

dignity and that the cruellest form of that deeply seated evil was *apartheid*.

23. The Byelorussian SSR had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and at subsequent sessions had consistently supported the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, with the conviction that those evils were vestiges of colonialism which not only impeded the exercise of the self-determination of peoples but also constituted a constant threat to international peace and security.

24. It was essential to implement General Assembly resolution 31/77, of 13 December 1976, in which the Assembly had condemned the intolerable conditions which continued to prevail in southern Africa and elsewhere, including the denial of the right to self-determination, and had urged all States to co-operate loyally and fully in achieving the goals of the Decade.

25. There were thousands of prisoners in South African gaols and mass detentions continued to be carried out under the existing repressive legislation. The South African régime, the instigator of the bloody killings at Sharpeville and Soweto, had reached the extreme of accusing children of 4 to 10 years old under the Sabotage Act, according to the statements of Mr. Makatini,<sup>1</sup> leader of the African National Congress. Furthermore, South Africa was persisting in its illegal occupation of Namibia in open violation of General Assembly resolution 31/146.

<sup>1</sup> See A/AC.115/SR.339, para. 27.

26. In Southern Rhodesia, the Smith régime was spreading humiliation and terror and its increasing aggressiveness had induced the Security Council to adopt, at the request of Botswana, resolution 403 (1977) in which it demanded the immediate and total cessation forthwith of all hostile acts committed against Botswana by the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

27. The blame should be placed not only on the racist régimes themselves but also on those States which collaborated with them by supplying them with economic and other aid; indeed, the imperialist circles were impeding in that manner the struggle of peoples for liberation and self-determination, an attitude which had been condemned in General Assembly resolutions 2955 (XXVII), 3117 (XXVIII), 3246 (XXIX), 3382 (XXX) and 31/34.

28. Finally, the Byelorussian SSR unreservedly supported the holding of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination since it felt that it would be an effective means of achieving the implementation of the United Nations resolutions in that field.

29. The PRESIDENT said that, at the suggestion of the delegation of Hungary, the members of the Council would be shown the emblem which had been chosen from 42 submissions in the international competition organized by the United Nations to publicize the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The winner of the competition had been the Bulgarian artist, Peter Slanov Petrov.

*The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.*

## 2050th meeting

Friday, 22 April 1977, at 3.35 p.m.

*President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).*

E/SR.2050

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

1. Mr. ZACHMANN (Observer for the German Democratic Republic), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his delegation, which was a member of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, agreed with the proposals concerning the agenda and the organizational aspects of the Conference which were contained in the relevant report (E/5922).

2. No one would deny that the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* was necessary in the interests of peace and international co-operation. Despite the numerous appeals and resolutions aimed at ending those abominable practices, racist régimes continued to suppress the legitimate rights of the African peoples by terror and force.

3. It was well known that the racist régimes were able to persist in their attitude because of the political, economic and military support they received from other States, whose conduct had been condemned in various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. While the representatives of those States condemned *apartheid* and racism in word, they advanced all kinds of reservations when the time came to take concrete measures.

4. A number of States, including the German Democratic Republic, had repeatedly emphasized that racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* were not only violations of individual human rights, or manifestations of psychopathic excesses of certain individuals, but were systematic crimes against humanity aimed at securing profits for capitalism, maintaining colonial exploitation and oppression and setting peoples against each other.

5. The time had come for words to be followed by deeds. The relevant resolutions of the United Nations must be fully applied and the objectives of the Decade for Action to

Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination must be fully attained.

6. In the view of his delegation, the task of the Conference was to make a mid-term review of the Decade and adopt an action-oriented programme on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. In that connexion, the Conference should, among other things, contribute to the full application of United Nations resolutions on racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, decolonization and self-determination, and discuss new measures aimed at isolating and defeating the racist régimes. The Conference should unmask the peace-threatening role of the racist régimes. It should point out the main obstacles to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and outline ways and means for putting an end to the political, economic and military support given to racist régimes in southern Africa by certain States and international corporations. It should adopt measures for increasing assistance to the legitimate struggle of the national liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

7. The more secure world peace was, the easier it would be to fight actively against colonialism, racism and imperialist threats. Peace, détente and effective measures to end the arms race would promote the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade. His delegation therefore believed that that inseparable interrelationship should be given due consideration in the deliberations of the forthcoming Conference.

8. In conclusion, he quoted the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, who, in his message to the Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, had stressed that his country, like other socialist States, would continue to contribute to the struggle to end racial discrimination which had brought so much suffering to mankind and to be a reliable ally of peoples fighting for national and social liberation.

9. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that it was the hope of his delegation that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would contribute to the universal struggle to attain justice, human dignity and freedom.

10. His country had given full support to the objectives of the Programme for the Decade and was committed to the fight for the elimination of colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. As a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Philippines had supported the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. His country's membership in the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports was further proof of its commitment to the struggle.

11. The Government of the Philippines had always supported the work of 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 Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the United Nations Council for Namibia, as well as that of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, and had contributed to various United Nations humanitarian funds and to the Support and Solidarity Fund for Southern Africa, which had been established by the non-aligned countries and which was dedicated to improving the lot of the oppressed black peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

12. His Government regretted the inability of Ghana to act as host to the Conference and hoped that that country would remain in the forefront of the struggle for human dignity and the attainment of the objectives of the Programme for the Decade. His delegation hoped that another African country would offer to serve as host country; failing that, however, his delegation reserved the right to express its preference in the choice between Geneva and New York.

13. With regard to the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee (E/5922), he expressed support for the provisional agenda in general and, in particular, for the proposal to appoint a Secretary-General and invite all States to participate in the Conference. His delegation agreed with the suggestion that the Conference should concentrate on the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* in southern Africa.

14. Convinced of the necessity of giving the widest possible publicity to the Conference, his delegation welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken by Governments, United Nations organs and the specialized agencies for that purpose (E/5920 and E/5921).

15. Finally, he observed that the established procedure had not been followed, since the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee had not been introduced, and he expressed the hope that that would not constitute a precedent.

16. Mr. WU Hsiao-ta (China) said that racial discrimination and *apartheid* still constituted heavy shackles on the people of some regions, in particular those in southern Africa who were yet to achieve their independence. In order to suppress the Azanian people, the South African racist régime had promulgated over many years countless discriminatory laws and regulations such as the *apartheid* laws and the Public Safety Act, brutally persecuting the Africans. The South African authorities had forcibly corralled more than 17 million Africans within barren lands accounting for only 13 per cent of the total area of South Africa, while allowing some 4 million whites to appropriate 87 per cent of the country which included the cities, industrial centres, mines and fertile land. The black inhabitants, whether they lived in bantustans or cities, were leading a sub-human existence. In Namibia, the South African authorities had driven 800,000 Africans into "homelands", while letting the white racists seize all the mines and fertile lands. The Rhodesian racist régime had promulgated more than 60 discriminatory laws and had forcibly occupied the fertile land accounting for half the total area of the country. Large numbers of people in Zimbabwe had been forced to leave their homes and move

to "reservations", thus becoming cheap labour for the white capitalists and plantation owners. To the black inhabitants, South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia were a veritable hell on earth.

17. Racism and racial discrimination were the products of colonialism. In order to smash the shackles imposed on them, the peoples of southern Africa who had not yet achieved independence were waging heroic struggles. Since the middle of June 1976, Azania had seen a succession of large-scale struggles led by the students of Soweto and supported by the people of various social strata. The patriotic armed forces of Zimbabwe were growing in strength and the area in which they operated had continued to expand, thus dealing increasingly heavy blows to the colonial army. The armed forces of Namibia were also making great strides on the road to victory.

18. The Vorster and Smith racist régimes, like all other reactionary forces, would never of their own accord yield their positions and, on the contrary, were intensifying the use of dual counter-revolutionary tactics in an attempt to maintain their domination. On the one hand, they increased their military power and, on the other hand, they continued to resort to "peace talks" and to various kinds of political fraud. In October 1976, the reactionary authorities of South Africa had directed the farce of the so-called "independence of Transkei"; in 1977, they had established a puppet "transitional government" in Namibia. Those clumsy frauds had not, however, deceived the peoples of southern Africa, who understood that it was only by persisting in armed struggle that they could defeat racism and colonialism.

19. Currently, the super-Powers were stepping up their rivalry in southern Africa. While one super-Power was trying by every possible means to maintain its interests, the other super-Power, which had styled itself the "natural ally" of the national liberation movement, was intensifying its infiltration and expansion in southern Africa, sowing discord and creating divisions among the national liberation organizations and African States. Recently, that super-Power had recruited mercenary forces for a large-scale invasion of the Republic of Zaire. All those events had made it more difficult for the people of southern Africa to obtain their national liberation. On the other hand, by negative example, those events had taught them to be wary not only of the danger of racism and colonialism but also of that of super-Power hegemonism.

20. The just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against racism and for national liberation was a component part of the struggle of numerous third world peoples against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism, and it was only natural that they could count on the solidarity and support of people the world over. The Political Declaration<sup>1</sup> adopted by the First Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, which was held at Cairo from 7 to 9 March 1977, had demonstrated the unshakable will of 60 African and Arab States to support the peoples of southern Africa and to fight and triumph together with them. The Government and people of China would, as always, support

the peoples of southern Africa in their just struggle against colonialism, racism, zionism, imperialism and hegemonism.

21. His delegation supported the convening of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and wished it success.

22. Mr. KUBRA (Iraq) reiterated his Government's resolute support for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which it regarded as a good basis for action to liberate the world from colonialism, imperialism and racism. One of the most pernicious forms of racial discrimination was that being applied in southern Africa and in the occupied Arab territories. The various forms of oppression to which the the people of South Africa had been subjected had become a threat to peace and stability not only on the African continent but throughout the world.

23. The problems of the oppressed Arab people in occupied Palestine were analogous to those of the people of South Africa, and the struggle for national liberation of the people of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, occupied Palestine and other lands was a common struggle. For that reason, the First Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States had reaffirmed the need to strengthen their peoples' united front for national liberation and had condemned imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism and *apartheid* and all other forms of discrimination and racial and religious segregation.

24. Iraq fully supported the effective implementation of all the United Nations decisions and resolutions on the item under consideration. It believed that the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/5922) was a positive step towards eliminating those ills and therefore hoped that it would be accepted without reservation.

25. Mr. FAKTOR (Czechoslovakia) said that, despite the efforts made by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and many other organizations, the reality was that racism and racial discrimination continued. One example of that fact was that in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and Namibia such practices had become the official policy of the white régimes, which were able to persist in that course of action thanks to the support received from the imperialist countries, particularly members of NATO, despite the fact that the representatives of those countries often spoke of freedom, human rights and equality.

26. Racism and racial discrimination were concepts alien to the nations of Czechoslovakia, and its Government, by policy and through its system of education and mass media, gave its citizens the opportunity of acquainting themselves with all the negative aspects of such practices.

27. Czechoslovakia fully supported the struggle of all oppressed peoples against racism and racial discrimination, and his delegation, which had supported the adoption by the General Assembly of the Programme for the Decade, expected that the Council would at the current session evaluate the course of the Programme and adopt measures to ensure the effectiveness of all contemplated action.

<sup>1</sup> See A/32/61.

28. Miss DJURIČKOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that she regarded the item under consideration as one of the major topics being dealt with by the Council at the current session. It had become manifest that, in addition to the struggle of the oppressed peoples, it was necessary to adopt political measures to ensure the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia as well as other strongholds of colonialism and foreign domination.

29. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination constituted a significant part of the efforts of the United Nations to isolate politically and economically the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, particularly in the field of military and technological co-operation. Furthermore, that Conference, together with those to be held at Maputo and Lagos, should result in full support being given to the liberation movements.

30. Since, as stated in the Programme for the Decade, it was highly important that the Conference should be convened in 1978, her delegation believed that the adoption of a decision to that effect by the Economic and Social Council at the current session would be very useful in order to enable the General Assembly to take up the item at its thirty-second session. For that reason, her delegation was prepared to support any draft resolution summing up the proposals contained in the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee. As a member of the Sub-Committee, her delegation was also prepared to participate in any future work of that body if the need arose.

31. In conclusion, despite the reservations which some delegations might have with regard to the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee, there seemed to be general agreement on the need to hold the Conference, and it would be very important for the Council to take a decision on the various issues related to the organization of the Conference in order to expedite its preparation.

32. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that it could be inferred from the documentation submitted for consideration of the item that in recent years meaningful contributions had been made to the cause of the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. Significant among those contributions were those of the socialist countries and the developing countries; as a result of their efforts, the General Assembly had adopted the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and important international instruments, among which mention should be made of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, and the resolutions which condemned other forms of racism adopted at the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions.

33. Mention should also be made of the significant work carried out by the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, the World Conference for Action against *Apartheid* to be held at Lagos in August 1977 and the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia which would be held at Maputo from 16 to 21 May 1977. The Ukrainian SSR would participate in the latter Conference in order to support the cause of self-

determination and independence, and it had already made an important financial contribution to that Conference. It should also be noted that the First Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States had condemned the activities of the racist régimes.

34. Despite all that, racism had not yet been eliminated and continued to enjoy the support of the most reactionary circles of imperialism. It was regrettable that many States were not applying the measures set forth in the Programme for the Decade and had not become parties to international instruments such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. That situation indicated a negative attitude towards the struggle against racism.

35. South Africa was the principal bulwark of racism and racial discrimination, the law of that country being based on those principles. The South African Government supported the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia, and the violent and cruel oppression employed by those two régimes had been condemned by the entire world. Furthermore, the bloody struggle which they had undertaken against the national liberation movements represented a threat to neighbouring independent countries and to international peace and security.

36. However, the Pretoria and Salisbury régimes were not solely responsible for the situation, and the same charges could be made against those States whose economic and military aid made it possible for the two régimes to maintain their current position. There could be no doubt that investments in southern Africa by transnational corporations from NATO countries represented investments in the system of *apartheid* itself, a system which ensured their continued exploitation of African resources. Furthermore, those very forces which supported racism in southern Africa were also trying to change the course of history in the independent countries of Africa and Asia and, among other things, had even resorted to the assassination of progressive political leaders.

37. Racial discrimination was anachronistic and had been strongly condemned by the peoples of the world. For their part, the socialist States had eliminated all forms of discrimination and had made it possible for hundreds of nationalities to live together in perfect harmony. Accordingly, the struggle being waged by other peoples against oppression had the full support of the socialist countries. The twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had declared that the total elimination of systems of colonialist oppression and racism represented an urgent task. The Ukrainian SSR firmly supported the implementation of the Programme for the Decade and the other relevant decisions of the United Nations, and would provide every assistance in ensuring respect for the principle of self-determination, a principle which lay at the very heart of the socialist system. His country also condemned South African manoeuvres aimed at establishing a puppet régime in Namibia, as well as oppression of the indigenous people of Southern Rhodesia.

38. In proclaiming the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the General Assembly

had based its decision on a desire to put an end to the last manifestations of such evils, and all Member States had an obligation to implement the Assembly's decisions in that respect. Chapter V of the Secretary-General's report (E/5920) showed that the Office of Public Information had conducted certain activities in that respect. However, the Office must make a greater effort, and in that connexion, it should be noted that, in resolution 31/6 H, the General Assembly had proclaimed that any collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa constituted a hostile act against the people of South Africa and a defiance of the United Nations and the international community. That idea must be more fully reflected in all aspects of the Office's work, as well as in the information activities of the ILO and UNESCO.

39. The resolutions adopted at the most recent sessions of the General Assembly, as well as the exchange of views which had taken place in the Council and in the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference, showed clearly that the overwhelming majority of Member States attached great importance to the convening of the Conference in 1978 as a means of drawing attention to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination throughout the world, and in southern Africa in particular. His delegation considered that the Secretariat should make every effort to ensure the timely preparation of documentation needed for the Conference and make practical and specific recommendations on organizational measures leading to the convening of the Conference in 1978.

40. In general, his delegation supported the recommendations and proposals concerning the provisional agenda contained in the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/5922); that provisional agenda included, among other things, a review of progress achieved and the identification of major obstacles encountered at the global, regional and national levels with regard to combating racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. His delegation thought it extremely important to include in the agenda of the Conference the question of the evaluation of the effectiveness of methods employed for combating racism and racial discrimination, including the impact of international conventions, declarations and recommendations. The Conference should consider the question of the formulation of effective ways and means and concrete measures for securing the full eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, particularly with respect to the full and universal implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the preparation of new international instruments.

41. It was also essential to emphasize the importance of international support and assistance for the peoples and movements active in the struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination, as well as for those forces committed to the isolation and elimination of racist régimes in southern Africa.

42. With regard to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference, his delegation thought that, in view of the large number of organizations which had been granted consultative status by the Council, it was important, when preparing invitations to participate in the

Conference, to take into account the activities of the said organizations in the struggle against racism and their real contribution to the Programme for the Decade. His delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution being prepared in connexion with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and pledged its full co-operation in ensuring the Programme's success.

43. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that the ideals of States Members of the United Nations must be translated into positive concerted action. Racism and racial discrimination, which were a disgrace to humanity and represented an open and shameful violation of the Charter of the United Nations, had been resolutely condemned by the international community and world public opinion. However, it was now necessary to embark on an unceasing struggle against the last bulwarks of that loathsome scourge. Ever since its independence, Tunisia had been engaged in increasing efforts to combat the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* in all their forms. Although Tunisia had never experienced problems of that kind, any manifestation of discrimination in any form whatsoever was, in accordance with the country's legislation, a punishable offence.

44. On many occasions, the President of the Republic of Tunisia had pledged his total support for the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and Palestine in their struggle against all forms of racism and colonial domination. In that connexion, Tunisia was one of the countries which had ratified the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, and it hoped that other countries would ratify the Convention as quickly as possible since it provided States with an opportunity to give concrete expression to their good intentions.

45. The Decadé for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should strengthen the determination of all States to act together in eliminating all forms of discrimination and in liberating those still subject to it. Tunisia reaffirmed its solidarity with the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Palestine in their struggle to free themselves from such evils. The international community should not limit itself to condemning those racist régimes which still existed in southern Africa and Palestine, but should also, and above all, condemn those which were really responsible for the survival of racist policies, namely those States which provided the racist régimes with political and material aid, since, without such help and support, the oppressors would long since have collapsed in the face of the determination of States Members of the United Nations and their repeated condemnation.

46. Tunisia firmly supported the convening of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held in 1978, and hoped that participation in that Conference would be as broad as possible. It was vital to work together to ensure the success of an undertaking which would provide the final impetus for the elimination of régimes based on discrimination, particularly in southern Africa and the Middle East.

47. His delegation welcomed the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference, which augured well for the future success of the Conference, in accordance with all the relevant United Nations resolutions.

48. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that, in proclaiming the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1973, the General Assembly had based its decision largely on the serious way in which racism in all its forms impeded progress and the strengthening of international peace and security.

49. It should not be forgotten that the entry into the United Nations of a large number of newly independent third world countries had led to the acceleration of a movement which encouraged the international community in its efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination wherever it occurred, but particularly in Africa, a continent which for centuries had been the site chosen by a few colonial Powers for the exploitation of all physical and human resources. Even now, at a time when almost the entire continent was independent, and despite the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council, the illegal régimes of southern Africa continued to implement their racist policy, euphemistically referred to as the "policy of separate development"; such a policy could conceal from no one the desire of those régimes to maintain the policy of *apartheid* and "bantustanization" permanently in the region, with consequences which represented a real threat to international peace and security.

50. With a feeling of revulsion and indignation, she noted that racism and racial discrimination extended to other parts of the world, with similar manifestations of violence and cruelty. The tragedy of the Palestinian people and their sufferings at the hands of a system based on religious discrimination was a living example which the international community had before it. Algeria would continue to give its full and lasting support to the Palestinian people, who were the victims of a form of racism in the service of an expansionist and discriminatory policy. With the same faith in the principles which had always guided its international conduct, Algeria dedicated itself to combating racism and racial discrimination, however they might be disguised.

51. The situation of migrant workers continued to be a cause of concern for many third world countries. Although it must be recognized that some Governments of the countries receiving such workers appreciated the contribution which they made to the balance of their economy and had adopted some measures to guarantee their security, it was none the less deplorable to see that social efforts were not commensurate with the sacrifices of those groups of emigrants. In that connexion, she noted with satisfaction the proposal that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should consider an item related to international and national action to ensure the cessation of all discriminatory measures against migrant workers.

52. Her delegation wished to stress once again its satisfaction at the progress made in the preparations for the Conference; substantial results had been obtained with the adoption by the Preparatory Sub-Committee of the report containing the draft provisional rules of procedure and the draft provisional agenda for the Conference. The latter was the result of close collaboration among a large number of member delegations and had been adopted by the Sub-Committee by consensus.

53. The Conference was unquestionably a milestone in the struggle waged by the international community for the

elimination of the scourge of racism, which afflicted a large part of mankind, a decisive moment in the Decade and a testimony to world solidarity and the commitment of Member States in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Algeria, which had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, would spare no effort to ensure the success of the Conference.

54. Miss HOLZER (Austria) said that Austria's basic position on the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the World Conference was well known. The Programme for the Decade, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 3057 (XXVIII), and the objectives and policy measures contained therein continued to meet with its full approval. One proof of the importance which Austria attached to the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms was its participation in the work of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference and in various other United Nations bodies dealing with human rights. Austria was particularly concerned about the situation in southern Africa, where the persistence of the grossest form of racial discrimination presented the threat of bloody racial confrontations. Austria hoped that the World Conference would help to increase general awareness of the problem of the existence and persistence of racism in certain parts of the world and its consequences, inspire further efforts for the elimination of racial discrimination, and ensure that reason prevailed in southern Africa and that a peaceful solution was achieved.

55. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 21 March, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Willibald Pahr, had sent a message to the Secretary-General in which he had expressed his country's profound concern about the persistence of racism and its solidarity with the victims of racial discrimination. In line with its support for the struggle of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, Austria had recently contributed the sum of \$5,000 to the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, to be held in May at Maputo.

56. Austria had welcomed with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Ghana to act as host to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and regretted that that offer could not be maintained, because it felt that it would have been most appropriate to hold the Conference on African soil.

57. Mr. MOHAMMED (Bangladesh) said that the Government and people of Bangladesh were strongly committed to the total and final eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. Under its Constitution, Bangladesh was committed to support for oppressed peoples throughout the world struggling against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

58. The scourge of racism and racial discrimination was an affront against humanity. Africa was merely the geographical context where the struggle had gained momentum; with the collapse of colonialism, the islands of racism and *apartheid* in southern Africa had become the focus of the wrath of the whole international community. Those régimes would, however, have to yield to the irreversible tide of history.

59. Racism and racial discrimination in all their forms had been unequivocally condemned by the United Nations and world public opinion. The international community should now express through action its determination to eliminate those evils completely. To that end, the General Assembly had proclaimed the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had adopted a broad programme of action, including the holding, in 1978, of the World Conference. His delegation felt that wide publicity should be given to the Programme for the Decade, because it believed that it was essential to mobilize world public opinion. It also in general supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference because it felt that that report constituted a solid basis for the preparation of the Conference and that it was essential that there should be the widest possible representation and participation in the Conference.

60. In conclusion, he pointed out that Bangladesh, which was one of the least developed countries, appreciated the inability of the Government of Ghana to act as host to the Conference and hoped that it would continue to keep its place in the vanguard of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

61. Mr. KARUHIJE (Rwanda) said that the scourge of racism and racial discrimination constituted one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, inasmuch as it divided men from birth, throughout their lives, and even after death, since there were separate cemeteries for blacks and whites.

62. Rwanda felt solidarity with the people of South Africa, who were suffering the most perverse form of racism, *apartheid*, and with the Palestinian people, who were the victims of infamy, and it condemned the external aid received by the racist régimes of southern Africa.

63. With regard to the Decade, his delegation paid a tribute to the specialized agencies, and to non-governmental organizations and private organizations for the work they

had done in support of the Decade, and it thanked the Council and all its bodies for the efforts they had made in that connexion.

64. Investigations carried out in the United States of America and France showed that there was destined to be a mingling of the races and that in 2,000 years time the population of the globe would be homogeneous. He hoped that it would not be necessary to wait 20 centuries to see the scourge of racial discrimination disappear from the face of the earth.

65. His delegation considered that the holding of the Conference was necessary and urgent, because it would enable the international community to gain an awareness of the problem of racism. Referring to the reservations set forth in the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee, he said he hoped that the Council would be able to approve that document by consensus.

66. Mr. DOWNES-THOMAS (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had recommended, in part one of its report (E/5922), that a member of the Division of Human Rights should attend the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia to be held at Maputo. That recommendation, if approved by the Council, would entail financial consequences for the Division of Human Rights in the amount of \$2,000 for travel and subsistence expenses.

67. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council accepted the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that a member of the Division of Human Rights should attend the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

*It was so decided (decision 215 (LXII)).*

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*

## 2051st meeting

Monday, 25 April 1977, at 3.35 p.m.

*President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).*

E/SR.2051

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

1. Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland) said that racism and racial discrimination were totally incompatible with the basic principles and ideological foundations of the socio-political system in his country. Poland had always attached great importance to United Nations activities aimed at eradicating colonialism, racism, *apartheid* and all forms of racial

discrimination; it was a party to international instruments relating to that subject, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*; in March 1977 it had ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; finally, it had been on Poland's initiative that the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, which classified *apartheid* as a