United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1912th

Monday, 7 December 1970, at 3.35 p.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Vernon Johnson MWAANGA (Zambia).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Sadry (Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEMS 68 AND 12

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (continued)* (A/8023 (part IV), A/8023 (part IV)/Add.1, A/8143, A/C.4/L.975)

Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)*
(A/8003, chapter XIII (section D), A/C.4/L.975)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.4/L.975)

- 1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a draft resolution concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/C.4/L.975). Algeria and Nigeria had joined the sponsors of the draft.
- 2. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria), speaking as one of the sponsors, presented draft resolution A/C. L.975. During the current year the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Economic and Social Council each had examined the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. Following its detailed and thorough examination of that important question, the Special Committee had adopted a comprehensive resolution containing a number of recommendations for action by the General Assembly (see A/8023 (part IV), para. 13).
- 3. With regard to the role of the specialized agencies, as mentioned by many delegations during the general debate on the last nine agenda items, the following conclusions could be drawn: a number of the specialized agencies had responded partially to the appeals of the General Assembly by taking certain measures, mostly in the area of assistance to refugees. It was felt, however, that the United Nations

organs could and should do much better, particularly by helping the peoples and national liberation movements in southern Africa through the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and by refusing to collaborate with the colonialist and racist régimes directly responsible for the present situation in southern Africa. No suggestion had been made to change the Special Committee's resolution concerning the action to be taken by the General Assembly. The draft resolution at present before the Committee was thus based entirely on the Special Committee's resolution, with the addition of a provision to give recognition to the positive action taken recently by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

- 4. The draft resolution was more or less self-explanatory. It aimed at encouraging the specialized agencies to continue to improve their assistance to refugees and to implement the provisions for support and assistance to the peoples and national liberation movements in the colonial Territories of southern Africa. The draft also provided for measures to be taken by the specialized agencies to facilitate the implementation of decisions taken by the Security Council, including sanctions against the unlawful régime in Southern Rhodesia, under Council resolution 277 (1970). It also called on the specialized agencies to take steps to isolate the colonialist régimes in the region.
- 5. He drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 7 of the draft. It was of the utmost importance that all the specialized agencies and the other international institutions concerned should apply the provisions of Security Council resolutions 277 (1970) and 283 (1970).
- 6. To justify their inactivity in respect of certain provisions of the resolutions, some of the specialized agencies were taking refuge behind difficulties of a constitutional nature. He believed, as did the Chairman of the Special Committee and the President of the Economic and Social Council, that the difficulties they were likely to find in that respect were not insurmountable if member States showed the necessary political will.
- 7. To simplify the task of the specialized agencies, paragraph 5 appealed to them to act through OAU in rendering moral and material assistance to colonial peoples and national liberation movements; and paragraph 4 contained a new and very important provision calculated to simplify the task of the agencies even further.
- 8. The expression "to discontinue all collaboration" in operative paragraph 8, was seemingly capable of various interpretations. He would therefore like to offer some clarification on the subject. If operative paragraph 9 were read in conjunction with paragraph 8, it would be seen that the latter's basic purpose was to induce the authorities

^{*} Resumed from the 1909th meeting.

named, through measures of isolation, and particularly political and economic measures, to abandon their policies of racial discrimination and colonial domination. Thus the paragraph envisaged not merely the cessation of all forms of co-operation with those authorities but also the withdrawal of any assistance and facility until they renounced their colonialist and racist policies. Furthermore, those same authorities might be excluded from all activities, meetings, conferences and seminars organized by the specialized agencies and other institutions concerned.

- 9. The sponsors had taken due note of the difficulties arising in certain cases, as outlined in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report (A/8143) concerning the complete severance of links with the Governments of Portugal and South Africa. In such instances, the executive heads of the specialized agencies should take specific measures to submit the issues involved to their governing bodies and deliberative organs so that the latter could try to solve them and the results could subsequently be communicated to the Secretary-General.
- 10. Operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution could also give rise to problems. It was possible that their constitutional and procedural arrangements might make it difficult for certain specialized agencies to authorize participation by leaders of liberation movements in the conferences, seminars and other regional meetings organized by them. That was why the sponsors' had inserted the expression "where necessary and appropriate". But that phrase was not intended to provide an excuse for inaction. On the contrary, the flexibility thus left to the various organs was intended to facilitate still further the examination of the ways and means by which liberation movements could participate in deliberations affecting the interests of the colonial peoples. In that connexion, he pointed out that in determining what was "necessary and appropriate", the specialized agencies should be guided by the views of OAU, with which the same paragraph 10 invited them to hold consultations.
- 11. He would also like to give some explanation in regard to operative paragraph 12, so as to avoid any misinterpretation. In the fifth line of the paragraph, the word "they" referred to the specialized agencies and other organizations. In other words, the paragraph dealt with the problems the latter might have to contend with in their efforts to give effect to the General Assembly resolutions.
- 12. It was the task above all of the specialized agencies and the other organizations themselves to seek and find a solution to all those problems, and he hoped that during the following year the General Assembly would register new achievements by them in the task of assisting the peoples struggling to free themselves from the colonial yoke.
- 13. Mr. ALO (Nigeria) said that he would like to make a few general comments in support of what the Bulgarian representative had said. In preparing their draft resolution (A/C.4/L.975), the sponsors had considered that in so far as the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations constituted an integral part of the system of international co-operation, they had a role to play in the matter of decolonization. The General

Assembly was seeking ways and means of implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and consequently the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations should participate in that task. If the premise were accepted that those various bodies should promote the purposes of the United Nations, it was impossible to oppose the provisions of draft resolution A/C.4/L.975.

- 14. It might be useful to pinpoint the three specific spheres in which the specialized agencies and other bodies should play a special role. First of all, as pointed out in operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft resolution, they should assist national liberation movements. The legitimacy of the struggle of colonial peoples was recognized by the United Nations, and hence more specific measures should be taken to give a more concrete content to that legitimacy. Secondly, the specialized agencies should play a more active part in organizing educational, scientific and medical programmes designed to build up an infrastructure in anticipation of the independence of those countries, especially the smaller Territories. The international community and the specialized agencies should help to guarantee the future of such small Territories and to ensure that they did not remain dependent on their colonial protectors. Thirdly, the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations should, as laid down in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, withhold. from the colonial Powers the beam its of international co-operation.
- 15. In conclusion, Nigeria, as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/L.975, recommended it to the Committee for adoption.
- 16. Mr. GOUAMBA (People's Republic of the Congo) said that his delegation would like to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/L.975.

AGENDA ITEM 69

United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (continued) (A/8151, A/C.4/L.974, A/C.4/L.977)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued) (A/C.4/L.974, A/C.4/L.977)

- 17. Mr. GOUAMBA (People's Republic of the Congo) said that his delegation would like to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/L.974.
- 18. The CHAIRMAN announced that Gabon and Kenya had asked to become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.974. He also drew the Committee's attention to the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.4/L.977), in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of paragraph 4 of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.