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Third Committee**Summary record of the 44th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 13 November 2014, at 10 a.m.

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Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*)

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

- (b) Human rights question, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions *(continued)* (A/C.3/69/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.60: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. **Ms. Smolcic** (Uruguay), introducing the draft resolution, said that the main sponsors were convinced that they met the criteria for membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and were ready to cooperate constructively with all members of that body to find adequate and timely solutions to the challenges facing that Programme. She reiterated the sponsors' strong commitment to the goals of the Programme and to working tirelessly at all levels to improve the situation of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons in accordance with international standards. To that end, the main sponsors had established exceptional cooperation with UNHCR, in addition to being States parties to the relevant international instruments and playing a key role in strengthening regional instruments. She recognized the contributions made by refugees to the development of a culture of peace, respect, plurality and intercultural dialogue in the sponsor countries.

2. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Cameroon and Timor-Leste had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 64: Promotion and protection of the rights of children *(continued)*

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children *(continued)* (A/C.3/69/L.25)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.25: Combating bullying and other types of violence against children

3. **Ms. Diaz Gras** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution, said that Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors. In view of the growing prevalence of bullying, including cyberbullying, and other types of violence against children in recent years,

the attention devoted by the international community to those issues had been inadequate. Cognizant of the urgent need to combat bullying, her delegation was sponsoring the current draft resolution in order to increase awareness of its adverse impact on the enjoyment of children's rights and to promote peaceful coexistence among children based on a non-punitive approach. States must take measures to protect children from bullying and cyber-bullying, notably by promoting greater involvement on the part of civil society, the media and other relevant actors.

4. The draft resolution focused on increasing the visibility of bullying, strengthening prevention, notably through education, and promoting a comprehensive approach that gave equal consideration to the well-being of the victims and instigators of bullying. Given the occurrence of bullying throughout the world, States were urged to exchange best practices for combating that phenomenon and it was recognized that children in vulnerable situations were at disproportionate risk of bullying. In that context, the Secretary-General was called on to draft a report that would allow Member States to better understand the causes and effects of bullying and best practices for protecting children from it. Adoption of the draft resolution would lead to strengthened protection of the rights of children.

5. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Argentina had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 66: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance *(continued)*

(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance *(continued)* (A/C.3/69/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.59: A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

6. **Mr. Mamani Paco** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), introducing the draft resolution, said that the text had been condensed from the previous version and that its title had been modified to reflect the need for greater involvement on the part of Member States in combating racism, xenophobia and related intolerance with a view to ending impunity. In that regard, he

emphasized the innovative work of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and commended delegations' for their participation in the formulation of the Programme of Action for the International Decade for People of African Descent. Noting the importance of political will and resources for implementing relevant initiatives, he underscored the need to reactivate the United Nations Trust Fund for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to renew the activities of the relevant independent experts.

Agenda item 67: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.58: The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

7. **Mr. Mattar** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution, said that Belgium, El Salvador, Germany, Guinea, Guyana, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia and Spain had joined the sponsors. For more than 47 years, Israel had denied the Palestinian people their right to self-determination under what constituted the longest occupation in modern history. The draft resolution was based on the previous year's text, with minor revisions. In view of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and in recognition of the extreme hardship faced by the Palestinian people, he hoped that Member States would support the draft resolution with the aim of ending the Israeli occupation and enabling the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

8. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Iceland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Niger, Russian Federation, Serbia, Timor-Leste and United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

- (b) **Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms** (*continued*) (A/C.3/69/L.29, A/C.3/69/L.30, A/C.3/69/L.38, A/C.3/69/L.44, A/C.3/69/L.45, A/C.3/69/L.46, A/C.3/69/L.48 and A/C.3/69/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.29: Protection of migrants

9. **Ms. Diaz Gras** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution, said that Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay had joined the sponsors. Over the years, Mexico had consistently emphasized the need to address international migration in a balanced manner on the basis of a comprehensive, rights-based approach. Through the current version of the annual draft resolution, which had been condensed from the previous year to avoid duplication, her delegation sought to strengthen measures to promote equal access to justice for migrants and increase the accountability of authorities. Mexico would continue to work constructively with delegations to continue to strengthen governance in the area of international migration.

10. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Angola, Argentina, Egypt, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Nicaragua, Nigeria and Turkey had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.30: The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights

11. **Mr. Rabi** (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution, said that Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors. The primary change reflected in the current version of the draft resolution was the inclusion of subparagraph 2 (d), in which Member States were encouraged to

exchange best practices on the work and functioning of their Ombudsman, a theme that was highlighted in the request for the submission of a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. It was unfortunate that no specific report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/163 had been prepared, as requested in that resolution. His delegation hoped that the current draft resolution would receive due attention and that the request for a specific report would be granted in order to maintain the distinction between the Ombudsman and other national human rights institutions.

12. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, El Salvador, Estonia, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Madagascar, Malta, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovakia and Togo had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.38: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

13. **Mr. Mattar** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution, said that Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution, which was based on the previous year's text, with minor updates, represented a sincere and objective attempt to address the relationship between globalization and the realization of human rights for all. It focused on the need for Member States to examine the equal and interdependent political, economic and social opportunities and challenges posed by globalization in their efforts to promote human rights. It also emphasized the importance of strengthening international resolve and cooperation to overcome the obstacles that hindered States' capacity in the area of human rights, notably by addressing the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and food insecurity, challenges that had a disproportionate impact on developing countries.

14. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Mozambique, Niger, Qatar, Senegal and Sierra Leone had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.44: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

15. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution, said that the resolution recognized the essential role of enhanced international cooperation in achieving all goals of the United Nations, including the promotion of human rights. She hoped that delegations would maintain the spirit of constructive dialogue and cooperation that had contributed to the adoption of the resolution in previous years.

16. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Russian Federation had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.45: Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

17. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution, said that the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries reiterated their opposition to unilateral coercive measures, including those used as a tool of economic and political repression, especially against developing countries. Under no circumstances should a people be deprived of its means of subsistence and development, and States should refrain from adopting unilateral measures that violated international law and the Charter of the United Nations

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.46: The right to development

18. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution, said that the resolution, which continued the follow-up on the activity of the Human Rights Council's open-ended working group on the right to development, represented a sincere effort on the part of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to fulfil the rightful aspirations of their peoples to development and prosperity.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.48: Human rights and extreme poverty

19. **Ms. Amiri-Talesh** (Peru), introducing the draft resolution, said that the eradication of extreme poverty was both a moral duty and a legal obligation. Despite the progress made towards eradication, extreme poverty continued to violate the rights and human dignity of millions. A human-rights-centred approach to poverty eradication would provide a framework for long-term eradication, based on an acknowledgement of the poor as rights holders and agents of change. Member States and the international community had a responsibility to implement social protection policies aimed at eradicating extreme poverty.

20. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Austria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Honduras, India, Nicaragua, Republic of Moldova and Saint Lucia had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.52: Migrant children and adolescents

21. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador), introducing the draft resolution, said that there were some 35 million migrants worldwide under the age of 20 years. Nevertheless, the difficulty of collecting data on children and adolescents in irregular migratory situations complicated attempts to get an accurate grasp of the phenomenon. Children and adolescents in such situations were exposed to grave violations of human rights in the context of migration. The text drew attention to the plight of children and adolescents forced to migrate without the requisite documentation and, in many cases, unaccompanied by their parents. By targeting that particular demographic, it aimed to fill the gap left by other General Assembly resolutions on the rights of the child and protection of migrants, and sought to ensure that the human rights and humanitarian implications of such situations would receive special attention from origin, transit and destination countries, beyond the accession of individual States to specific human-rights instruments.

22. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Costa Rica, Haiti, Panama and Turkey had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (continued) (A/C.3/69/L.61)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.61: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

23. **Ms. Fargalo** (Liberia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa remained dire, amidst escalating conflict and other emergencies, despite the efforts made to address the situation. With the alarmingly high number of refugees worldwide projected to rise to 20 million by the end of 2014, funding was not keeping pace with growing demand, and dwindling resources adversely affected the implementation of various programmes.

Agenda item 26: Social development (continued)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (continued) (A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1: World Youth Skills Day

24. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

25. **Ms. Sabja** (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the text reflected the concerns of all delegations. A lack of skills was at the root of the problem of youth unemployment. In that regard, national education systems were an essential component of ensuring decent work. The draft resolution designated 15 July as World Youth Skills Day in order to highlight the need to develop youth skills and to reduce the gap in abilities as much as possible by equipping the young to make informed decisions about life and gain access to job markets.

26. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Belarus and Montenegro had joined the sponsors.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1 was adopted.*

28. **Mr. Sfregola** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, reiterated the European Union's commitment to promoting a better life for the young in a changing economic and social

environment. He said that youth development could only be achieved through a holistic and comprehensive approach to developing skills. Awareness should be raised in an integrated manner, including through the annual celebration of International Youth Day on 12 August.

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*) (A/C.3/69/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.54: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

29. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

30. **Mr. Hilmersson** (Sweden) said that the draft resolution, which reiterated the General Assembly's support for UNHCR and its Executive Committee, had been updated in the light of recent developments and the challenges facing the agency.

31. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Madagascar, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Uruguay had joined the sponsors.

32. **Ms. Burgess** (Canada) said that Canada reiterated its steadfast support for UNHCR and the agency's provision of protection and assistance to the world's displaced. Her delegation regretted that it had not been possible to include language that underscored the plight of religious minorities in situations of displacement, given that recent crises had demonstrated that vulnerable communities, especially religious ones, faced increasing levels of persecution, violence and repression. Since early 2014, the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant had carried out a campaign of unspeakable atrocities against innocent civilians, gravely exacerbating religious tensions and hardening sectarian divides inside Iraq. It was particularly distressing that once such groups were displaced, they would face further risk and have less access to formal and informal support and protection, thereby perpetuating the cycle of discrimination, violence and exploitation.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.54 was adopted.*

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/69/L.36/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.36/Rev.1: United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

34. **Ms. Al-Temimi** (Qatar) said that since the introduction of the draft resolution, Comoros, Cuba, Iraq and Pakistan had joined the sponsors. Since all Member States supported the cause of promoting human rights, her delegation hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

35. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Timor-Leste and Uganda had joined the sponsors.

36. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.36/Rev.1.

37. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that institutions such as the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region played an important role for countries seeking to build capacity on human rights issues. Her delegation strongly supported the work of the Centre and expressed disappointment that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution, noting that, in the past, only one country had seen fit to call for a vote.

38. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that it was regrettable that the Qatari delegation had once again introduced a draft resolution calling for the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region to be funded from the United Nations budget, although Qatar had pledged to cover the Centre's expenses when offering to host it. The Organization's dwindling resources should be put to more effective use, particularly given the ongoing financial crisis of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

39. Her delegation had followed the activities of the Centre since its establishment and had observed that the Centre had not carried out enough activities since its establishment to justify the attempt to obtain funding from the regular budget. While her delegation agreed with the statement in the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution that regional cooperation played a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights, it was well known that the spirit of that paragraph was not being applied in the region. Instead of cooperation, there was flagrant aggression by neighbouring States, including Qatar, against the Syrian Arab Republic and its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Lastly, while the Centre had its headquarters in Doha, it was not a regional centre, but rather a national centre employed by the Qatari authorities in the service of their agenda of supporting non-governmental organizations and opposition elements in the States of the region in order to sow chaos and division, interfere in their internal affairs and lay waste to their societies, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

40. **Ms. AlMuzaini** (Kuwait) regretted that a vote had been requested on the draft resolution and noted that the Centre provided valuable services to all people in the region.

41. **Ms. Al-Temimi** (Qatar) said that it was unfortunate and surprising that the Syrian delegation had once again requested a vote on the draft resolution, in view of its lack of genuine engagement in what had been a constructive and active negotiation process. She drew the Syrian representative's attention to the absence of programme budget implications in the present version of the draft resolution.

42. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.36/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia.

Against:

Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining:

Angola, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.36/Rev.1 was adopted by 161 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.*

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.