

consistent with the economic and social realities of the contemporary world.

3. As in the past, his delegation would participate actively in the work of the Economic and Social Council relating to the implementation of the Covenant and in the efforts to secure ratification by the largest possible number of nations.

4. Mr. KANE (International Labour Office) said that for many years the ILO had been active at many levels in consultations relating to the Covenant and in the preparation of the text, particularly articles 6, 7 and 8. The ILO attached great significance to the Covenant and it intended to continue to co-operate with the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of the Covenant. His organization fully endorsed the report before the Council (E/5764) and would take all institutional and financial steps necessary for the fulfilment of any tasks that might be entrusted to it.

5. He had been surprised by the statements made in the Council by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in which they had questioned the propriety of seeking comments and recommendations from the specialized agencies on reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant. Within the ILO Governing Body and at the annual Conference representatives of those countries had urged that the ILO should be actively involved in the implementation of the Covenant.

6. While it was true that article 16 contained no reference to comments by specialized agencies, he considered it logical that that article, particularly paragraph 2 (b), should be read in conjunction with other articles, particularly 18, 19 and 20, which referred to reports, recommendations and comments by the specialized agencies. He drew attention also to article 17, paragraph 3, which stated that relevant information previously furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by any State party to the Covenant need not be reproduced fully. That provision meant

that the Council might in some instances receive reports, not directly from States, but from the ILO or other specialized agencies.

7. It was essential to keep in mind the need for co-operation between United Nations organs and the specialized agencies. He stressed the high degree of competence of UNESCO, WHO and the ILO in the fields of education, health and labour. The specialized agencies were, as always, ready to co-operate fully with the Council.

8. Mr. WILDER (Canada) said that, after the many years of effort in drafting the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Economic and Social Council would have to live up to its trust of implementing the Covenant through the establishment of effective machinery. He noted that the submission of reports by States parties was envisaged in the Covenant as the principal means of evaluating its implementation. He urged that the experience of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be carefully considered; its use of a committee of experts might well be emulated by the Council.

9. The suggestion that, under article 19 of the Covenant, the Commission on Human Rights should examine the reports of States parties would be acceptable to Canada if sufficient resources were provided for the already overburdened Commission. The Commission should, if designated, be directed to establish a subgroup for the purpose. His delegation was prepared to support a proposal for the establishment of a subgroup of either the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights, although its preference would be for a subgroup of the Commission, which might embody greater expertise and to which Governments should be urged to send experts on the subjects covered.

10. His delegation reserved its right to comment at a later stage on the timing of reports and the involvement of the specialized agencies.

*The meeting rose at 4 p.m.*

## 1989th meeting

Thursday, 22 April 1976, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/5759 and Add.1, E/5760 and Add.1, E/5763, E/5799)

1. The PRESIDENT appealed to delegations to co-operate in ensuring that the debate on the item under consideration took place in the calm atmosphere which was characteristic of the deliberations in the Council and to hold constructive consultations with a view to solving differences of opinion.

2. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) recalled that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination had been in the forefront of the preoccupations of the United Nations since its very

establishment. The Organization seemed genuinely determined to give a definite and, if possible, final blow to that scourge of the day. The admission of the newly independent African States to membership in the United Nations had accelerated the movement and had led to the adoption by the General Assembly first of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 1904 (XVIII)), then of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX)), and further to the decision to launch the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (resolution 2919 (XXVII)). He emphasized the impact the Convention had had and the fruitful co-operation which had developed between the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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and the 88 States parties to the Convention. That had led to a number of measures in the institutional, legislative and administrative fields. The questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General (see E/5759, annex) under paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had improved the quality and increased the number of reports by Governments on progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade. To date, 43 replies had been received to the questionnaire, which was double the number received in previous years.

3. In his statement to the Special Committee against *Apartheid*<sup>1</sup> on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 19 March 1976, the Secretary-General had urged all Governments to give their unreserved support to the Programme. A new impetus might be necessary. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to be held in 1978, might provide such an opportunity by reviewing the progress achieved thus far and would give additional momentum to the final part of the Decade. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/5763) on the consultations with the Government of Ghana concerning, *inter alia*, the organization of the Conference and the financial implications in the light of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV). The assumptions in that report, which were based on the experience of other conferences, particularly the highly successful International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968, were, of course, subject to approval by the Council, which was acting as the preparatory body for the Conference.

4. Consultations with representatives of the Ghanaian Government were being conducted in a most constructive spirit of co-operation. As stated in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report (E/5763), United Nations officials had recently visited Accra and reviewed the existing facilities. A communication had recently been received from the Government of Ghana, the text of which was reproduced in paragraph 15. It confirmed the Government's decision to invite the United Nations to hold the Conference in Ghana. It informed the United Nations of the Government's intention to build new premises for the Conference and hotel facilities, and suggested that the United Nations itself should bear part of the expenses attributable to the fact that the Conference would not be held at one of the established seats of the United Nations. That was a delicate question which involved the application of General Assembly resolutions and might have to be resolved by the Assembly itself after further study.

5. Recommendations concerning organizational matters and preliminary estimates relating to the holding of the Conference were reproduced as annexes I and II to the report.

6. Mr. ABDEL MEGUID (Egypt) said that the introductory statement by the Director of the Division of Human Rights, the reports submitted by the Secretary-General and the debate on the Programme for the Decade in plenary meetings of the Economic and Social Council would be important contributions to the realization of the goals and objectives of the Decade.

7. He endorsed the statement by the Secretary-General on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

in which the latter had urged all Governments to give their full support to the Programme for the Decade, which represented a major response to the conviction of the international community that constant national, regional and international efforts were needed to eliminate racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination.

8. The Council's review of the activities in the Programme for the Decade was taking place against a background of significant developments in southern Africa. The accession of the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique to independence demonstrated the inevitability of the triumph of peoples against the powers of colonialism, racism and foreign domination and was a clear indication that the days of the Smith régime in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia were numbered. In that connexion, he welcomed the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 385 (1976) condemning the continued illegal occupation of the territory of Namibia by South Africa, and of resolution 388 (1976), the aim of which was the tightening of United Nations sanctions against the minority racist Smith régime in Southern Rhodesia. The international community had every right to expect that all States, especially those which maintained relations with those racist régimes, fully complied with the provisions of the Security Council and other relevant resolutions.

9. He observed that at a time when the international community was mounting a campaign to isolate the racist South African régime, the Prime Minister of that country had visited Israel at the invitation of the Israeli Government, a clear indication of the improving and expanding relations between those two countries. *The Jerusalem Post* of 12 April 1976 had quoted Prime Minister Rabin as stating that the two countries shared the problem of how to build a regional dialogue, co-existence and stability, that Israel sympathized with South Africa's historic efforts to achieve détente, and that relations between the two countries had never been better. *The Christian Science Monitor* of 14 April had described the pact concluded with Israel as a diplomatic breakthrough between two brothers in adversity who were co-operating to their mutual benefit. *The Washington Post* of 8 April had quoted an Israeli official as saying that South Africa had earned Israeli friendship and must receive the courtesies it deserved whether the black African States liked it or not. His delegation joined in the condemnation of Israel and warned that the opponents of *apartheid* would not ignore Israeli collaboration with South Africa. The enemies of the African people in the southern or northern parts of the continent should realize that they would be resisted by all available means.

10. While welcoming the affirmation by the members of EEC, including the United Kingdom, of their adherence to the principle of majority rule in Southern Rhodesia, he emphasized the need for concrete action with a view to implementing the relevant United Nations and OAU resolutions for the purpose of ending racist minority rule in Southern Rhodesia and the illegal occupation of Namibia and bringing down the *apartheid* régime in South Africa.

11. He commended the Government of Mozambique in its decision to impose sanctions against the Smith régime in Southern Rhodesia in full implementation of the decisions of the Security Council, and urged other States to follow that example in accordance with their

<sup>1</sup> See A/AC.115/SR.320.

pledge to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. In that connexion, he reiterated the statement made by his delegation in the Security Council on 16 March 1976.<sup>2</sup>

12. Referring to the contribution of the Government and people of Egypt to the struggle against *apartheid*, he drew the attention of the Council to the report on the Mission of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* to London, Cairo, Accra and Conakry.<sup>3</sup> His country was determined to continue to make an active contribution to the liberation of the peoples of southern Africa from the yoke of colonialism and racism. He saluted the African liberation movements in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa and urged that they be given every support in the struggle to uphold human dignity in Africa and throughout the world.

13. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General (E/5763), he expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Government and people of Ghana for their offer to act as host to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The convening of that Conference in Ghana would emphasize the importance of the role of the African people in the struggle against colonialism and racism and would indicate the determination of the international community to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination, particularly *apartheid*. The convening of the Conference in 1978 would be a major event in the Programme for the Decade and would provide an opportunity to assess action to combat racism and racial discrimination at the international, regional and national levels. In order to achieve concrete and valid results, the Conference would need to adopt a "macro" and "micro" approach in its analysis of the problems of racism and racial discrimination and examine the root causes of racism and racial discrimination in the context of the existing international structure and the need to establish a new, just economic and social order and in the light of national situations where people were subjected to the horrors of *apartheid*, colonialism, foreign domination or exploitation. The work of UNESCO, the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission and *Ad Hoc* Working Group on southern Africa, among others, provided a wealth of experience, knowledge and recommendations on the struggle against *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination which should be taken into account in the preparation of the draft agenda and the substantive documents to be submitted to the Conference. As the preparatory organ for the Conference, the Council as a whole or, if appropriate, a smaller group of its members, should ensure maximum efficiency in the preparations for the Conference and co-ordination of available resources in co-operation with the Government of Ghana and the Secretary-General.

14. His delegation was in general agreement with the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/5763). However, it fully understood the request of the Government of Ghana that the United Nations should meet half the expenditure involved in holding the Conference outside United Nations Headquarters. The fact that the Conference would be held

in an African country should outweigh simple financial calculations. Consequently, in accordance with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 3378 (XXX), his delegation appealed to the Council to recommend that the General Assembly give favourable consideration to the request of the Government of Ghana. It was hoped that the revision of certain components of the estimates in annex II to document E/5763 would reduce the total cost of the Conference. The Council might recommend that the difference between the contribution of the Government of Ghana and the original estimates be met from voluntary contributions, pending which budgetary resources might be sought on an exceptional basis.

15. His country looked forward to participating fully in the World Conference, which would focus international opinion on the dangers and evils of racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination to international peace and security and to the very fabric of national societies, and mobilize world public opinion in the struggle to eradicate those evils.

16. The reports of the Secretary-General in documents E/5759, E/5760 and E/5761 revealed the special concern of the international community with the most manifest instances of discrimination, such as the brutality of *apartheid* in South Africa, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia, and the continued denial of the rights of the people of Zimbabwe and of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and contained an account of the resolutions adopted by various United Nations organs with a view to achieving the objectives of the Decade. In addition, he welcomed the entry into force of the Covenants relating to human rights and commended the Committee formed under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on its campaign against all forms of racial discrimination and its endeavours to increase the number of ratifications and/or accessions to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.

17. His delegation also wished to commend the activities of the specialized agencies referred to in the reports of the Secretary-General and, in particular, the co-operation between UNESCO and the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and OAU (E/5760). Such co-operation should be encouraged in the interest of effective implementation of the goals of the Decade.

18. The activities of non-governmental organizations referred to in the reports of the Secretary-General were also encouraging and demonstrated the importance of the role of such organizations in the mobilization of world public opinion.

19. The Egyptian people's consistent resistance to racism and racial discrimination was based on the understanding that racism was a total negation of human dignity and equality. Faithful to its Constitution and traditions, and in compliance with its obligations as a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and a member State of OAU the League of Arab States and the United Nations, it would continue to play its part in the efforts of the international community to combat racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination.

20. Mr. DE FARIA (Portugal) said that his country attached great significance to combating racism and racial discrimination. The Portuguese were justly proud that the scourge of racial discrimination had never

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, 1890th meeting.*

<sup>3</sup> A/AC.115/SR.319.

taken root in their midst. Almost 50 years of a régime which had oppressed both the people of Portugal and the African peoples which it had attempted to colonize by force had inevitably led to occasional disregard of the traditional principles of non-discrimination, but the struggles of the national liberation movements and the overthrowing by the Portuguese people of the Fascist and colonial régime had resulted in spectacular advances towards the goals of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The new independence of the former Portuguese colonies provided an assurance that the discrimination and exploitation to which the oppressed peoples of southern Africa were still being subjected were coming to an end.

21. Racial discrimination, unfortunately, tended to survive régimes espousing it. Racial discrimination and domination of man by man usually went hand in hand, and one often served as a pretext for the other. The Programme for the Decade, recognizing the many forms of racial discrimination that existed and the different circumstances in which racial discrimination might occur, called for action both at the national level and at the regional and international levels within the framework of the United Nations system. A clear definition of the effort expected of Member States by the international community and effective means of co-ordinating their efforts were required. To that end, his Government fully supported the convening of the World Conference and thanked the Government of Ghana for its generous offer to act as host to the Conference.

22. If it was to achieve its goals, the Conference would have to make a thorough study of political, economic and social conditions in the area of the world in which institutionalized racial discrimination constituted a serious international threat, inasmuch as the entire system of political power was founded on it. The Conference should, moreover, make a detailed study of situations in which covert discrimination existed in the hope of averting possible outbreaks of discrimination by preventive international action. The Conference would obviously have to be very carefully prepared for and should concentrate on those forms of racial discrimination which threatened the international community as a whole. Those were, in his Government's view, the institutionalized *apartheid* practised in southern Africa and the economic exploitation of migrant workers.

23. With regard to the first, while it was true that the United Nations had been concerned with *apartheid* for some 30 years, it was essential to review the situation in the light of recent developments in the African continent and to plan joint international action to put an end to the intolerable situation in southern Africa.

24. The economic exploitation of migrant workers was a matter of great concern to his Government. Even the most tolerant of societies might find themselves involved to some extent in racial discrimination through colonial domination or through the exploitation of foreign labour. That phenomenon might occur in any part of the world and in societies that were combating other forms of racial discrimination, those that had eliminated such discrimination and even those which had been victims of such discrimination. The World Conference should undertake a detailed study of action that might be taken at the international level in order to prevent the treatment of foreign labour in ways that resembled racism.

25. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) said that while progress had been made in the elimination of all forms

of racism and racial discrimination, it was extremely disappointing that the persistent efforts of the United Nations had not succeeded in achieving the complete eradication of those evils. The General Assembly's decision to launch the Decade had been motivated by the conviction that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination must be action-oriented. His delegation had voted in favour of resolution 3377 (XXX) on the implementation of the Decade and was trying to co-operate with other States in achieving the objectives of the Decade. He agreed with the representative of Portugal that it was important to consider the question of discrimination against migrant workers, as envisaged in paragraph 3 (i) of that resolution.

26. His delegation had also supported resolution 3378 (XXX), in which the General Assembly accepted the offer of the Government of Ghana to act as host to the World Conference, which, in its view, should concentrate on practical problems and give particular attention to the areas where racial discrimination was most flagrant. The shocking situation prevailing in southern Africa should have high priority on the agenda. He agreed with the representative of Egypt that adequate preparatory work was essential to the success of the Conference.

27. Racial discrimination was alien to Greek tradition and was incompatible with the entire Greek system of law and with its new Constitution. His country had signed and ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and it faithfully observed its provisions.

28. Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium) said that his Government was committed to the Programme for the Decade, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). It upheld the definition of racism contained in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which it had ratified.

29. Discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin did not exist in Belgian law. His Government had consistently sought to instil anti-racism sentiments in its school population because, in its view, an educational curriculum free of all bias was the best method of combating racism and ensuring strict implementation of the laws. At every educational level, appropriate training was given to combat racism. Moreover, Belgium and other countries with which it had concluded cultural agreements were engaged in a programme of eliminating prejudice and racism from history textbooks. Although Belgium's population was only 9.5 million, there were over 700,000 foreign residents in the country, and its schools attracted students from all over the world, particularly from Africa.

30. The secondary school curriculum was being reformed with a view to maximum recognition of the individual and his potential contribution to society. Moreover, there was freedom of choice with regard to moral training: both non-denominational instruction and instruction in all the major religions were available.

31. His Government again stressed its whole-hearted opposition to the revolting policy of *apartheid* and considered that the struggle against *apartheid* was one of the principal elements of the Programme for the Decade. It had been pleased to welcome a delegation from the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and had given it assurance of Belgium's continued support.

32. Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia) said that the Programme for the Decade, which his delegation had helped to prepare, contained recommendations and measures that could effectively contribute, if applied conscientiously by Member States, United Nations organs and the specialized agencies, to the rapid eradication of racism and racial discrimination in all its forms. The collective effort to achieve that end was further strengthened by the emphasis placed on it in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)), the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX)) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX)), adopted by the General Assembly. In all those documents racial discrimination was recognized as being, not an isolated phenomenon, but one that had economic, social and colonial roots; its eradication was of paramount importance for economic and social development and for the strengthening of peace and security.

33. In defiance of the decisions adopted within the framework of the United Nations and of the principles of the Charter, racist régimes continued to deny to the majority of the population in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia their elementary rights; they could not continue to do so without the political, economic and military support of some Western States members of NATO. Some of those countries even had diplomatic relations with those régimes and were expanding their trade relations with them while their supranational monopolies were increasing their activity; such attitudes were in violation of the Programme for the Decade, which called for the termination of all such support by Member States. Indeed, the Security Council had recently extended the sanctions on trade with Southern Rhodesia to insurance and banking operations connected with the import or export of raw materials or commodities, and had reaffirmed that the

situation in Southern Rhodesia constituted a threat to international peace and security.

34. Among the actions taken by human rights organs, his delegation was especially appreciative of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa, which was dealt with in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-second session, and in particular the appeal contained in paragraph 3 of the related draft resolution (E/5768, chap. I, draft resolution I). His country had been one of the first to respond to the request in paragraph 4 of that draft resolution to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.

35. It was clear from the documents before the Council that resolutions had been adopted which should lead to an intensification of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) merited particular attention because it declared zionism to be a form of racism. However, further measures would have to be taken by Governments to implement those resolutions and to institute guarantees against racial discrimination in the legal systems of their States.

36. Racism and racial discrimination were outlawed by the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and the legal safeguards against those practices embodied in his country's Legal Code exceeded the requirements for the adjustment of legislation laid down in the series of legal instruments adopted by the United Nations. His country had no diplomatic relations or other contacts with the racist régimes of southern Africa; it had consistently complied with United Nations decisions on the problem and provided assistance to the national liberation movements in their fight against colonialism, exploitation and racism. His Government welcomed the decision to convene a World Conference on the question in Ghana in 1978 and was prepared to participate in the preparatory work for that Conference.

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.*

## 1990th meeting

Friday, 23 April 1976, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

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### AGENDA ITEM 13

#### Natural resources (*concluded*)\* (E/5778 and Add.1)

1. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council), referring to the statement of financial implications in document E/5778/Add.1, said that it had originally been intended to provide a secretary at G-5 level for the Secretary-General of the United Nations Water Conference by using an existing post, but it had been found that all such posts were currently encumbered and would remain so for the next 12 months or so. The other additional expenditure amounted to \$41,700 and could be broken down as follows: rental and maintenance of office space, \$18,500; construction and alteration of office space, \$9,000; furniture and fixtures,

\$13,200; and communications services, \$1,000. The Secretariat had explored the possibility of reducing those costs but there seemed to be no way of doing so.

2. Mr. EL-ASHRY (Egypt) said that his country attached great importance to the United Nations Water Conference and vigorously supported the appointment of a Secretary-General for the Conference, which was only a year away. He urged the choice of a highly qualified person who had already been involved in the preparatory work for the Conference. The benefit to the international community, especially the developing countries, would outweigh any costs involved.

3. Mr. NSUBUGA (Uganda) recalled that the problem of water in the world was very important, as could be seen from the all too frequent droughts, floods and monsoons. He supported the appointment of a Secretary-General for the Conference and said that the ques-

\* Resumed from the 1986th meeting.