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### ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

#### Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Wilfried GROLIG (Federal Republic of Germany)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered the item jointly with items 95, 98, 107, 108, 112, 114 and 115 at its 36th to 43rd, 50th and 52nd meetings, on 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 21 and 22 November 1989. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/44/SR.36-43, 50 and 52).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Letter dated 27 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/190 and Corr.1);
  - (b) Letter dated 8 May 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/271 and Corr.1);
  - (c) Letter dated 1 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/300);
  - (d) Letter dated 8 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/310);

(e) Letter dated 14 June 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/327);

(f) Letter dated 19 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/330 and Corr.1);

(g) Letter dated 20 June 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/336);

(h) Letter dated 23 June 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/342);

(i) Letter dated 23 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/346);

(j) Letter dated 27 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/348);

(k) Letter dated 29 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/360);

(l) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/405);

(m) Letter dated 21 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/411);

(n) Letter dated 24 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/412);

(o) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/551);

(p) Letter dated 6 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/618);

(q) Letter dated 31 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/700-S/20934 and Corr.1);

(r) Letter dated 5 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/44/3).

4. At the 36th meeting, on 8 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.6/44/SR.36).

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## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/44/L.58

5. At its 50th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Ireland, on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Samoa, Senegal, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.58) entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance". Subsequently, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador and Honduras joined in sponsoring the resolution.

6. At its 52nd meeting, on 22 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.58 without a vote (see para. 7).

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling its resolution 43/108 of 8 December 1988, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

Encouraged by the efforts being made by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to study relevant developments affecting the implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/55 of 8 March 1988 <sup>1/</sup> and Economic and Social Council decision 1988/142 of 27 May 1988, whereby the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and

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<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate was extended for two years,

Emphasizing that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief, including by engaging in examination of the most effective means to promote the implementation of the Declaration,

Conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

Seriously concerned that intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief continue to occur in many parts of the world,

Believing that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. Reaffirms that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a right guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. Urges States, therefore, in accordance with their respective constitutional systems and with such internationally accepted instruments as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 3/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief 4/ to provide, where they have not already done so, adequate constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief;

3. Also urges all States to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and, in this context, to examine where necessary the supervision and training of their civil servants, educators and other public officials to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, they respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

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2/ Resolution 217 A (III).

3/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 36/55.

4. Invites the United Nations University and other academic and research institutions to undertake programmes and studies on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;
5. Considers it desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to this end in the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;
6. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in all the official languages of the United Nations, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;
7. Welcomes the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration, including at the Second International Conference on ways to promote the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, held at Warsaw from 14 to 18 May 1989;
8. Requests the Secretary-General in this context to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing in the implementation of the Declaration and in its dissemination in national and local languages;
9. Urges all States to consider disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in national and local languages;
10. Welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social Council, based on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session, to renew for two years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;
11. Notes that the Commission on Human Rights, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, intends to consider at its forty-sixth session the question of a binding international instrument in this field, and emphasizes, in this connection, the relevance of General Assembly resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986 entitled "Setting international standards in the field of human rights";

12. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration and to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights under that item.

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