



# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
10 December 2010

Original: English

---

## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 35th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 28 October 2010, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Tommo Monthe . . . . . (Cameroon)

## Contents

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*)

Agenda item 27: Social development (*continued*)

- (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)
- (d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (*continued*)

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women: (*continued*)

- (a) Advancement of women (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.



*The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.*

**Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights** (*continued*)

**(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms** (*continued*) (A/65/87, A/65/119,

A/65/156, A/65/162, A/65/171, A/65/207, A/65/222, A/65/223, A/65/224, A/65/227 and Add.1, A/65/254, A/65/255, A/65/256, A/65/257, A/65/258, A/65/259, A/65/260 and Corr.1, A/65/261, A/65/263, A/65/273, A/65/274, A/65/280 and Corr.1, A/65/281, A/65/282, A/65/284, A/65/285, A/65/287, A/65/288, A/65/310, A/65/321, A/65/322, A/65/340 and A/65/369)

**(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives** (*continued*)

(A/65/331, A/65/364, A/65/367, A/65/368, A/65/370 and A/65/391)

*Statements made in exercise of the right of reply*

1. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan), responding to the statement made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the thirty-fourth meeting, said that he would not reiterate Japan's position on issues from the past. He would, however, respond to the silence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the issue of abduction of Japanese citizens. In 2004, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had agreed that all five members of the abductees' families could return home and that it would promptly initiate a new, thorough investigation into the abductions. However, there was no concrete evidence to support the information provided by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Analysis had shown that bones claimed to be the remains of abductee Megumi Yokota, in fact contained DNA belonging to other persons. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had also made dubious and unsubstantiated claims that most of the abductees had died of causes such as gas poisoning and heart attacks and had suspended its investigation into the abductee issue, despite its repeated claims that it would move forward. Japan reiterated its call for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to establish an investigation committee and commence that investigation without delay.

2. **Mr. Makriyiannis** (Cyprus), responding to comments made by the representative of Turkey at the thirty-fourth meeting, said that Turkey continued to make false accusations and distort historical facts. Numerous United Nations resolutions and decisions by other international bodies, including the European Court of Human Rights and the European Parliament, had condemned Turkey's invasion and continuing military occupation of part of Cyprus. Turkey was occupying a significant part of a sovereign State in flagrant violation of the core values of the United Nations and denying Cypriots their basic human rights. Turkey must withdraw its troops and propose solutions for Cyprus that were in line with Security Council resolutions and the agreed basis of the talks.

3. **Mr. Pak Tok Hun** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), responding to the comments made by the representative of Japan, said that his delegation had repeatedly raised the issue of crimes committed by Japan in the past, including the forced recruitment of comfort women, because of the scale and gravity of those crimes. Japan had still not fully acknowledged its responsibility for those crimes and claimed that the 1951 Treaty of San Francisco had resolved all relevant legal issues. Although Japan insisted that no progress had been made in the investigation concerning abductees, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had done everything it could in that regard. Japan, moreover, should offer sincere apologies and pay reparations for its crimes, following the example set by other States after the Second World War. Relations between Japan and Korea could only improve when a settlement had been reached on that issue. Furthermore, Japan should return the bones provided by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea if they were not the remains of the abductee in question.

4. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan) said it was regrettable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had not responded to concerns repeatedly voiced by the international community and urged it to respond to those concerns in a concrete and constructive manner.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.27: The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights*

5. **Mr. El Mkhantar** (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution, said that Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia,

Djibouti, Egypt, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution would facilitate a review of actions taken by Member States to implement General Assembly resolution A/RES/63/169. The draft resolution, *inter alia*, highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation between mediating institutions with a view to sharing best practices and drew attention to the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in promoting those institutions. The intention was not to force States that had not established ombudsmen to create those institutions, but rather to acknowledge the role that such institutions could play in supporting human rights.

6. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Guatemala, Mali and the Republic of Moldova had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

#### **Agenda item 27: Social development** (*continued*)

##### **(b) Social development including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family** (*continued*) (A/C.3/65/L.10/Rev.1)

#### *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.10/Rev.1: Cooperatives in social development*

7. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), making a statement in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, said that if draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.10/Rev.1 was adopted, it was understood that entitlements already allocated to two General Assembly plenary meetings would cover the cost of the proposed plenary meeting and roundtable discussion. Those events would be held within the normal working hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., as long as the General Assembly itself was not meeting in parallel, on dates to be determined in consultation with the Secretariat. Accordingly, adoption of the draft resolution would not entail any additional requirements as resources would be provided from within the provision allocated to service the routine meetings of the General Assembly, which were included in the programme budgets for the concerned bienniums.

8. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/248 B, had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the

appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and had reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Attention was also drawn to paragraph 67 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7), which had indicated that the use of the phrase “within existing resources” or similar language in resolutions had a negative impact on the implementation of activities; therefore, efforts should be made to avoid the use of that phrase in resolutions and decisions.

9. **Ms. Sodov** (Mongolia), also speaking on behalf of Bangladesh, Guatemala and Nicaragua, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.10/Rev.1 and said that Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

10. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to raise awareness of the International Year of Cooperatives and promote its activities. During the previous week, the Mongolian delegation had been compelled to request that consideration of the draft resolution be postponed, owing to a lack of coordination among units of the Secretariat with regard to programme budget implications. It was hoped that such a situation would not arise again in the future.

11. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Angola, Argentina, Greece, Ireland, Kenya, the Netherlands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Zambia had joined the sponsors.

12. **Ms. Méndez Romero** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that Venezuela had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.10/Rev.1 and fully supported the declaration of 2012 as the

International Year of Cooperatives as well as the convening of the aforementioned plenary session. However Venezuela was concerned by operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, in which Member States were invited to consider being represented by representatives of cooperatives at the plenary meeting. Venezuela believed that only representatives of Governments could legitimately represent States in United Nations bodies. Acceptance of operative paragraph 5 must not set a precedent. He requested that his statement be fully reflected in the summary record.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.10/Rev.1 was adopted.*

**(d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all** (*continued*) (A/C.3/65/L.9/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.9/Rev.1: United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all*

14. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. **Ms. Sodov** (Mongolia), speaking also on behalf of Bangladesh and Chile, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.9/Rev.1. She said that Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. Agreement had been reached on the text following five informal consultations between Member States and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

16. Despite the considerable progress made in implementing the objectives of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, significant challenges remained. According to the most recent UNESCO data, 796 million adults lacked basic literacy skills, 69 million primary-aged children did not attend school, and millions more left school without an

adequate level of literacy. The Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010 warned that, even in a best-case scenario, the Dakar goal of halving the overall number of non-literate adults would not be reached by 2015. In addition, the financial and economic crisis was a major setback to education budgets and international funding and could have a negative effect on spending for literacy programmes.

17. There were just two years of the Decade left and the 2015 target date for the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals was also approaching. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to draw the international community's attention to the limited time left for achieving those objectives. Member States would need to show increased commitment and investment, as well as stronger international partnerships, to make a groundbreaking difference in literacy levels within that time.

18. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Bahamas, Bhutan, Botswana, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Georgia, Guinea, Jamaica, Madagascar, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mozambique, Niger, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.9/Rev.1 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 28: Advancement of women** (*continued*)

**(a) Advancement of women** (*continued*)  
(A/C.3/65/L.17/Rev.1 and A/C.3/65/L.28)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.17/Rev.1: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women*

20. **Mr. Gonnet** (France), speaking also on behalf of the Netherlands, requested that consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.17/Rev.1 be postponed so that further informal consultations could take place.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*