

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.<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> See A/AC.115/SR.256.

formulated by the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/9094 and Corr.1), which referred to specific forms of the colonialist land-settlement policy pursued in former times by the Prussian colonizers against the Slavs, and currently applied by Israel, South Africa, Portugal and Southern Rhodesia. In addition, his delegation thought that wider use could be made of the non-governmental organizations to mobilize public opinion in support of the ideals and objectives pursued in that sphere. It therefore supported the proposals made by the Oslo Conference and the International Conference of Trade Unions against *Apartheid*, held at Geneva in June 1973, and was sure that the World Congress of Peace Forces, to be held in Moscow in October 1973, would have a substantial impact on the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

9. Lastly, his delegation supported the idea of giving one single organ the responsibility for co-ordinating the various measures against racism, although it did not think it was necessary to establish a new committee for that purpose. It therefore endorsed the suggestion by the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights that co-ordination should fall within the competence of the Economic and Social Council (*ibid.*, annex III, para. 2). The Commission on Human Rights would be the appropriate body to co-ordinate the programme of action, since it had the necessary experience in the promotion of human rights.

10. His delegation expressed the hope that the joint efforts of States which respected the Charter would lead to concrete and positive results in the struggle against racial discrimination, and was prepared to contribute actively to such efforts in a constructive approach.

11. Mr. NODA (Japan) said his delegation attached the highest importance to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and reiterated that his Government was opposed to all forms of racism, including *apartheid*. His delegation supported the main provisions of the draft programme for the Decade prepared by the Commission on Human Rights (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I), although it had reservations about some points in the draft programme.

12. First, with regard to paragraph 13 (g) concerning the possible adoption of new international instruments regarding the elimination of racial discrimination, his delegation believed it would be more appropriate to secure wider application of existing treaties than to try to draw up new ones.

13. With regard to paragraph 17, concerning the establishment of an international fund on a voluntary basis to help the peoples struggling against racial discrimination and *apartheid*, he pointed out that there were already the United Nations Fund for Namibia, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, so that the proposed fund might overlap the functions of those already in existence. If that was to be avoided, the guidelines for the new fund should be defined more clearly.

14. With regard to paragraph 18, concerning the establishment of a special committee to co-ordinate the programmes and evaluate activities during the Decade, his delegation believed that such a responsibility could and should be entrusted to the Economic and Social

Council rather than to a special committee. Moreover, his delegation was of the opinion that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was not solely the responsibility of governmental bodies: non-governmental organizations could play an important part in carrying out the various activities envisaged in the draft programme. In that connexion, he noted the attention devoted to the draft programme by the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights and its suggestions (*ibid.*, annex III) concerning possible modifications to the draft programme.

15. Mrs. LYKOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the policies of *apartheid*, colonialism, racism and racial discrimination had repeatedly been severely condemned in numerous documents of United Nations bodies; nevertheless, despite the demands of the peoples and of the United Nations, inhuman racist theories were still being upheld in various parts of the world, entire peoples were still being humiliated and oppressed merely because their skins were of a different colour, crimes of *apartheid* were still being committed and segregation and other forms of racial discrimination were still being imposed. As had been emphasized by Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, in his statement in the General Assembly (2126th plenary meeting), the healthier the general climate in the world became, the more anachronistic were the remnants of colonialism and the last strongholds of *apartheid* and racial discrimination, the more vigorous was the condemnation they deserved and the more resolute must be the fight for their complete elimination.

16. The Soviet State had, throughout its history, consistently supported the struggle against racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations. One of the first historic acts of the Soviet régime had been the adoption, in November 1917, of the Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia, which proclaimed the full equality of rights of all peoples. In his summary of the 50 years of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, L.I. Brezhnev had stated that on the basis of the profound social and political changes of the preceding half century, Soviet society had risen to a new qualitative level. It had fulfilled the great Lenin's prophecy that socialism would create new and higher forms of human coexistence. A new and historic human society—the Soviet people—had become a reality in the USSR. The Constitution of the USSR and those of the Republics affirmed the equality of rights of Soviet citizens irrespective of race or nationality. In no other State in the world did more than 100 nations and ethnic groups live in conditions of such friendship and mutual assistance.

17. The Soviet Union's ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was clear evidence of its sincere aspiration to international co-operation based on the equality of rights of States and on non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

18. The Soviet Union attached great importance to United Nations activities aimed at combating colonialism, *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination. Many decisions designed to combat those evils had been taken at the initiative of the USSR in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the

Commission on Human Rights. The Soviet Union was striving for full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 1514 (XV), and for definitive action to deprive the racists and colonialists of any possibility of receiving aid from abroad, in particular from certain States Members of the United Nations.

19. Racism in any form was the ideology and instrument of the classes interested in the exploitation of man by man. Precisely for that reason, the imperialist forces and international zionism were using every possible means to maintain the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa and were giving them all the assistance possible. It was quite right therefore that a recent resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity should firmly condemn the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that were continuing to give assistance to the régimes of Portugal and the Republic of South Africa.

20. Her delegation wished to emphasize that the Soviet Union had consistently attached great importance to steps taken within the framework of the United Nations to advance the struggle against racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations. As her delegation had already pointed out in previous statements, the position of the USSR in that matter had been clearly expressed in L.I. Brezhnev's report to the XXIVth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which stated that the United Nations decisions calling for the elimination of the remaining colonial régimes must be fully implemented. Manifestations of racism and *apartheid* must be universally condemned and boycotted.

21. Her delegation was, on the whole, in favour of the draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I), which contained a set of provisions resolutely condemning racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination. The programme should aim at the adoption of decisive measures to combat racism and racial discrimination. It was not enough to adopt measures in the sphere of education; decisive action must be taken at the national and international levels. Her delegation had just received the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/L.1995) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft programme and reserved the right to comment on it after studying its contents.

22. The main task of the competent organs of the United Nations should be to eradicate the flagrant large-scale violations of human rights resulting from wars of aggression and from colonialism and racism and to protect fundamental political and socio-economic human rights. Her delegation therefore believed that questions relating to the struggle against racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination should be essential items on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council. To leave co-ordinating functions to a body outside the framework of the existing United Nations organs dealing with human rights would be to reduce the effectiveness of that important task.

23. As was known, the Soviet Union had proposed (A/9191) the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the current session entitled "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of

the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries". Her delegation proposed that resources intended for economic assistance to developing countries should be channelled primarily to the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America which had encountered great difficulties as a result of severe natural disasters, such as the droughts and floods, occurring in 1973.

24. Lastly, it would be desirable to delete paragraph 5 from the draft programme for the Decade, since it did not conform to the general spirit of that important international document and diverted attention for specific and effective measures designed to eliminate racism and racial discrimination.

25. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt), after thanking the members of the Committee for electing him Vice-Chairman, said that the time had come for action on the draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and on the amendments submitted and views expressed in that connexion by some Member States and non-governmental organizations. Accordingly, he suggested that an informal open working group should be established as soon as possible in order to sort out all those ideas, arrive at an agreed formulation of the draft programme and prepare a draft resolution<sup>2</sup> on the question. The principal points to be dealt with by the working group might include the possibility of organizing a world conference on action to combat racism and racial discrimination and the date on which it might be held, the nature of the body that would supervise the implementation of the programme, and the definition of racism.

26. Mr. NASSER-ZIAYEE (Afghanistan) welcomed the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and said that the membership of those three countries constituted a significant step towards achieving universality in the United Nations.

27. The Republic of Afghanistan, which was determined to bring about in the country a new society based on justice and equality for all citizens, rejected racial discrimination and considered it a flagrant violation of human rights. It thus supported every United Nations measure for achieving the rapid and total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in general and of the policies of *apartheid* in particular. His delegation regarded the various ties of certain Powers with the racist régimes as serious obstacles to the struggle against all forms of racism. It therefore deplored such ties and called for their immediate severance. Furthermore, it extended its full support to the struggles of the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia and fully supported the protection of the human rights of the peoples of territories under foreign occupation and alien domination.

28. Afghanistan had been a sponsor of the texts adopted as General Assembly resolutions 2784 (XXVI), which had provided the basis for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and 2919 (XXVII), which had formally launched that Decade. It therefore fully supported the measures relating to that Decade which were contained in document A/9094 and Corr.1. With world-wide co-operation in its implemen-

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2001.

tation, the measures envisaged in the draft programme would prove to be most effective in eliminating all forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. The delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan was prepared to give its full co-operation in making the Decade a real success and turning-point in the efforts to overcome the evils of racism and racial discrimination.

29. Mrs. YOUNG (United States of America) said that her Government strongly supported the concept of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Referring to the civil rights struggle in the United States, in which her late husband had taken part as a leader, she said that there were some countries where the blatant denial of basic human rights was so inhuman that those who suffered most had the right to the highest priority for redress. The inhuman condition of the black peoples of southern Africa, which was already being given serious consideration by other United Nations bodies, was one of the justifiable and necessary items on the agenda for the Decade.

30. The concept on which racism was based presupposed a posture of superiority over another person, group or groups. Perhaps if the challenge of the eradication of racism and racial discrimination in the next decade was accepted, the consequences of such action might also affect class, caste, religious, tribal, sectional and sex discrimination. The issue could then move from the oppressor and the oppressed to that of brotherhood and the betterment of all mankind. With modern technology, a decade was nothing more than a brief interlude. It was therefore necessary to take up the task. The draft programme under consideration provided for the type of general action which her delegation believed to be necessary. It avoided extremes since it was a compromise, although it was a happy compromise which deserved the wide support it had received. Nevertheless, her delegation had three suggestions to make which were intended to improve the draft programme.

31. There was the danger that the proposed world conference and regional conferences would only duplicate the periodical meetings of the United Nations organs where racial discrimination was already being discussed in detail. The concept of those special conferences should not, however, be rejected. Rather, she saw in them the possibility of altering the traditional pattern of dealing with racism and racial discrimination and of approaching the problem in a new and more comprehensive way. New and more effective initiatives might result from such an approach. Her second suggestion related to the international funds referred to in paragraphs 13 (c) and 17 of the draft programme. Special funds for similar purposes had already been established within the United Nations system, so that the establishment of new funds might well do nothing more than divert resources from existing funds, reduce the total resources available and increase the cost of administering them. Her most serious concern was, however, the co-ordinating machinery recommended in paragraph 18. The original draft programme, as proposed by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, had assigned responsibility for co-ordinating the Decade to the Economic and Social Council, which was the appropriate body to assume that function. In her delegation's opinion, there was no need to set up a special co-

ordinating committee because the Council already had that responsibility; however, if such a committee was established, it should be responsible to the Economic and Social Council. The necessary resources to support the Decade in the Secretariat must be found by whatever means necessary. The Decade should provide bold and creative approaches to an old and exasperating problem. The target date for launching the Decade was near. The next 10 years would be measured not by what was said, but by what was done, and it was necessary to begin to act.

32. Mr. CEDE (Austria) said that his delegation warmly welcomed the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination on 10 December 1973, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Referring to the legal situation in respect of human rights in Austria, which had been laid down in the fundamental law on the general rights of citizens in 1867, he said that a social, political and legal philosophy of the Austrian people had been developing which condemned at the roots all forms of racial discrimination. For that reason, the Austrian Government had deplored and continued to deplore the practices of racial discrimination which still prevailed in various parts of the world.

33. His delegation was of the opinion that, as a first step, the decade of intensified action at the national, regional and international levels was a matter of high priority, and it expressed its support for the goal and philosophy underlying it. He pointed out, however, as the representative of the Philippines had done at the preceding meeting, that the scope of the draft programme (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I) was too broad and included matters, such as sex, religious and language discrimination, which were not directly related to racism. In order most effectively to implement the policy measures set out in the draft programme, it would be necessary to limit its objectives strictly to racial discrimination.

34. With regard to action at the national level, Austria would have no difficulty in implementing the various measures contained in paragraph 12 of the draft programme. It was well known that Austria was already a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and, on the occasion of the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Austrian news media would widely publicize the principle of non-discrimination, which would, in addition, be included in the school curriculum of children and youth.

35. His delegation warmly welcomed the idea of convening a world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination by 1978 at the latest, as contained in paragraph 13. Such a conference would contribute effectively to the achievement of the over-all objectives. It was to be hoped that the convening of a world conference would not merely provide an opportunity for the reiteration of the noble principles proclaimed, but that it would also lead to the establishment of effective machinery for their implementation. With regard to the draft recommendations of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the role of non-governmental organizations in the programme for the Decade (*ibid.*, annex II) and with regard to the

suggestions made by the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights concerning possible modifications to the draft programme (*ibid.*, annex III), he considered that the suggestion to use the definition of racism and racial discrimination given in article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was a very valuable one which would emphasize both the role and the achievements of that Convention. If the terminology of the Convention was accepted, it would not be necessary to hold endless discussions about what was meant by racial discrimination.

36. His delegation stressed its great interest in all the activities undertaken by States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. It was to be hoped that, during the next decade, those activities would bring about a definite improvement in the field of social justice throughout the world. The Austrian Government was more than willing to co-operate to that end.

37. Mr. KARHILO (Finland) reiterated the firm rejection by the Finnish Government and people of any form of racial discrimination, which was incompatible with the concept of human rights based on equality. The existence of institutionalized racism was even more to be condemned because it provided a basis for the systematic pursuance of racial discrimination. Among the institutionalized forms of racism, *apartheid* was unique because it was the very basis for a whole social system. His Government had often stated that the existence of the systematic practice of racism in its worst form in southern Africa constituted not only a permanent danger for the development of that region, but also a threat to the harmonious development of the world as a whole. Experience in the preceding 25 years in the field of human rights had proved that the struggle against racial discrimination was a long-term problem. The obvious conclusion was that it must be attacked on the basis of a comprehensive and systematic programme. His delegation therefore fully supported the proposal to launch, during the current session of the General Assembly, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. An essential prerequisite was the widest possible support of the Committee, which was the most direct link between the policy-making forces in Member States and United Nations machinery for implementing policy decisions in the field of human rights. If, at the end of the Committee's discussions, there were still too many delegations which were not convinced of the advisability of any of the main elements of the programme, the ultimate success of the Decade would be jeopardized.

38. In general, Finland supported the proposed programme and its main elements. It also believed in its success, provided that the necessary basic agreement could be reached, and it saw no reason why it should not be reached. In particular, it welcomed the importance attached in the draft programme to education, training, information and research, since the roots of racial discrimination were in the human mind. In order to be successful in the midst of so many other conferences, the proposed conference must be well prepared. The draft programme did not contain details concerning the preparations, but there would be time to look into that matter. With regard to the proposed voluntary fund, it seemed doubtful to what extent an additional fund in that field, where numerous funds already ex-

isted, would generate new contributions. Rather, it would seem that a proliferation of funds would leave the selection of the fund to be supported solely to the donor, while those who could best make that selection, namely, those who received assistance, would not participate in the decision, and that did not seem right. The main difficulty seemed to be in the organizational aspects of the programme. In order to achieve better co-ordination of United Nations activities in that field, he suggested that the review and appraisal of the Decade should be closely linked to the Economic and Social Council, especially since the Council now better represented all the Members of the United Nations.

39. Mrs. KINYANJUI (Kenya) said that the item under consideration was very important to Kenya, which had suffered discriminatory laws and practices under colonial and imperialist governments. Since its establishment, the United Nations had upheld the doctrine of the equality of all mankind. Measures had been taken every year against racism and against racial discrimination and, thus, in 1972, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2919 (XXVII), had reaffirmed that racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations was a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter, and that it militated against human progress, peace and justice. The General Assembly had agreed that international action against all forms of racial discrimination was of vital importance, especially in securing peace and justice in the world. With that background, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be launched on 10 December 1973.

40. The programme for the Decade called upon the world community to do everything possible to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin or other status, especially by eradicating racial prejudice, racism and racial discrimination. The programme called for all States to take appropriate measures to implement fully United Nations instruments and decisions concerning the elimination of racial discrimination, to ensure support for all peoples struggling for racial equality and to eradicate all forms of social discrimination. The Government of Kenya had abrogated all the discriminatory laws imposed on its people by the colonial government as soon as the country had achieved independence. Article 82 of the Kenyan Constitution stipulated that no law should contain any provision that was discriminatory either in itself or in its effects.

41. It was to be hoped that those States which were not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would become parties during the Decade and that as many States as possible would respond favourably to the appeals of the Decade by helping youth and the victims of racial discrimination and by publicizing as fully as possible the contents of the programme, using all available means. Her delegation also recognized the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights and was convinced that those organizations would contribute enormously to the Decade. It was therefore in favour of their close co-operation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

42. The Kenyan Government unreservedly supported the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was actively studying the International Convention, with a view to becoming a party to it. It was totally committed to taking all necessary measures and to co-operating with the United Nations in championing the cause of human rights and in achieving the goals of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

43. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that her country had always supported every initiative aimed at the elimination of racial discrimination in general and of *apartheid* in particular. That support had been expressed repeatedly, by a vote in favour of every resolution condemning racial discrimination and *apartheid* and by the ratification of relevant conventions.

44. She considered that the draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination contained positive lines of action which permitted some degree of optimism with regard to the results hoped for. Nevertheless, she wished to make some comments concerning it.

45. With regard to the definition of racial discrimination, some delegations had said that the expression "discrimination" was too broad and had proposed that its definition should be brought into line with that contained in article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In that paragraph, however, although the words "race" and "colour" were precise enough, the same was not true of the terms "descent" and "national or ethnic origin", so that the definition was not as restrictive as it might appear. It might be asked whether racial discrimination and *apartheid* as they existed in southern Africa were to be considered or whether the very concept of discrimination was to be combated, in which case the word "racial" would be understood in a broad sense and would cover problems of discrimination on grounds of descent and ethnic origin.

46. With regard to the problem of discrimination on grounds of sex, she recalled that it was basically a question of such rights as the right to vote, the right to education, the right to free choice of work and the right to equal pay. There were many countries where women were still deprived of those elementary rights, and during the Decade that problem could be tackled and the very roots of the concept of discrimination extirpated.

47. It was, unquestionably, urgently necessary to eliminate practices so shameful for mankind as *apartheid*, but it was no less important to protect future generations from the scourge of racial discrimination in its broadest sense, with all its prejudices and erroneous theories. For those reasons, her delegation considered that, while measures to eliminate the tragic situations existing in many parts of the world merited absolute priority, those set forth in paragraphs 12, 15 and 16 of the draft programme were also important.

48. With regard to the effectiveness of the draft programme, it was clear that questions of the co-ordination and evaluation of activities were fundamental. Nevertheless, the establishment of a special committee seemed neither necessary nor useful, and it would be more economical and perhaps more effective to submit those questions to an existing body, such as the

Economic and Social Council. With regard to the international conference proposed in paragraph 18 of the draft programme, she wondered whether, after the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, and the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and *Apartheid* in Southern Africa, a new conference was really necessary. Finally, she stressed that the application of the measures contained in the programme would require active co-operation on the part of non-governmental organizations.

49. Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) said that her delegation felt that the Committee should proceed to examine the draft programme section by section, taking into account the suggestions and recommendations contained in annexes II and III to document A/9094 and Corr.1 and any suggestions made in the Committee. The Committee would then be in a position to ask the Secretariat to submit a revised draft programme, with the relevant financial implications, on which the Committee could take a vote or express a consensus. Alternatively, a working group might be appointed, as the Egyptian representative had suggested at the current meeting, and delegations could submit to it proposals for amendments to the draft programme. The working group would also have to examine the annexes referred to.

50. She recalled that Nigeria had been instrumental in the preparation of the draft programme for the Decade and that it had always been the policy of her Government to support every action aimed at the eradication of racial discrimination and its consequences.

51. The Special Committee on *Apartheid* had suggested, in its report to the General Assembly at its current session (A/9022, para. 282) that, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and in consultation with the Special Committee, a seminar of leaders and scholars of various religions should be convened, in order to consider means to promote concerted action against *apartheid*. It had recommended also that the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies should be requested to provide the necessary assistance to the Special Committee so that it could establish and maintain closer contact with organizations of students, youth, women, lawyers and other groups, in order to promote concerted actions of solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa. Her delegation commended those suggestions to the Committee for consideration.

52. The CHAIRMAN said he felt that the Egyptian representative's suggestion to establish an informal open-ended working group was useful. If there was no objection, he would take it that the members of the Committee agreed that the working group should be established.

*It was so decided.*

53. Mr. SCALABRE (France) said that his country, while respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of those States which persisted in the practices of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, wished to affirm once again its strong condemnation of racial segregation and the doctrines on which it was based. France unreservedly supported General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX), establishing the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa for assistance to the vic-

tims of *apartheid*. Furthermore, on 7 July 1972, the French Parliament had passed a special law to punish manifestations of racism, which would be applied with the utmost strictness.

54. With regard to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, France had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 2919 (XXVII), in which it had been decided that the launching of the Decade should be proclaimed on 10 December 1973. In the main, his delegation found the draft programme for the Decade acceptable. However, like the representative of Iran, he felt that the convening of a world conference on the combating of racism and racial discrimination was not altogether advisable. The Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and

the General Assembly were sufficiently representative bodies, and questions relating to racial discrimination, *apartheid*, decolonization and human rights were considered by them every year. He did not feel, therefore, that better results could be achieved at a conference. Moreover, the financial implications of convening such a conference had to be taken into account.

55. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since there were no more speakers on the list and it was not yet 6 p.m., the informal open-ended working group should begin to meet the same afternoon.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.*

## 1982nd meeting

Monday, 1 October 1973, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1982

### 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/9177, A/C.3/L.1995)

#### GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. KHMIL (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation warmly supported the idea of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and in principle endorsed the draft programme for the Decade (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I). In doing so, it based itself on the principle of internationalism, equal rights and friendship among peoples, which was a corner-stone of socialism and of the internal life and external policy of the socialist countries. Consistently faithful to that principle, the Ukrainian SSR decisively opposed, as it had always done, all forms of discrimination, particularly racial discrimination, which was one of the most shameful forms of the violation of human rights and dignity. His delegation considered that the concentration of effort provided for in the draft programme would contribute to the eradication of racial discrimination.

His delegation wished, however, to make certain comments which, if taken into account, should make the programme a more effective mobilizing force. In particular, it shared the view that paragraph 5 of the programme was inappropriate; that paragraph accorded neither with past efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination nor with the objective of the document, which was designed to intensify those efforts. The thought expressed in that paragraph accorded more with the view which the racists, co-

lonialists and their partners were trying to propagate: the South African racists and the Portuguese colonialists had for many years been waging a relentless propaganda campaign to present the view that the international community was growing increasingly disenchanted and that the role of the United Nations was constantly declining. Such propaganda was obviously designed to sow the seeds of doubt as to the possibility of overthrowing the racist and colonialist régimes in southern Africa and of eliminating racial discrimination. However, the course of events gave no grounds for belief in that propaganda or in the chances of its success. On the contrary, there were many indications of the growing belief of peoples in the rightness of the cause of eliminating racial discrimination. An indication of that attitude could be found in the current composition of the United Nations: the influx of new States had changed the existing attitudes on racism and racial discrimination; the front on which the struggle was being waged, hitherto limited to the socialist and a few other States, had been widened and a change had occurred in the atmosphere of the discussions and the nature of the decisions taken. The new alignment of forces in the early 1960s had led to the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and, later, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, the draft Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* had been prepared (A/9095, annex) and would, it was hoped, be adopted by the General Assembly in time for the commencement of the Decade. Furthermore, there was a consolidation of forces at the international, regional and national levels with a view to implementing United Nations decisions relating to racism, *apartheid* and colonialism. An impetus to such efforts had been given in 1971, the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and the General