



THIRD COMMITTEE
11th meeting
held on
Friday, 6 October 1978
at 3 p.m.
New York

UN/DA COLLECTION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH (continued) (A/33/193, A/33/257 and Add.1 and Corr.1, A/33/261; A/C.3/33/L.5 to L.7)

1. Mr. AHO (Finland) said that the interest taken in the item on youth in the Committee was quite understandable, considering that youth was the fastest growing age group and considering the particular problems confronting it. It was therefore a pity that only 13 countries, which included Finland, had submitted their comments on the guidelines for the improvement of channels of communication with youth. His Government had co-sponsored the draft resolution appearing in document A/C.3/33/L.5, in which Governments were invited to comment on the guidelines and to offer additional suggestions regarding their further development.

2. The Government of Finland saw the proposal for the international youth year as an expression of concern for youth questions and felt that it could act as a catalyst for increased attention to those questions. As to whether the year would be the best available means of promoting the cause of youth at the international level, several speakers had referred to the recent proliferation of international years, which tended to decrease the impact and usefulness of those years. In his delegation's view, the only existing criterion for the proclamation of international years, namely that they should be proclaimed only on the most important occasions, was not sufficient. Furthermore the advisability of holding international conferences had been questioned, and the costs of maintaining international secretariats had been widely criticized.

3. Finland had supported decision 1978/47 of the Economic and Social Council whereby the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare a report taking into account experiences of previous international years. His delegation would therefore prefer it if the decision on the proclamation of an international youth year could be made after the Secretary-General's report had been carefully studied. Moreover the experience gained in holding the International Year of the Child and the International Year for the Disabled should be taken into account in that context. Finland had consequently co-sponsored the amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 appearing in document A/C.3/33/L.9.

4. Mrs. MELCICKA (Czechoslovakia) said that the idea that the future lay in the hands of youth was well-founded. Young people looked to the future and wanted to know what was new and how to improve living conditions in the world, which were not equal in all countries.

5. The international festivals of youth had begun 30 years ago and, since then, festivals had been held at Prague, Bucharest, Helsinki, Sofia, Panama City, Moscow and Berlin, among other places. The most recent festival had been held in Havana in 1978, and young people from many countries had considered questions concerning solidarity, peace, détente and the struggle in southern Africa to eliminate racial discrimination and apartheid. The democratic youth of the entire world wanted a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and recognition of the rights of the

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(Mrs. Melcicka, Czechoslovakia)

Palestinian people; they supported the struggle of young people in Latin America and the world against colonialism, as well as the struggle of young people in the capitalist countries against monopolies.

6. The youth of Czechoslovakia was not subject to any kind of economic or social discrimination. Since the socialist revolution in Czechoslovakia, 30 years ago, the Constitution had fully guaranteed all the rights of youth. The fundamental principles of socialist society were reflected in the education given to young people in schools, in youth organizations, in society and in the family. Their education fully accorded with the principles laid down in the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, appearing in General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX). In Czechoslovakia education was free at all levels, and the number of pupils and students in secondary schools and higher educational establishments was continually increasing. The scientific and technological revolution called for the training of an increasing number of young people, and curricula were being restructured to improve the general level of secondary and higher education.

7. The State was encouraging young people who wished to continue their education while they worked. They were given facilities to enable them to attend evening courses, seminars and the like, in order to improve their knowledge. A high percentage of persons who had not completed secondary school were attending specialized technical schools. The labour laws did not allow children under the age of 15 to work, and that gave them the opportunity to study. Ninety per cent of young workers were improving their education while working. Young people also had facilities enabling them to engage in sports and cultural activities in their spare time. Youth organizations enjoyed the support of all social and State institutions in that respect.

8. Young people were participating to an increasing extent in the management of affairs of State: in 1976 they had accounted for 30 per cent of the membership of organs representing the State. They also held posts of considerable responsibility in organs concerned with economic management.

9. Her delegation maintained that the future held out the promise of a better world if only peace, freedom and justice prevailed. It therefore welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations in those fields, and considered that the holding of the international youth year would call attention to the problems that youth was still facing in many countries.

10. Her delegation was in favour of the idea of proclaiming an international youth year but agreed with the views expressed by the Secretary-General in document A/33/257, and also with the opinion of many other delegations to the effect that the event would require careful preparation.

11. Miss DUBRA (Uruguay) said that her country attached great importance to the item on youth and was anxious to devise policies and programmes to ensure that young people enjoyed advantageous conditions for their moral, cultural and physical development. The Government had concentrated its efforts in the fields of education, physical training, health and labour. The basic principles of the

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(Miss Dubra, Uruguay)

system of education, which was compulsory up to the intermediate level, and secular and free of charge up to the highest level, made for equality of opportunity among young people. In recent years important measures had been taken in that field; for example, the General Education Act had been adopted in 1973 and the Act on General Primary Education had been passed in 1976. The Office of Student Welfare provided assistance and guidance for needy young persons, as well as medical assistance and job placement services, and encouraged and promoted activities designed to prepare young people for participation in the process of the country's economic, social, cultural and political development.

12. Importance was attached in Uruguay to physical education at all levels of schooling. A law had recently been enacted for the purpose of completely reorganizing the system of physical education, sports and recreation on a nation-wide basis. At the international, regional and subregional levels Uruguay had hosted numerous sporting events, in which young Uruguayans had participated actively with the support of the competent national authorities.

13. With regard to health, in addition to the national programmes covering the entire population, the ministries concerned provided short courses with a view to warning young people about the dangers of using drugs. In the labour field, priority was given to young people leaving the Labour University to take up technical jobs, and the central public administration employed young students with a view to helping them economically and enabling them to acquire experience in their special fields.

14. In various forums Uruguay had proposed the establishment of a system for the exchange of scholarships in Latin American countries and the creation in each country of agencies that would be concerned with research on and the solution of youth problems in the cultural, economic, social and sports fields, etc.: the co-ordination of education; compulsory secondary education and the promotion of moral and civic awareness among young people.

15. Uruguay supported the initiative of holding an international youth year but believed that specific activities connected with that event should be planned with extreme care, and that the results of the International Year of the Child should be evaluated beforehand.

16. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that the priority which the Third Committee was giving to the item on youth showed the importance which the international community rightly attached to the encouragement of national, regional and international activities for the benefit of youth, both in relation to education and the active participation of youth in the development process.

17. Iran supported the main activities that the United Nations was currently carrying out or planned to carry out for the benefit of youth. It was therefore in favour of holding the International Youth Year. Although it appreciated the concern expressed about the proliferation of international years, it considered that no one could deny the impact that such events had if they were properly prepared. It would therefore be unwise to take a hasty decision concerning the date of the Year, and advisable also to make sure that, during the Year, suitable measures were taken to facilitate the active participation of young people in the development of society.

(Miss Shahkar, Iran)

18. With regard to the United Nations Volunteers programme, established under General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV), her delegation considered that it had proved its usefulness in the matter of education and training and had helped to strengthen international co-operation. At the thirty-second session, the Third Committee had considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/32/205) containing very positive proposals concerning the tasks to be carried out under the programme and providing for consultations between secretariats for the purpose of evaluating the progress made. It would be useful to know the results of those consultations and, above all, to decide how the Committee could help to strengthen the programme.

19. With regard to the report on channels of communication with youth and youth organizations (A/33/261), it was disappointing to see that only a small number of States had responded to the Secretary-General's invitation to submit comments on the guidelines contained in General Assembly resolution A/32/135, but it was to be hoped that more replies would soon be received, as well as useful and positive suggestions on activities at the regional and international levels for the benefit of youth and concerning their participation at all levels of society.

20. Mr. RAHANTALLA (Sudan) said that his country attached great importance to youth issues, since young people constituted more than 60 per cent of its population. The 1966 revolution had been a critical turning-point, since it had taken into account the potential of young people and their possible involvement in the economic, social and cultural development of the Sudan and had established bodies to meet their needs and attend to their problems.

21. The Socialist Youth Federation of the Sudan was helping to bring about the advancement and promotion of youth throughout the country. The Federation, which would celebrate its first decennium in May 1979, was involved in the preparation and execution of youth policies and planning. It was constituted by assemblies held at various levels, from that of the village to that of the nation and the region. The Federation received members from similar organizations in other countries. The Sudan made available to youth organizations of other countries the experience acquired in endeavours to overcome the problems of young people in all fields.

22. The Sudan considered that relations and communications between youth organizations should be strengthened in order to improve relations within that sector of society. It supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the improvement of relations between youth organizations of different countries. A programme of co-operation had recently been initiated between the United Nations and the Sudan with respect to radio broadcasts to the Middle East which would promote the struggle against racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The young people of the Sudan would be able to follow closely what was happening in other areas and in particular the discussion of the issues under consideration by the United Nations.

23. His delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6, which would proclaim the international youth year. Preparations for the year should be carried out with the utmost care, but the General Assembly should adopt a decision on the subject at the current session. International youth year was not a goal in itself

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(Mr. Rahantalla, Sudan)

but a means of contributing to the struggle against racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism and other evils which continued to afflict the world.

24. Mrs. RESTREPO de REYES (Colombia) said that in Colombia, a country of rapid growth with a young population, youth had access to power, since the voting age had been established by law at 18 years and the two most recent Presidents had followed the policy of integrating young people and women into government teams.

25. The Government of Columbia had identified education and employment as the key issues of concern to youth and was busy establishing new ways of linking the University with national realities. Young people were not prepared to tackle productive work immediately after receiving their university degrees, and there was the further problem of a proliferation of courses for which there was no labour market. Consequently, the National Apprenticeship Service, a technical institute, was responsible for intermediate courses of practical training which gave prompt access to employment.

26. With respect to document A/33/257, her delegation supported the proposal to hold a new round of consultations between Member States and world youth organizations on the appropriateness, content and programme of the international youth year, thus gaining sufficient time to prepare the year in such a way as to involve youth in its organization. The year should not make any great economic demands on the United Nations; rather it should promote and stimulate national action. The objectives which it was desired to attain should be established very clearly and specific projects to be executed should be identified. Above all, the international youth year should serve to establish a dialogue between young people and leaders, and States and the United Nations itself; that was why her delegation supported the recommendation in document A/33/261 that young people throughout the world should be given the opportunity to serve the United Nations for short periods in order to learn directly about its activities and that exchanges between young people all over the world should be encouraged. One of the aims of the international youth year could be to promote among young people an awareness of the importance of natural resources and concern for the environment.

27. Colombia also supported the idea in document A/33/193 of intensifying radio and television programmes created by the United Nations about the activities of the Organization giving young people themselves the opportunity to participate in them.

28. Mr. BHANDARI (Bhutan) said that his Government was convinced that youth could make a great contribution to the attainment of the goal of economic self-sufficiency. Currently, Bhutan had no unemployment problems and young people had abundant opportunities to train in areas of interest to them. The Government had established institutes for training young people in various technical and occupational fields. The Department of Human Resources and Employment and the National Youth Association were responsible for encouraging young people to take part in various socio-economic development activities and for informing them of existing opportunities and services. For the time being, that form of communication with young people appeared sufficient. Other aims of the Association were to encourage young people to take part in national development in all its forms and in voluntary social activities.

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(Mr. Bhandari, Bhutan)

29. Documents A/33/193, A/33/257 and A/33/261 provided excellent guidelines for the Committee's work with regard to agenda item 72. The proclamation of an international youth year would provide Member States with an opportunity to mobilize young people to perform development activities and would give momentum to the establishment of the new international economic order, which inevitably required the participation of young people. However, as the Secretary-General had suggested, enough time should be allowed to plan specific programmes and activities. Accordingly, 1985 would be an appropriate year in which to hold the event.

30. His delegation always welcomed any United Nations suggestions concerning the improvement of channels of communication with young people and youth organizations and considered that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Youth, UNDP and the regional commissions could play a front-line role in encouraging the involvement of young people in development.

31. Mr. RIGIN (Indonesia) said that 58 per cent of the population in Indonesia were between 10 and 21 years of age. Therefore, his Government was aware of the need to incorporate that vast human resource into national development. Indonesian youth had always played an important role in political, social and economic life. Currently, the Ministry for Youth was responsible for co-ordinating all youth programmes and activities. It had established a Youth Volunteer Service Program which would enable every student, whatever his discipline, to devote one or two years of his academic time to work in rural areas.

32. The proclamation of an international youth year would provide an opportunity for significantly strengthening the involvement of young people in the over-all development efforts. The programme for the year should place special emphasis on youth activities, and one of its objectives should be to instil in young people a greater awareness of their civil and social responsibilities and to provide them with a greater opportunity to use their skills and intellectual abilities in development. Adequate preparations should be made for the international youth year. Its timing should be carefully considered, with the object of not infringing upon the effectiveness of other international years.

33. Mr. OBADI (Democratic Yemen) said that the proclamation of an international youth year would provide an opportunity for emphasizing the active participation of young people of all countries in economic and social development efforts and in the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, zionism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The year should, in addition, facilitate the international exchange of experience regarding the involvement of youth in development in different countries.

34. The policy pursued by British colonialism in Democratic Yemen had kept successive generations of young people in ignorance. The colonialist and feudal régime had subjected young people to serious privations and had muffled its innovative force. The Revolution, however, aware of the importance of young people's participation in safeguarding the conquests made and in the economic advancement of the country, had opened the way for young people to take part in the construction of a society based on democracy, progress and development. To that end the Constitutional Conference of the Federation of Youth Associations, a democratic organization for harnessing the potential of youth on behalf of development, had met

(Mr. Obadi, Democratic Yemen)

in February 1973. The young people of Democratic Yemen must be actively involved in awakening class consciousness and national consciousness and stimulating the socialist, scientific and democratic spirit and solidarity with the struggles of the masses and the national liberation and peace movements. Young people were currently involved in voluntary activities, especially in agriculture and industry, and in cultural tasks and the struggle against illiteracy.

35. In recent years, the Federation of Democratic Youth of the country had stepped up its involvement in building a democratic and socialist society. It had recently had the historic experience of taking part in the Congress of the Vanguard Party of Yemen, whose basic concerns were the defence of the Revolution and the struggle for the reunification of Yemen.

36. At the international level, the unified political organization programme of the National Front affirmed that Democratic Yemen formed part of the Arab National Liberation Front and proclaimed its solidarity with the socialist bloc, the working class of the capitalist countries and liberation movements throughout the world, as well as with peoples struggling against colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, zionism, apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination. During the current year, the young people of Democratic Yemen had taken part in the XI International Youth Festival, held in La Habana, which had highlighted the significant work being done by young people all over the world on behalf of peace and against the plans of imperialists, racists and Zionists.

37. Mr. CHALAMILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country's national development policy, which was based on socialism and self-reliance, focused on rural development programmes and total mass mobilization and participation, particularly of youth. Youth was an important segment of the nation and was a repository of national norms, values and ethics. In the United Republic of Tanzania the Party and the Government assigned a key role to youth in social and economic development.

38. In order to encourage direct youth participation in national life the National Youth Organization had been set up, with branches in various districts and educational establishments, to mobilize the younger generation so as to ensure its participation in social, economic and cultural development. Through that organization young people were represented in Parliament and in State and Party organs.

39. The National Service was an institution which had been founded in 1963 to acquaint young people with co-operative production programmes: young people who had received higher education were required by law to join it. The Service had since then become a national Youth Training Centre in the sectors of agriculture and small-scale industries.

40. The Ministry of National Culture and Youth co-ordinated all the youth programmes and in particular the educational policy, which was aimed at enhancing the fundamental role of young people in the building of the nation.

41. The United Republic of Tanzania actively supported the efforts of the United Nations to broaden the participation of young people and increase communication

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(Mr. Chalamila, Tanzania)

between the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and youth and youth organizations, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/135. Those efforts should also serve to promote communication among nations and further international co-operation and friendship so as to strengthen peace and security. In the face of the anachronistic and inhuman policies of racism, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism, young people of all countries must affirm their solidarity with the young people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against domination, oppression and exploitation.

42. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's report on channels of communication with youth and youth organizations (A/33/261). It suggested that in that area attention should initially be focused on efforts at the national level, particularly in developing countries, and that the channel of communication should be the national youth organizations of the respective countries.

43. With regard to an international youth year, there seemed to be a consensus that such a year should be proclaimed but divergent views as to which year should be selected. Careful preparation would be needed to ensure that the year would have the impact which every one desired.

44. Mr. KOMTAGAREA (Papua New Guinea) said that the broad undertakings of the United Nations in the field of youth, which the Secretary-General had summarized in his report (A/33/193), were eminently satisfactory and needed to be enhanced so as to help Member States solve the problems faced by young people. Young people were not a problem in themselves but a resource which could make a major contribution to nation-building. Papua New Guinea had recognized that fact and, during the three years since it had attained independence, had concentrated on the education and training of young people in order to equip them to be useful members of the community in which they lived.

45. A Ministry of Youth, Recreation and Women's Affairs had recently been established and efforts were being made to promote the right to equal participation and benefits embodied in the Government's Eight Aims and in the National Constitution. To that end, funds had been allocated to the development of small-scale industry and to the establishment of scholarship schemes and vocational training centres, and financial assistance had been provided to the voluntary organizations engaged in the promotion of youth activities. In order to counteract the migration from rural to urban areas a publicity campaign had been launched concerning employment opportunities in the rural areas and settlement plans had been implemented with improved communications and transport. A National Youth Council was being established which would be the State body responsible for drawing up guidelines in that area co-ordinating youth movements and advising the Government.

46. The proclamation of an international youth year would enable the international community to mobilize its efforts and would encourage the formulation of effective national policies and programmes for youth development, of also the interchange of ideas. While the costs involved should be closely studied, and although 1979 had already been proclaimed the International Year of the Child, it was worth while to proclaim an international youth year, as that would be concerned with a separate, although related, phase of life. The two Years complemented one another. His delegation supported the views expressed by the Secretary-General concerning

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(Mr. Komtagarea, Papua New Guinea)

at the national, regional and international levels during the year (A/33/257) and thought that there would be ample time to make the necessary preparations to celebrate the year in 1985, as had been proposed.

47. As to the improvement of channels of communication with youth and youth organizations, he supported the views and recommendations set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/261).

48. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) said that the question of youth, in all its aspects, was treated as a very significant one in Ethiopia. The great importance attached to the development of Ethiopian youth stemmed from the firm belief not only that the future belonged to them but that that future must be better. Different countries had different problems, priorities, resources and policies, and differences in political orientation and economic and social conditions called for different approaches. The problems of drug abuse, indiscipline, decadence and various social ills faced by the developed countries could not be handled in the same way as the malnutrition and the lack of educational opportunities that afflicted the young people of developing countries. The solution of those problems also called for different kinds of training for the personnel that dealt with them. His delegation therefore urged Governments themselves to formulate policies and programmes relating to youth, using experts only at certain stages to find specific solutions to clearly identified problems.

49. Although it was for each individual country to deal with the problems of its young people, the United Nations and the specialized agencies could play a very meaningful role at the international level if they reoriented their activities for that purpose. The United Nations must recognize the aspirations and hopes of the youth of the entire world and understand their concern for the future and their desire for peace and justice. The United Nations Secretariat must initiate policies and programmes which would take those hopes and aspirations into account, so as to motivate the youth of the world to struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism, and for disarmament, peace and a new economic order.

50. The youth of Ethiopia, despite their lack of opportunities and the way in which the previous feudal Government had mishandled the limited education programme, had had sufficient awareness to rebel. For many years the slogan of Ethiopian youth had been "Land to the Tiller", and that had led to the proclamation of land reform in 1974. Between 1974 and 1976, over 60,000 high school and university students had organized a development campaign which, apart from the tangible results achieved, had also helped make young people even more aware of the tremendous task which lay ahead. Thus an all-Ethiopian Peasants' Association and an all-Ethiopian Workers' Association had been established. The young people were now organizing an all-Ethiopian Youth Association so as to play their rightful role in the decision-making process that affected all of them and the community at large. It was hoped that some 8 million young people would become involved in all matters which directly concerned them. Ethiopian youth had also intensified contacts with progressive youth groups and its participation in the Eleventh World Youth and Student Festival held in Cuba in the past summer had been very beneficial.

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(Mr. Bekele, Ethiopia)

50a. Ethiopia supported the proclamation of an international youth year, provided that the necessary preparations were made, and believed that a firm decision on the matter should be taken as early as possible.

51. With regard to the question of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, his delegation strongly believed that such communication must be channelled entirely through governmental agencies. Since not many replies had been received on the question of the guidelines contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/135, another invitation should be addressed to Governments to submit their views and make the suggestions they considered appropriate. It was very doubtful that the formulation of additional guidelines would facilitate the early adoption of a rational decision on the matter.

52. Mr. AZIZ (Afghanistan) said that it could not be supposed that there had been a lack of interest in questions concerning youth at any time or anywhere in the world. Both for individuals and for society as a whole, young people represented a direct threat and, at the same time, the greatest promise. Youth could fulfil the aspirations of society, but could also destroy it. In 1964 it had been recognized that youth was the central theme of the Development Decade. As the Second Development Decade drew to a close it was clear that little had been done in the developing countries to improve the condition of youth. A large proportion of the population in those countries fell within the 14-to-25 age group, the age most susceptible to change, most eager to participate, to achieve and to challenge the traditional ways of life, and, at the same time, the age which was most vulnerable.

53. Youth movements in many countries had insisted on changes in some of society's traditional values, had advocated economic and social justice and had demanded more participation in economic, social, cultural and political life. The young in his country had sought reforms in the power structure, characterized in many cases by corruption, nepotism and inefficiency; finally the young officers of the Army, members of the Democratic Republic Party, had succeeded in launching a revolution and establishing the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. In the six months that had elapsed since then the Government had made every possible effort to provide development activities. There was a five-year plan in preparation which included programmes to deal with illiteracy and gave increasing emphasis to the mobilization of youth as a key element in the process of social and economic development. Measures were being taken to provide the young with compulsory, free schooling, vocational training and an opportunity to contribute to the development of both rural and urban areas.

54. His delegation believed that it would be almost impossible to isolate youth and to design a sectoral programme for their development. On the other hand, the lack of unified consideration of youth programmes might result in their neglect. It was therefore essential to establish a co-ordinating organ to assist the planning bodies in designing programmes and to supervise the execution of policies and programmes as a whole. That approach would ensure the inclusion of youth programmes in development planning and guarantee their execution.

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55. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the youth of her country, who constituted a rapidly increasing sector of the population, were effectively represented at the ministerial level through the portfolio for Youth Affairs. One of the organized structures which dealt with matters concerning youth was the Youth Camps programme. That programme had great potential for the involvement of youth in national development, since it provided them with opportunities, inter alia, for vocational training and instilled in them a sense of discipline and responsibility to the community.

56. In 1965 the General Assembly by resolution 2037 (XX) had adopted the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. Several subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly had likewise dealt with the education of youth in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Those resolutions too recognized the need for the participation of youth in the national development process. An important factor in that respect was the question of communication with youth and youth organizations. The idea of the United Nations University being used as a channel of communication with youth should be pursued. Use should be made of all means of communication, in particular radio and television, to advance the education of youth in the principles of peace and understanding. The Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information should be encouraged in the production and distribution of films, for both television and cinema, on youth and its role in the development process and the experience of UNESCO in that field would be of great value.

57. In attempting to reach youth the years of early childhood should not be neglected, for it was futile to hope to engender in human beings a sense of dignity and a spirit of understanding after the formative years had passed. As to the psychological aspects of the problem, some of the organizations set up to deal with questions concerning youth had difficulty in achieving their goals because young people were not adequately represented at the higher echelons of their hierarchies.

58. With regard to the proclamation of an international youth year, her delegation considered that any decision should await the report which had been requested from the Secretary-General by the Economic and Social Council on the question of international years and anniversaries.

59. Mr. HEINEMANN (Netherlands) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5 on behalf of the sponsors and said that, because of the limited number of Member States and regional commissions which had sent in comments on the guidelines to improve channels of communication between the United Nations and youth, as set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/135, the sponsors wished to give Member States and regional commissions a further opportunity to submit their comments and suggestions on that question.

60. Mr. VOICU (Romania) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6, on an international youth year, on behalf of the sponsors and said that the fundamental aspect which the sponsors wished to underline was that the proclamation of the year would have a far-reaching effect in promoting more active participation by youth in the over-all development of society. The draft resolution, which was the outcome of lengthy consultations, took account of the position of Member States in general with

(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

respect to the question, as well as of the legitimate concerns of some of them with respect to the practical usefulness of celebrations of that kind. He hoped, therefore, that the Committee would be able to adopt it by consensus.

61. Mr. PETRELLA (Argentina) introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7, on policies and programmes relating to youth. The sole purpose of the draft resolution was to highlight the role of physical education and sports exchanges. That did not require the establishment of internal machinery but rather the creation of an awareness of the desirability of promoting exchanges in that field. He recalled the initiative taken by UNESCO in convening the First International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sports, which had taken place in Paris in 1976, and pointed out that the fourth preambular paragraph drew on recommendations 5 and 10 of that Conference and operative paragraph 1 on recommendation 1. Similarly, the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation adopted by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-aligned Countries held in Belgrade in July 1978 included a paragraph on sports, which showed that a large number of countries attached importance to the subject. The reference to the equality of men and women had been included to reflect the interest in that subject shown by the international community through the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico City in 1975, and all the work that had been done in connexion with the United Nations Decade for Women.

62. Mrs. SAHGAL (India) proposed that the words "through national focal points where they exist" should be inserted after the words "to participate" in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5. That idea was already expressed in the guidelines set forth in the annex to resolution 32/135 and such focal points could facilitate communication between the United Nations and youth and national youth organizations.

63. Mr. HEINEMANN (Netherlands) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5 had no objection to the amendment proposed by the Indian delegation, on the understanding that that insertion should be considered in the context of the guidelines adopted in General Assembly resolution 32/135.

64. Mr. YUSUF (Somalia) said that consultations had taken place with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7 and with the representatives of various African and other Member States with a view to finding a formula for the incorporation of his amendment to that text. The original purpose of that amendment had been to insert the phrase "with the exception of those régimes practising apartheid and those who have such exchanges with them" in operative paragraph 1, after the words "men and women".

65. As a result of the consultations, a compromise text had been prepared which would add a new fifth preambular paragraph and a new operative paragraph 2 to the draft resolution. The proposed texts would read:

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(Mr. Yusuf, Somalia)

"Convinced also that participation in sports exchanges with teams selected on the basis of apartheid violates the fundamental human rights of the great majority of the people of South Africa.

"...

"2. Calls on all States to take appropriate actions to bring about the total cessation of sporting contacts with any country practising apartheid and to refrain from official sponsorship, assistance or encouragement of such contacts."

66. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bhutan, Djibouti, the Sudan and Zaire had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5, that the Bahamas, Bhutan, Burundi, Hungary, the Sudan and Togo had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6, and that the Federal Republic of Germany had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.