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Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 93

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Moussokoro SANGARE-KABA (Guinea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1983, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance". At its 4th plenary meeting, on the same day, the Assembly decided to allocate the item to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered this item jointly with items 94, 95, 96 and 97 at its 49th, 53rd, 57th and 59th meetings on 21, 23, 25, 28 and 30 November and 1 December 1983. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/38/SR.49-53, 57 and 59).

3. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter V, section A (A/38/3 (Part I)); 1/

(b) Letter dated 18 October 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/38/8).

4. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Under-Secretary-General, Centre for Human Rights, made an introductory statement.

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/38/3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/38/L.30

5. At the 53rd meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Ireland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/38/L.30) entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance", sponsored by Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Sweden, Uganda, the United States of America and Uruguay as well as Barbados, Belgium, Chad, Colombia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, and Ghana, subsequently joined by New Zealand. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Ireland orally revised it as follows:

(a) By adding the following new paragraph as the third preambular paragraph:

"Believing that further efforts are required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or whatever belief,";

(b) By replacing the word "Welcoming" by the word "Noting" at the beginning of the third preambular paragraph (now fourth preambular paragraph).

6. At its 57th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.30, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling its resolution 37/187 of 18 December 1982, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider what measures might be necessary to implement the Declaration,

Believing that further efforts are required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or whatever belief,

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 1983/40 of 9 March 1983, in which the Commission requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a comprehensive and thorough study of the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, using as terms of reference the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Expressing its satisfaction with the action taken by the Sub-Commission regarding the designation of a Special Rapporteur to undertake this study,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1983/150, endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Secretary-General to hold, within the framework of the advisory services programme in the period 1984-1985, a seminar on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief,

1. Pledges its determination to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and expresses the hope that the seminar will contribute towards the realization of these aims;
2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;
3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights in the context of that item.
