United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTIETH SESSION

Official Records



1

PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 1 November 1965. at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Page
1
1

President: Mr. Amintore FANFANI (Italy).

Statement by the President

- 1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): On returning among you in the Assembly today, I wish first of all to perform the pleasant duty of thanking representatives for their many expressions of sympathy following my accident on 9 October. I would also ask them to be good enough to convey my thanks to the members of their Governments who sent me messages on that occasion. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General, U Thant, and to the Under-Secretary, Mr. Narasimhan, who attend to the work of the Assembly with such devotion, and to all the staff of the Secretariat. My particular thanks are due to my colleagues, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, who conducted the debates during my absence.
- 2. I am glad to inform you that many people in various countries of the world have sent expressions of sympathy to the President of the General Assembly. I mention that fact only because it shows the interest with which the activities of our Organization are

followed throughout the world, thus confirming the hope that the United Nations will, in all circumstances, tirelessly continue to pursue its basic aims of solidarity and peace. In view of the encouraging confidence placed in the Organization, I should like to express once more on this occasion my hope that your work will be crowned with success and lead to the accomplishment of the important tasks entrusted to the General Assembly at this session.

3. It is generally felt that the work we have done so far has proved the existence of a favourable atmosphere and appreciable efforts to ensure mutual goodwill and understanding. That gives us hope that we shall adopt decisions commensurate with the expectations and confidence of peoples and Governments.

AGENDA ITEM 57

Measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/6046)

AGENDA ITEM 59

Draft Recommendation on Consent of Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages

> REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/6066/Rev.1)

AGENDA ITEM 61

Manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/6054)

AGENDA ITEM 62

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance: (a) Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance;

(b) Draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/6069)

4. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We shall now consider agenda items, 57, 59, 61 and 62, on which the Third Committee has submitted four reports. I invite the Rapporteur of that Committee to introduce the reports in a single statement.

Mr. MacDonald (Canada), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, presented the reports of that Committee and spoke as follows:

- 5. Mr. MACDONALD (Canada), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: Mr. President. I have the honour to report to the General Assembly on the work of the Third Committee in regard to four items which have currently been before it. The first item is the Committee's report on "Measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination". The Third Committee devoted a number of its sessions to the draft resolution submitted for the Assembly's consideration by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1016 (XXXVII).
- 6. The second item is the "Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages". In 1963 the Economic and Social Council forwarded to the General Assembly a draft recommendation on this subject, as revised by the Commission on the Status of Women. But the General Assembly was unable to take up the item at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions. At the current session the Third Committee considered the draft recommendation at two meetings held on 6 October. The Committee based its work on the text as revised by the Commission on the Status of Women and submitted by the Economic and Social Council.
- 7. The third item is entitled "Manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance". The Third Committee discussed this item on 8 October.
- 8. Finally, the fourth item deals with the "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance", and there are two parts to this item: a draft declaration and a draft convention, both on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance. The Third Committee did not discuss the substance of these questions. It agreed to concentrate its discussions on a fourteen-Power draft resolution, by which the Assembly would ask the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Human Rights to complete the preparation of the two drafts at its next session in 1966, and would decide to consider the draft as a matter of priority at its twenty-first session.
- 9. Before concluding, Mr. President, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us, to welcome you back to our deliberations and to express the joy and pleasure it gives us all in the Third Committee to have you back in this hall once again.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee.

10. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution relating to agenda item 57 [see A/6046, para. 22]. Since the draft was adopted unanimously by the Third Committee, may I take it that the General Assembly also adopts it unanimously?

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

11. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I invite the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution relating to agenda item 59 [see A/6066/Rev.1, para. 22]. This draft was adopted by the Third Committee without objection, and if nobody requests a

- vote I shall take it that the General Assembly also adopts it without objection.
- 12. Mrs. MANTZOULINOS (Greece): I should like to request a separate vote on the phrase "and its traditional and religious practices" which appears in operative paragraph 1.
- 13. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The representative of Greece has requested a separate vote on the words "and its traditional and religious practices" wich appear in operative paragraph 1 of the draft. If there are no objections we shall proceed accordingly.

The words "and its traditional and religious practices" were adopted by 68 votes to 13, with 15 abstentions.

14. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I put to the vote the introductory sentence of operative paragraph 1, as a whole.

The introductory sentence of operative paragraph 1, as a whole, was adopted by 87 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We shall now vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

The draft resolution as a whole was adonted by 95 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

16. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I invite the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution relating to agenda item 61 [see A/6054, para. 10]. This draft was adopted by the Third Committee without objection and if nobody requests a vote I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

17. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution relating to agenda item 62 (see A/6069, para. 17]. This draft was adopted without opposition by the Third Committee and if nobody requests a vote I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

- 18. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I call upon the representative of Mexico, Chairman of the Third Committee.
- 19. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, on behalf of the members of the Third Committee I am pleased to welcome you back. We were concerned about your health, we were glad to hear of you recovery and now we are happy to welcome you back. We are especially grateful because we know that you insisted on being present today because the plenary meeting is to consider the items which the Third Committee has submitted to it as the first fruits of its work. We are particularly happy to mention this because we are aware of your record of devotion to humanistic ideals, both in politics and in teaching, because we remember with particular gratitude your country's record in this vast and important sphere of human

- activity and because we feel that the work of the Third Committee, although it may not appear impressive at present, is of great importance in relation to the long-term goal of improving the lot of mankind.
- 20. We should also like to take this opportunity to assure you of our loyal and constant co-operation, so that this twentieth session of the General Assembly may attain the important goals you proposed to us when you assumed the high office to which we manimously elected you.
- 21. I should like to express once more our good wishes for the continued improvement of your health and our hope that you will be able to assist us in all our work.
- 22. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the Chairman of the Third Committee for his very kind words; I too am pleased with the very valuable work done so far by the Third Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.