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Agenda item 83

PRESERVATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim BADAWI (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item at its 20th to 25th and 27th meetings from 18 to 21 and on 25 October 1976. The summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/31/SR.20-25 and 27) contain the views expressed by the representatives of Member States on the item.
4. In connexion with item 83, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/31/111) transmitting the report of the Director-General of UNESCO, prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII).
5. At the 20th meeting, on 18 October, the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO introduced the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8

6. At the 21st meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Poland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/31/L.8) entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values" which was sponsored by Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, the German

Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania and the Syrian Arab Republic, subsequently joined by Benin, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon and Zaire. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

"Convinced that the development and exchange of cultural values contribute to a better understanding among States and among peoples, serving at the same time the cause of strengthening international peace for world-wide prosperity and being an important premise for the promotion of socio-economic progress,

"Profoundly convinced of the urgent need to develop international cultural relations,

"Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of the preservation and further development of cultural values,

"Noting with satisfaction UNESCO's work in the field of preservation and development of cultural values,

"Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to continue efforts and research in this field and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session."

7. At the same meeting, an amendment to the draft resolution (A/C.3/31/L.9) was submitted by Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama proposing the addition of the following text as operative paragraph 1:

"1. Requests the Director-General of UNESCO to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a progress report on the implementation of resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973."

8. At the 22nd meeting, on 19 October, after an exchange of views, the sponsors of the draft resolution decided to submit a revised text which would take into account that amendment as well as oral amendments proposed by India at the 21st meeting.

9. At the 23rd meeting, on 20 October, the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/31/L.8/Rev.1), which had also been sponsored by Algeria, Bolivia, Cyprus, France, the Gambia, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Madagascar, Nigeria, Swaziland, and Yugoslavia, was subsequently further revised by the representative of Poland.

10. At the 25th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Poland proposed the addition of a third operative paragraph reading as follows:

"3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled 'Preservation and further development of cultural values'."

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution by consensus (see para. 17 below, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.13

12. At the 25th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Egypt introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/31/L.13), entitled "Protection and restitution of works of art as part of the preservation and further development of cultural values", which was sponsored by Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Zaire, later joined by Burundi, Colombia, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Turkey, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt orally revised operative paragraph 3 by inserting a comma and the word "documents" in the second line, after the word "manuscripts".

14. At the 27th meeting, on 25 October, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by 114 votes to none, with 14 abstentions (see para. 17 below, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.14

15. At the 27th meeting, on 25 October, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/31/L.14), entitled "Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture", which was sponsored by the Congo, Egypt, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania, later joined by Algeria, Australia, Austria, Ghana, Jamaica, the Niger, Swaziland and Trinidad and Tobago.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by consensus (see para. 117 below, draft resolution III).

V. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

17. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

/...

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

Referring in particular to article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1/ which reaffirms the right of all to participate in the preservation and development of culture, and being aware that one of the bases of international co-operation in the cultural field is mutual respect for cultural integrity,

Considering that the cultural dimension of development is integral to the whole development process,

Convinced that the development of cultural values, cultural exchange and co-operation contribute to a better understanding among States, peoples and individuals and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security, which is an important pre-condition for socio-economic progress,

Stressing the need to evolve a harmonious blend of the cultural values of the traditional civilizations with developments in science and technology,

Profoundly convinced of the urgent need to develop international cultural relations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of the preservation and further development of cultural values, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in increasing awareness of the need for concerted action in the field of preservation and development of cultural values,

1. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a progress report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973;

2. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue efforts and research in this field and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values".

1/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

2/ A/31/111.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Protection and restitution of works of art as part of the
preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 3187 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 3391 (XXX) of 19 November 1975,

Taking note of resolutions 17 and 24 of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, 3/

Convinced that the promotion of national culture enhances a people's ability to understand the culture and civilization of other peoples and thus has a most favourable impact on international co-operation,

Convinced also that the protection by all means of national culture and heritage is an integral part of the process of preservation and future development of cultural values,

1. Invites all Member States to sign and ratify the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 4/ adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970;

2. Calls upon all Member States to take all necessary steps to prevent, on their territories, any illicit traffic in works of art coming from any other country, especially from territories which were or are under colonial or foreign domination and occupation;

3. Affirms that the restitution to a country of its objets d'art, monuments, museum pieces, manuscripts, documents and any other cultural or artistic treasures constitutes a step forward towards the strengthening of international co-operation and the preservation and future development of cultural values.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture

The General Assembly,

3/ See A/31/197, annex IV.

4/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Sixteenth Session, vol. I, Resolutions, p. 135.

Recalling its resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

Referring to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 5/ in particular to article 15, which reaffirms the right of all to participate in the preservation and further development of culture,

Conscious of the need for agreement on a system of values based on justice, equality, freedom and fellowship and on the recognition of the unity of mankind with all its diverse peoples, races and cultures,

Convinced that contacts and exchanges between different cultures on the basis of the equality and the sovereignty of States can make a genuine contribution to the enrichment of cultural values on a national, regional and world-wide scale,

Conscious that the recognition of cultural identity as an integral part of the mobilization of society is an essential factor in the achievement and preservation of independence, national sovereignty and development,

Convinced that the forthcoming Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture will contribute immensely to the promotion of international co-operation and understanding,

1. Commends the efforts so far made by the international community, including international organizations, in the preparation for the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture;
2. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by Nigeria in its capacity as host of the Festival;
3. Appeals to all interested and concerned countries to make all possible efforts at the national and international levels towards ensuring the success of the Festival.

5/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.