



# General Assembly

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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 39th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 16 November 2012, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Mac-Donald ..... (Suriname)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 64: Report of the Human Rights Council** *(continued)*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.59: Report of the Human Rights Council*

1. **Mr. Mendonça** (Cape Verde), speaking on behalf of the African Group, introduced the draft resolution, which took note of the report of the Human Rights Council and the recommendations contained therein. The Group hoped for the adoption of the resolution by consensus and encouraged all Member States to become sponsors.

**Agenda item 67: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance** *(continued)*

**(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance** *(continued)*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.57: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*

2. **Ms. Ponikvar** (Slovenia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, said that Andorra, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Senegal, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had also joined the sponsors.

3. The biennial draft resolution, calling for the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, was divided into three parts. The first part of the draft resolution focused on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the second part considered the financial situation of the Committee, urging States parties to ratify the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of the Committee and requesting the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources; the third section, on the status of the Convention, called for its universal ratification.

4. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Albania, Guinea, Haiti, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino and South Sudan had joined the sponsors.

**Agenda item 104: International drug control** *(continued)*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.14/Rev.1: International cooperation against the world drug problem*

4. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution, said that Afghanistan, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Mongolia and Ukraine had joined the sponsors.

5. With a view to strengthening the international community's strategy, the text requested the Secretary-General to convene a special session of the General Assembly to address international cooperation against the world drug problem at the highest political level following the March 2014 session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. She called on delegations to support the draft resolution so that the international community could address the problem together.

6. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Haiti, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, the Philippines, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

**Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice** *(continued)*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.16/Rev.1: Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons*

7. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that the report requested in paragraph 10 would require no additional resources.

8. The high-level meeting of the General Assembly referred to in paragraph 12 could be held over a maximum of three days of two meetings each, with interpretation in the official languages, using the meeting entitlement of the General Assembly, provided that the high-level meeting was not held in parallel with other General Assembly meetings. It would therefore not require additional resources unless the meeting requirements increased.

9. The open-ended informal consultations referred to in paragraph 13 would use the meeting entitlement of the General Assembly provided that they were not held in parallel with other General Assembly meetings, and would therefore not require additional resources.

10. The documentation requested in paragraph 15 would add one document of 10,700 words, issued in the official languages, to the workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, incurring additional requirements of \$62,300, for which no provision had been made in the 2012-2013 budget. Additional funds would therefore need to be allocated.

11. The report referred to in paragraph 14 would not require additional resources.

12. The adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.16/Rev.1 would therefore incur additional requirements of \$62,300. However, every effort should be made to absorb those requirements within existing resources under section 2 of the programme budget and to report thereon in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2012-2013.

13. **Mr. Lazarev** (Belarus) said that Azerbaijan, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Venezuela had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. The draft resolution, in conjunction with resolution 64/293, entitled "Global plan of action to combat trafficking in persons", was aimed at convening a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in order to take stock of the progress made in implementing the plan of action to eliminate trafficking in persons, as well as to assess what further measures would be required. A meeting on such a level and scale on the issue of human trafficking would be a first for the United Nations.

15. Since its adoption in 2010, the Plan of Action had become a widely accepted term of reference within the United Nations system as well as a practical document guiding the actions of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental entities as well. That fact testified to its effectiveness both as a means to combat trafficking and as an instrument to provide real assistance to its victims.

16. Beginning in 2005, his country had repeatedly raised at the United Nations the issue of human trafficking and the need for a global partnership to combat it, but a great deal of work remained before all

those responsible were prosecuted and punished, and all those affected were afforded relief. It would therefore continue to wage an uncompromising campaign against a form of modern-day slavery which should have no place in the civilized world.

17. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Estonia, Iceland, Ireland, Liberia, Mexico, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda had joined the sponsors.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.16/Rev.1 was adopted.*

19. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that her delegation remained committed to combating trafficking in persons. International attention should be focused on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons was expected to help that implementation. Although some States had made progress in adopting anti-trafficking legislation, the number of prosecutions was disappointing compared to the magnitude of the problem. The enforcement of laws and the protection of victims were important in the fight against human trafficking.

20. Her delegation was concerned that the additional financial requirements of the draft resolution would be difficult to absorb within the existing budget without straining the resources of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Her delegation had therefore joined the consensus in the expectation that every effort would be made to absorb the additional costs.

21. **Ms. Taracena Secaira** (Guatemala) and **Ms. Wilson** (Jamaica) said that their delegations would have wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

*The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.*