

and legitimate struggle against racial and colonial oppression.

Organization of work

5. Mr. LÜTEM (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolu-

tions 2292 (XXII) and 2538 (XXIV) on publications and documentation of the United Nations, with special reference to the reproduction of statements *in extenso* and to documents submitted for reproduction.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

1980th meeting

Thursday, 27 September 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1980

Election of the Vice-Chairmen (concluded)

1. Mrs. DE BARISH (Costa Rica) nominated Mrs. Luz Bertrand de Bromley (Honduras) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Luz Bertrand de Bromley was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

2. Mr. CATO (Ghana) nominated Mr. Amre Moussa (Egypt) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Amre Moussa (Egypt) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (continued) (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9095, A/9139, A/9177):

(a) **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued)** (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

3. Mr. BAL (Mauritania) said he would comment on certain decisions of United Nations bodies to which reference was made in the introduction to the Secretary-General's report on the question (A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

4. The first was the decision contained in resolution 2784 (XXVI), which the General Assembly had adopted by an overwhelming majority in December 1971, despite the delaying tactics of certain delegations. Since that time, his delegation had viewed the years ahead as years of constant struggle against all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination and had resolutely undertaken to promote international solidarity with all those who were engaged in the same struggle.

5. His delegation noted with some bitterness that, despite the solemn appeal launched by the international community, racism continued to be rampant in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

6. Portugal continued to defy the decisions of United Nations organs, and to ravage and exterminate innocent people and burn villages in defiance of the most elementary principles of international law. Even if Portugal united with all those countries which gave it milit-

ary and other secret support, it would never be able to divert the course of history or alter the determination of the peoples in the Portuguese Territories. His delegation had never ceased to reiterate that Portugal owed its survival as a colonialist Power to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

7. In South Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese Territories, Africans were living in perpetual hardship and under the yoke of discrimination of every kind. The agonizing problem of racial discrimination also extended to the occupied territories of the Middle East. In all those countries and territories discriminatory principles were embodied in all legislation and policy affecting land tenure, town planning, manpower, public education and vocational training, and the distribution of national income.

8. In his delegation's view the importance of the problems of *apartheid* and racial discrimination could not be over-emphasized. He recalled that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1 (XXVIII)¹ of 15 March 1972, had welcomed General Assembly resolution 2784 (XXVI) and had requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities as its first priority urgently to prepare suggestions and draw up a draft programme to be followed during the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

9. In some parts of the world it was only minorities that were subject to discrimination, but in Rhodesia 200,000 whites of European origin were seeking to maintain their domination of the black majority for years to come, and in South Africa a white minority had long practised the ignoble policy of *apartheid* in defiance of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

10. The NATO countries should refrain from providing any type of assistance whatsoever to Governments whose policies were aimed at depriving indigenous peoples of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

11. He appealed to the United Kingdom to shoulder its responsibilities in Southern Rhodesia where, with its blessing, the illegal régime of Ian Smith continued to contravene the purposes and principles of the Charter and to suppress the resistance movements of the Zim-

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7, chap. XIII.*

babwe people, whose struggle was supported by the United Nations.

12. The wave of strikes by African workers in Namibia had been followed with great interest in all quarters and the repressive measures adopted by the puppet South African administration had provoked profound indignation. The atrocities committed by the Portuguese régimes in Mozambique and Angola were also a matter of common knowledge and were vigorously condemned by his delegation.

13. He drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,² which contained a number of very important recommendations relating to the struggle against racial discrimination in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and Spanish Sahara. He felt that the report should be made available to the members of the Committee, or that the recommendations it contained which related specifically to the problem of racial discrimination should be reproduced in full for their benefit.

14. Lastly, he expressed the wish that the specialized agencies of the United Nations should prepare a comprehensive study of the economic and social consequences of the practice of racial discrimination in Africa, the Middle East and the territories occupied by Israel.

15. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said he feared that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be merely the first in a series of similar Decades, unless the problem of racial discrimination could be precisely defined.

16. The draft programme for the Decade (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I) was open to criticism on the ground that it raised issues peripheral or extraneous to racial discrimination as such. For example, in paragraph 1 reference was made to "the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small". Discrimination on account of sex was clearly unrelated to racial discrimination, unless it could be maintained that women constituted one race and men another. Similarly, large nations could not be distinguished from small by the criterion of race. Further extraneous elements were introduced in paragraphs 3 and 10, which referred to religion and language, and paragraphs 12 and 15, which added "political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". While deploring discrimination on any of those grounds, he failed to see more than a casual connexion between those forms of discrimination and racial discrimination *per se*. He was, however, willing to admit that in certain cases religious persecution might conceal or mask racial discrimination. The adherents of one of the world's great religions, for example, claimed an exclusive heritage as God's chosen people, a doctrine which might be regarded as a possible source of racial discrimination in that special case. It should be borne in mind, however, that all other great religions claimed to be universal and to embrace all races of mankind.

17. If discrimination based on all those grounds—however odious, reprehensible and even criminal it might be—was to be included in the draft programme, the Decade would be tackling discrimination on all fronts and would run the risk of being too diffuse in its aims. He therefore felt that the Committee should base

its discussion of the draft programme on the definition of racism and racial discrimination suggested by the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights (*ibid.*, annex III, para. 1). If it did not, he feared there would be considerable confusion as to what exactly the Decade was designed to combat.

18. Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) recalled his delegation's consistent support for effective measures by the United Nations to help the peoples of southern Africa and the Portuguese colonial Territories in their struggle against racist and colonial régimes. It had fully supported the inauguration of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and wished to reaffirm its complete solidarity with the aims of the Decade and the principles which had inspired it.

19. The President of Romania, in his address to the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and *Apartheid* in Southern Africa, had re-emphasized Romania's profound solidarity with the struggle of peoples against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and *apartheid* and had promised his country's continuing support to national liberation movements and to colonial peoples fighting for their sacred right to self-determination and independent development.

20. Romania, like other peace-loving and progressive nations, was firmly committed to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and all other United Nations resolutions on the elimination of colonialism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. His delegation therefore welcomed the decision to proclaim the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which it hoped would be a major step forward towards the liberation of peoples suffering under colonial and racist oppression and in the efforts of the international community to put an end to racist régimes. The need for intensified efforts by all countries to combat the scourge of racism and *apartheid* had been underlined by the massacres of civilians in Mozambique and the recent killing of several African miners, including nationals of Lesotho, at Carletonville, South Africa. Such incidents bore witness to the odious and criminal nature of racism, *apartheid* and colonialism. The urgent need to eradicate those evils lent additional importance to the Decade. The Decade should also be used to promote action aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations with regard to the universal application of the principles of the Charter, punishment of those who violated them, strengthening of the peace and security of peoples threatened by racism and colonialism in southern Africa and promotion of respect for the human rights and fundamental liberties proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

21. His delegation was grateful to the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for preparing the draft programme, which set forth in a comprehensive manner action which, if undertaken consistently by all Member States, would doubtless be effective in combating racism and racial discrimination. His delegation would give favourable consideration to any proposal aimed at emphasizing the action-oriented nature of the programme and further clarifying the scope of the suggested measures, which were unques-

² Subsequently circulated as document A/9018.

tionably of value as means to combat racism and racial discrimination.

22. Certain measures were of particular importance for the achievement of the basic purpose of the Decade, which was to eliminate the racist régimes. One such measure envisaged the provision of assistance to national liberation movements and to peoples suffering from racism and racial discrimination (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I, para. 13 (c) and (e)). The national liberation movements had a central role to play in combating racism and racial discrimination. Acting in conformity with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, his country was assisting liberation movements in southern Africa. The proposal to establish an international fund to help the peoples struggling against racial discrimination and *apartheid* was one which deserved full attention. The provision of assistance to the liberation movements was, in his view, an international obligation.

23. Another essential measure envisaged in the draft programme was the denial of all support to racist régimes (*ibid.*, para. 12 (a) (i) and 13 (d)). It should also be mentioned that all Member States were under an obligation to apply the sanctions provided for in the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The main reason that the racist and colonial régimes of southern Africa were able to continue their defiance of the United Nations was that they were receiving military and economic aid from several countries which not only refused to cease, but were actually expanding co-operation with them. The effectiveness of the Decade would depend on the will of all countries to implement the measures provided for in the programme and, above all, to apply the sanctions imposed by the United Nations. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the stress laid on the need to secure implementation of United Nations resolutions on southern Africa. Each year resolutions were adopted which, despite their value as an expression of the dedication of the majority of Member States to the purposes and principles of the Charter, remained without tangible effect. That situation could no longer be tolerated.

24. The failure to implement United Nations resolutions in the field of racism and colonialism was only one aspect of the general problem of the lack of effectiveness of many United Nations resolutions. The problem of finding ways and means, within the Charter, to ensure respect for and enforcement of the decisions of the United Nations was closely linked to the need to strengthen the role and enhance the prestige of the United Nations. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the proposal made in the draft that the General Assembly should consider as soon as possible the adoption of ways and means for securing the implementation of the United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination, *apartheid* and decolonization.

25. His delegation fully agreed with the measures at the national level recommended in the draft (*ibid.*, para. 12), which were in line with measures his country had taken to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in all sectors of political, social and economic life and in the sphere of education and culture. His delegation attached special importance to the educational measures referred to in paragraphs 12 (b) and (c), which brought to mind Principle III of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual

Respect and Understanding between Peoples (General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX)). Only through combining political and legal measures with educational measures would it be possible effectively to combat and to eliminate racial discrimination.

26. An important question which the Third Committee should consider was the establishment of an institutional framework to co-ordinate activities related to the Decade.

27. Romania would give its full support and co-operation to the achievement of the objectives of the Decade and to the activities and measures envisaged in the programme. It was to be hoped that the Decade would mark a decisive stage in the struggle for national and social progress, for human liberty and dignity and for peace and co-operation among nations.

28. Mr. DAMMERT (Peru) recalled that his delegation had strongly and consistently supported the idea of instituting a decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination as a means of continuing the work begun during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. His delegation welcomed the stress laid in the draft programme on securing universal implementation of United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination, *apartheid* and decolonization, as well as adherence to and ratification and enforcement of the instruments on human rights. Those instruments and the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions must complement each other if United Nations efforts at combating racial discrimination were to be effective.

29. One means of increasing the effectiveness of United Nations action to combat racial discrimination would be, as his delegation had pointed out on previous occasions, for the Office of Public Information to prepare Spanish editions of its publications and films dealing with racial discrimination and *apartheid*. Those materials could not be effectively disseminated in Latin America unless they were available in Spanish.

30. The suggestions made in the draft programme with regard to measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels were fully consistent with the policies his country supported. Although some 75 States had already become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, his delegation would welcome even broader adherence to the Convention. Accordingly, his delegation endorsed the appeal the draft programme made in that regard. Believing that all possible steps should be taken to educate the public on questions relating to respect for human rights and the evils of racism and racial discrimination, his delegation was pleased to note the detailed provisions concerning education, training and information in the draft programme (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I, para. 16) and particularly welcomed the proposal that the subject of human rights should be included in the curricula of all schools and institutions of higher education of Member States.

31. It was well known that his Government condemned all violations of human rights and rejected the repressive practices of the racist régimes in southern Africa.

32. Mr. MUSAFIRI (Zaire) reaffirmed the support of the National Executive Council of Zaire of all efforts aimed at eradicating racial discrimination. His delega-

tion fully endorsed all United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination, *apartheid* and decolonization and vigorously condemned all manifestations of colonialism and racial discrimination in Africa or anywhere else in the world. Having adopted effective domestic legislation to prohibit racial discrimination, Zaire recommended that priority should be given at the

international level to action designed to put an end to racial discrimination wherever it might exist in other countries. The continued existence of racial discrimination was incompatible with the progress mankind had achieved in the twentieth century.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

1981st meeting

Friday, 28 September 1973, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1981

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (continued) (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9095, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995):

(a) **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued)** (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1995)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. GRAEFRATH (German Democratic Republic) thanked the Chairman for the kind words he had addressed to his delegation in connexion with the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations, and assured him that his country would do its utmost to contribute to the success of the Committee's work.

2. In the German Democratic Republic, the struggle to combat racism and to uphold and safeguard human rights had begun with the eradication of nazism, a régime which had made racism a State ideology to justify its plans for world domination. The Government of the German Democratic Republic had always supported all measures taken by the United Nations to combat racism in all its forms. It had complied with the sanctions against the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa and had practised active solidarity with the oppressed peoples in their struggle for liberation.

3. As soon as the German Democratic Republic had been able, it had acceded to such important conventions as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

4. For the German Democratic Republic, the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights was very closely connected with the safeguarding of peace on the basis of the sovereign equality of States.

5. Racism was not just a perversion of individuals or groups, or a national characteristic; it was one of the means which imperialism employed to oppress and enslave peoples, and it posed a danger to world peace and security. Various United Nations organs had rightly called the continued existence of the *apartheid* régime a threat to peace and a crime against humanity. With the

advent of socialism in the German Democratic Republic, the socio-economic roots of racism had been eliminated and social relations established which excluded racism and racial discrimination. That fact was reflected in the Constitution and laws, as well as in the everyday life of the country. United Nations representatives had witnessed that at the Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students, held at Berlin, German Democratic Republic, from 28 July to 5 August 1973. He referred to the report of the representative of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* to the Festival which that representative had submitted in his statement to the Special Committee.¹

6. His delegation attached great importance to the programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I) which it considered to be an essential measure. But its implementation would require the active co-operation of all States and all international organizations. In that connexion, it would be very helpful if the States which had not yet done so acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

7. Effective and vigorous action was needed to overcome racism, as had been emphasized at the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973.

8. His delegation was pleased to note that the draft Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (A/9095, annex) had explicitly been made a constituent part of the programme of action to combat racism. The implementation of the repeated calls of the General Assembly for sanctions against racist régimes belonged to the programme of action. Particularly important were all practical measures against racism, such as the complete isolation of the racist régimes and the prohibition of racial propaganda and racist organizations, and the German Democratic Republic strongly supported the demands of the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and *Apartheid* in Southern Africa, held at Oslo in April 1973, that sanctions against the racist régimes should be reinforced and expanded. With regard to the programme of action approved at that Conference and contained in the report of the Secretary-General on agenda item 23 (A/9061, para. 49), his delegation had noted with interest the proposals

¹ See A/AC.115/SR.256.