador)**

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

AGENDA ITEM 87: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/43/3, A/43/370, A/43/491, A/43/631, A/43/637, A/43/644)

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1. Mr. ALMAJED (Bahrain) said that the cluster of agenda items under consideration was particularly important because those items had a direct impact on the maintenance of international peace and security. Their inclusion year after year in the agenda of the General Assembly was a clear indication of the importance which the international community attached to them in seeking to achieve freedom, justice and equality for all in accordance with the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The international community sought to prevent the violation of those principles by racist régimes, particularly in South Africa and Israel which continued to exist despite international calls for their dismantling.

2. While his delegation appreciated the efforts made by international, governmental and humanitarian organizations to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the public information activities of the United Nations in the field, it believed that, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, more effective and far-reaching measures must be taken for the decisive and definitive eradication of racism. It would also be useful for the Third Committee to make a comprehensive assessment of the Decade with a view to adopting the necessary measures to ensure the continuation of the struggle into the 1990s.

3. Bahrain, whose legislation and policies derived from the principles and teachings of the Islamic Shariah, which was unequivocal in its condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination, remained committed to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. All racist practices were punishable under its domestic legislation. The Government maintained no relations of any kind with South Africa and continued to apply the trade boycott and other sanctions called for in General Assembly resolutions. In 1975, a number of decrees had been promulgated concerning

(Mr. Almajed, Bahrain)

the economic boycott of South Africa, and they had entered into force on 1 January 1976. All States and institutions which continued to deal with the racist régime in Pretoria to observe the economic boycott in order to force that régime to comply with the will of the international community.

4. His Government was gravely concerned at the lack of any appreciable progress in forcing the Government of South Africa to abandon its racist policies. It therefore endorsed the calls made to the Security Council to apply the mandatory sanctions laid down in the Charter in order to bring about the desired changes in order and create a democratic society in which there was equality and freedom for the entire South African people. His delegation saluted the struggle of the people of South Africa and their valiant uprising in 1988 in support of their inalienable rights to freedom, equality and human dignity. Bahrain also associated itself with those in the international community who were calling for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners.

5. Self-determination for the people of Namibia continued to be hindered by the refusal of the racist Pretoria régime to co-operate in the implementation of the United Nations plan laid down in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), a resolution which reflected the desire of the international community for the independence of Namibia under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. On the tenth anniversary of the adoption of that resolution, it was to be hoped that all could work together to force South Africa to accept the will of the international community.

6. The Palestinian people was also in the forefront of those peoples that continued to suffer from racial discrimination, as reflected in more than 40 years of inhuman Israeli practices. Israel's denial of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination had drawn the Middle East into numerous wars and posed a constant threat to international peace and security. Israel's policy of intimidating the Palestinian people clearly showed the extent of the similarity between the policies of oppression applied by the racist régimes in Israel and South Africa, as well as their shared racist character. His delegation, in expressing its boundless support for the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and for their right to self-determination and to establish an independent State on their own soil, called upon the international community and all peace-loving peoples to support the valiant popular struggle of that people and to take the necessary measures to ensure that Israel complied with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

7. Mr. SHAUKAT (Pakistan) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was vital to humankind's endeavours to achieve peace, equality, justice and freedom. The continued existence of the apartheid system was a blot on humanity's conscience. Despite the efforts of the international community, the racist régime of South Africa persisted defiantly in its policy of apartheid and had further escalated its repression by banning democratic and progressive organizations and imposing the death penalty. It was therefore imperative that

(Mr. Shaukat, Pakistan)

mandatory sanctions be imposed against South Africa and that the mandatory arms embargo be strictly enforced.

8. Since its independence, Pakistan had remained staunchly committed to the concept of universal brotherhood and equality, as enshrined in Islam. It had persistently condemned the Pretoria régime for its abominable policies of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and had supported the call for the imposition of sanctions, to which it had adhered scrupulously. He reiterated the total commitment of the Government and people of Pakistan to the complete dismantling of the system of apartheid and called upon the international community to further intensify its efforts in all possible forums to achieve the total elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

9. Consideration of the question of the elimination of racial discrimination would be incomplete without the condemnation of the inhuman policies pursued by Israel against the Arab and Palestinian population of the occupied Territories. In that connection, he wished to reiterate his country's resolute solidarity with its Palestinian brethren and its total support for their just struggle. He called upon the world community to assume its international obligations and compel Israel to restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, without which a lasting peace in the Middle East would be beyond reach.

10. Turning to the report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/43/644), he welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to implement the plan of activities for the periods 1985-1989 and 1990-1993. The early and successful implementation of those activities was necessary for attainment of the objectives of the Second Decade. He also wished to commend the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights for his efforts as Co-ordinator of United Nations programmes under the Second Decade. In that context, maximum publicity must be given to actions to combat racism and the effects of racial discrimination, using films rather than published documents in order to achieve greater impact. Furthermore, during the period 1990-1993, efforts must be made to urge States which had not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

11. The prevailing financial crisis facing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was a source of concern. Having already paid its contribution, his country urged all States parties to do likewise so that the Committee might carry out its important task.

12. His delegation wished to emphasize the important role played by the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in the struggle against apartheid. In connection with the work of the Sub-Commission, the updated report prepared by Mr. Khalifa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/6/Add.1) would serve as a useful basis for action by providing information about firms which were assisting the racist régime in South Africa.

13. The discriminatory treatment to which migrant workers and their families were often subjected was well known. In taking measures to preserve their linguistic

(Mr. Shaukat, Pakistan)

and cultural identity, however, care must be taken not to isolate migrant workers from the mainstream of national life. In that connection, his delegation attached particular importance to the proposal for the organisation of a seminar on cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers, within the framework of the plan of activities for 1985-1989.

14. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia) said that on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it was appropriate to consider what had been achieved through the implementation of the plan of activities for the second half of the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/6 was a step in the right direction and merited support. Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the resolution, on the organisation in 1989 of a seminar on cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers and on the importance of public information in the struggle against racism, were particularly important.

15. The holding of the Global Consultation on Racial Discrimination from 3 to 6 October 1988 was another milestone in the international struggle against racism. Nevertheless, it would have been preferable if that consultation had been held at an earlier date so that the Third Committee could have benefited from its findings when it came to discuss the item. He hoped that, in the future, the calendar of meetings would be drawn up more carefully.

16. His delegation had been surprised at the simplicity of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (A/43/644). The report should have sought to comply more fully with paragraph 2 of resolution 1988/6 which requested the Secretary-General to assess the impact which actions and decisions taken under the Programme of Action had on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. He hoped that the report would not set a precedent for the consideration of that agenda item in future.

17. His delegation reiterated its support for the excellent work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the selflessness of its experts who were pursuing their task notwithstanding the Committee's critical financial situation. Despite the brevity of its August 1988 session, the Committee had made every effort to discharge its mandate and submit its report. His delegation was in agreement with the procedural measures adopted by the Committee with respect to the periodicity of reporting and the streamlining of the consideration of States parties' reports. However, the Committee had been right to note that those measures would not in any way alter the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in particular its article 9. He called upon the countries which had not yet done so to honour their financial obligations under the Convention. In that connection, his country had had great difficulty in supporting the decisions on the curtailment of the Committee's sessions for 1988 and 1989, because of the importance of the Committee's work and its impact on the enhancement of the human condition.

(Mr. Ben Hamida, Tunisia)

18. Turning to the report by Mr. Khalifa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/6/Add.1), his country was seriously concerned at the length of the list of firms which continued to maintain relations with South Africa. Only the complete cessation of co-operation with the Pretoria régime would force it to act in accordance with the decisions of the international community.

19. The question of the right of peoples to self-determination and the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples was also of great interest to his delegation. Despite the appeals and decisions of the international community, South Africa and Israel continued to defy efforts to help the Namibian and Palestinian peoples regain their inalienable rights. The international community, and the United Nations in particular, must take vigorous action to put an end to the colonialist and anachronistic policies of the South African and Israeli régimes. Only a just settlement of the Palestinian question and the total eradication of apartheid in South Africa could eliminate the threats to peace and security in those two regions of the world. Given the recent improvement in the international situation, Member States were entitled to demand that the United Nations, having demonstrated its effectiveness and its relevance in recent months, do everything possible to respond to legitimate aspirations and grievances of colonial peoples everywhere.

20. Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said that racism and racial discrimination continued to be one of the most significant and vital issues under consideration by the United Nations. The Programme of Action adopted in 1983 at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had provided the international community with an effective framework for action. In that connection, she wished to commend the Secretary-General for having convened the Global Consultation on Racial Discrimination, held recently at Geneva.

21. The role of national legislation in combating racial discrimination was of central importance in achieving the goals of the Second Decade. Indonesia, which comprised many different ethnic groups, guaranteed the equal rights of all men and women before the law through its Constitution and subsequent legislative acts. In addition, the national philosophy of Pancasila proclaimed social justice for all the people of Indonesia. Tolerance and the equality and dignity of all men and women were unifying forces in her country's diverse society and were staunchly protected.

22. It was ironic that the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had coincided with the criminal imposition of an apartheid system on the people of South Africa. Four decades later, the minority régime in that country continued to entrench itself through internal destabilization, assassination, vigilantism, mass arrests and detention without trial. The international community had been strong in its condemnation of apartheid and continued to mobilize against the Pretoria régime. The immediate release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners and detainees in South Africa should be effected without pre-conditions. The imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions was the most effective means of redressing the situation peacefully and bringing South Africa back to a position of adherence to internationally accepted legal principles.

(Mrs. Syahrudin, Indonesia)

23. The policy of destabilisation pursued by the Pretoria régime posed a serious threat to international peace and security; the South African Defence Force and its surrogates were seeking the systematic destruction of all means of economic independence of the front-line States, threatening their sovereignty and very existence and inflicting enormous suffering on their peoples. The international community must provide the necessary support and assistance to enable those States to meet the challenges before them, and must work towards relieving the threats with which they were faced.

24. Turning to agenda item 96, her delegation welcomed the latest efforts by the Secretary-General to bring about self-determination and independence for the illegally occupied Territory of Namibia. Pending a just solution based on Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the Indonesian people would continue to extend full support to the Namibian people through their sole legitimate representative, SWAPO.

25. The Middle East was also a region torn by strife because the Palestinian people had been denied their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The right of peoples to self-determination and independence from colonial domination was an essential component of the enjoyment of human rights and a prerequisite for international peace and order. Indonesia would continue to work diligently for the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

26. Mr. Jativa (Ecuador) took the Chair.

27. Mrs. OUSENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the two Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had strengthened international solidarity with peoples struggling against racist oppression and made those peoples more confident of the inevitable triumph of their just cause. Yet as long as apartheid, the most flagrant manifestation of racism in the modern world, persisted, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination had a long way to go. Her delegation welcomed the progress made towards agreement on the question of granting independence to Namibia and enabling the Namibian people to exercise their right of self-determination. That progress made the struggle against apartheid even more urgent, as the President of Zimbabwe had noted in his statement in the general debate. Whatever the rulers in Pretoria might say, the facts showed that the African majority was completely powerless; moreover, there were now some 5.4 million refugees in southern Africa. The long-standing tension in the region and in South Africa itself carried with it the risk of a social explosion of unforeseen consequences and posed a real threat to international peace and security.

28. Firm and concerted action by the international community was needed to force the Pretoria authorities to renounce apartheid; the quickest and most effective way of achieving that goal was to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the racists under Chapter VII of the Charter. Meanwhile, the embargo on the supply of arms and military equipment to South Africa must be strictly observed, and should be supplemented by an embargo on oil and coal supplies and an air boycott of South Africa. Voluntary sanctions should also be introduced, above all by Pretoria's main partners, in order to expand the scope of the partial restrictions on ties with South Africa already introduced. The continuing co-operation with South

(Mrs. Ousenko, Ukrainian SSR)

Africa, which encouraged it in its stubborn refusal to abandon the system of apartheid, was a source of serious concern. Some international corporations and firms, attracted by cheap labour and the prospect of enormous profits, continued to operate in South Africa. No matter what arguments were put forward to make those activities seem almost philanthropic, it was quite clear that in reality the freedom and rights of the African majority in South Africa and peace and security in the region were being sacrificed to narrow and selfish interests.

29. The plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 correctly determined priorities in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination in the context of the Second Decade. It was gratifying that the broad dissemination of information, and the preparation of Mr. Khalifa's report in particular, were an integral part of the plan. That report provided an objective picture of the channels and scope of assistance to the apartheid régime and must be publicized as widely as possible. International campaigns to identify the main obstacles to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to consider ways and means of rapidly eradicating those evils would help co-ordinate the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations and define priorities more accurately in the common struggle for national and racial equality. The proposal to hold regional seminars was also worth considering. The reports of the Secretary-General containing information received from Governments also contributed to the dissemination of information. The Special Committee against Apartheid was making a major contribution to mobilizing public opinion and organizing international action in support of the just cause of the peoples of South Africa. Her delegation called on all States to participate actively in its work.

30. The success of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would depend largely on how conscientiously the provisions of the relevant multilateral international agreements were implemented and on how many States actually adhered to them. Further collective standard-setting in that area was also important, including the formulation and adoption of the convention on the rights of all migrant workers and their families, since migrants were often the victims of racial discrimination. It was a matter of concern that by no means all countries, and notably those which maintained links with South Africa and helped to maintain the apartheid régime, had become parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It was regrettable that financial difficulties had complicated the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Her delegation supported the appeal made to States parties by the representative of Egypt to fulfil their financial and reporting obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The reporting system was a vital means of monitoring the implementation of the relevant international legal instruments. Reports were not only a source of information but also a means of encouraging Governments to make changes in their legislation and practice.

31. Although legislative and administrative measures were an effective barrier against racist manifestations and ethnic and national discord, preventive action was needed in the form of efforts at the international, regional and national levels to educate the population, and above all young people, in a spirit of racial



(Mrs. Ouzenko, Ukrainian SSR)

tolerance and respect for other nations and peoples. Measures must be taken to preserve the language and culture of national and racial minorities and to ensure unimpeded development of national consciousness, along with respect for other cultures, languages and lifestyles. A regular exchange of national experience in preventing racial discrimination and national and racial antagonism, to which almost all countries could contribute, would be extremely useful.

32. The problems of racism and racial discrimination persisted; even though almost all members of the United Nations declared their commitment to the struggle against racism, each country tried to refer only to its own national model. Some countries, under various pretexts, were distancing themselves from the common struggle against racism or co-operating only very reluctantly. In international forums, the suspicions persisted that the other side was keeping something back. It was time for States and non-governmental organizations to join efforts to put an end, once and for all, to the evil of racism.

33. Mr. MOLINA ARAMBARRI (Argentina) recalled that the United Nations had been founded in an attempt to heal the wounds left by a war in which racism, in one of the worst forms ever known in history, had caused millions of victims. The universality of the United Nations had always made it an excellent forum for promoting increased understanding among peoples of diverse origins who, each year, strengthened the view that discrimination on grounds of race was anachronistic and pernicious. Much remained to be done, however. Racism could not be eliminated by decree or by mere good will; there must be the compelling example of concerted action. Action must be taken in education, so as to nurture in peoples the conviction that racism had harmful consequences for the human race. The task of shaping an individual and universal awareness of the problem was essential to its solution. Revulsion against racism was undoubtedly more firmly established and widespread than in the past, and much of the credit went to the United Nations. That process must be developed in order to find the most effective ways of dealing with cases where resistance to change was the greatest and where such basic concepts as the equality of man and of races were not accepted.

34. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination rightly emphasized the aberrant system of apartheid; that system could not be changed or altered, it must be completely eliminated. Its persistence was not only an affront to the conscience of the international community but also a source of growing tension which threatened international peace and security, thereby justifying the imposition of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. The persistence of that racist system, in open defiance of the many appeals of the international community and the United Nations, was a massive and flagrant violation of the human rights of the majority of the South African people which could not be tolerated. Unless the Pretoria Government changed its policies, southern Africa was likely to be engulfed in a mounting wave of violence which would have serious consequences not only for the region and its peoples but for the entire world. Argentina hoped that the South African Government would enter into serious negotiations with the leaders of the majority in South Africa with a view to finding a rapid, peaceful solution to the problem. It also reiterated its call for the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

(Mr. Molina Arambarri, Argentina)

35. Other more subtle forms of discrimination, sometimes based on economic differences, also persisted in the world. Although discriminatory treatment of migrant workers was not always the result of a deliberate policy on the part of host countries, the authorities of those countries must none the less take appropriate measures to change labour practices which gave rise to such discrimination.

36. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination provided the legal basis for the fight against racism. The strict implementation of its provisions would guarantee a world of equality and harmony. As a party to the Convention, Argentina was fulfilling its provisions scrupulously. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had a crucial role to play in ensuring its implementation. Argentina was also a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and urged States which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to it.

37. Argentina had supported the process of decolonization from the outset and believed that its success was one of the main achievements of the United Nations. Efforts must continue until colonialism was completely eliminated. Argentina supported the efforts being made to secure the early independence of Namibia and hoped that the Namibian nation would soon take its place among other members of the United Nations as a sovereign State. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination must also be respected, since that would help bring peace to the Middle East and guarantee all States in the area the right to exist within secure and internationally recognized borders.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.