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Agenda item 94

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Report of the Third CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Grzegorz POLOWCZYK (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled:

"Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women:

"(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

"(b) Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item together with items 92 and 93 at its 23rd to 33rd, 41st, 47th and 50th meetings, on 26, 30 and 31 October and 1, 2, 5 to 7, 15, 21 and 26 November 1984. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/39/SR.23-33, 41, 47 and 50).

3. The Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter III, section B (A/39/3 (Part I)); 1/

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/39/3).

- (b) Reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; 2/
- (c) Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General (A/39/486);
- (d) Letter dated 16 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the 72nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Geneva on 29 September 1984 (A/39/590 and Corr.1).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 26 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women made introductory statements.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/39/L.18

5. At the 42nd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/39/L.18) entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", sponsored by Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, as well as France, Hungary, Liberia, Nigeria and Viet Nam, subsequently joined by the Central African Republic and Jamaica.

6. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was circulated to the Committee in document A/C.3/39/L.26.

7. At its 50th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.18 by a recorded vote of 124 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo,

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/39/45), vols. I and II.

3/ The representative of the Bahamas indicated that, had she been present during the voting, her delegation would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Algeria, Benin, Mali, Morocco.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/140 of 11 December 1980, 36/131 of 14 December 1981, 37/64 of 3 December 1982 and 38/109 of 16 December 1983,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention, 4/

Having considered the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its second and third sessions, 5/

Noting that the Committee, in its rules of procedure, 6/ decided that it would have summary records and would include Arabic among its official and working languages and that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1984/8 of 22 May 1984, recommended that the General Assembly should take the necessary steps to ensure the provision and distribution in all official languages of such records,

Recognizing the importance of the summary records of bodies established to monitor the implementation of international human rights instruments,

Noting that the Committee decided to consider the achievements and obstacles experienced by States parties in the implementation of the Convention as a contribution to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1984/8, requested the Secretary-General to assist the Committee therein,

1. Notes with appreciation the increasing number of Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. Invites States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention by ratifying or acceding to it;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit yearly to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its second and third sessions and commends the Committee for its work;

5. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4/ A/39/486.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/39/45), vols. I and II.

6/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/38/45), annex III.

6. Requests States parties to make all possible efforts to submit their initial implementation reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention, bearing in mind the Committee's general guidelines regarding the form and contents of such reports;
7. Requests the Committee in organizing its work to ensure that the reports of States parties are adequately reviewed within the quadrennial cycle envisaged in the Convention;
8. Takes note of the discussion in the Committee concerning the inclusion in the agenda of a future session of an item to discuss article 21 of the Convention, specifically the provision that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports;
9. Authorizes the provision and distribution in all official languages of the United Nations of summary records of the meetings of the Committee and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to that end;
10. Invites the Committee to consider, in light of this authorization of the provision and distribution of summary records of its meetings on a regular basis, the format and content of its future reports, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982.
