



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Forty-fourth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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*President:* Mr. Manuel PEREZ GUERRERO  
(Venezuela).

## AGENDA ITEM 18

Non-governmental organizations (continued) (E/4476  
and Corr.1, E/4485 and Corr.1, E/L.1207/Rev.2)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the revised text of the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (E/L.1207/Rev.2).

2. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that he was reluctant to vote for a draft resolution which had no specific purpose. Operative paragraphs 4 and 5, in particular, merely affirmed certain facts and would carry far less weight than recommendations; they did not even contain a clear and definite statement of the reasons justifying the proposed action. In his opinion, it was quite unnecessary to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the provisions of the resolution (1296 (XLIV)) governing consultative status of non-governmental organizations, adopted by the Council at its 1520th meeting. The beginning of operative paragraph 4 was also unsatisfactory; either the word "immediate" or the word "sympathetic" should be deleted. Since the revised draft resolution merely expressed hopes interspersed with numerous reservations, it would have been more accurate to call it a draft declaration. Nevertheless, he saw no objection to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, since it raised no problems.

3. Mr. ZORRILLA (Mexico) pointed out that in the Spanish text of the revised draft resolution the wording "atención inmediata y favorable" was used in operative paragraph 4. The English and French texts, which said that the application should be accorded immediate "sympathetic" consideration, were less explicit.

4. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) criticized the wording of operative paragraph 5, which was based on principles which, in his view, were not in keeping with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Indeed, any attempt to classify a country's population according to its ethnic, racial or cultural origins might jeopardize national unity and have disastrous results at the national and international levels. He therefore proposed that the words "minority groups of diverse religious, ethnic, racial and cultural origins" should be replaced by the words "racial groups".

5. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) supported the amendment to operative paragraph 5 proposed by the representative of Kuwait. Although the revised draft resolution was couched in moderate terms, it was logically constructed, since paragraphs 4 and 5 reaffirmed certain facts which justified the more precise recommendation and requests contained in operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 8. It was obvious that the text was not perfect, largely because its sponsor had already agreed to a less forceful wording in order to take into account the comments of other delegations. Nevertheless, it was a step in the right direction, and his delegation intended to support it.

6. Mr. VARELA (Panama) endorsed the statement of the representative of Mexico concerning the Spanish text of the revised draft resolution. The wording used in operative paragraph 4 of the Spanish text re-introduced the idea of automatic association which had appeared in the original text of the draft resolution (E/L.1207). He therefore proposed that the words "conceder inmediata y racional benevolencia" should be used in the Spanish text.

7. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) proposed that in the second preambular paragraph the word "value" should be replaced by the word "contribution".

8. Mr. JHA (India) supported the amendment to operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution proposed by the representative of Kuwait. In general, he considered that, since the United Nations had been endeavouring for more than twenty years to eliminate the practices of racial discrimination, it was appropriate to include a specific mention of organizations engaged in combating such practices. He would like the word "and" to be inserted between the words "immediate" and "sympathetic" in operative paragraph 4.

9. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) accepted the amendment to the second preambular paragraph proposed by the representative of the Philippines. A change should be made in operative paragraph 3: the words "organizations which propagate" should be replaced by the words "organizations whose aims or practices propagate". He could accept the amendment proposed by the representative of Kuwait without difficulty, but he would like to hear the opinion of the United States and United Kingdom delegations, since the wording of operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution was the result of a compromise and took into account the views of those delegations.

10. Most of the criticisms made by the representative of Upper Volta were justified. He himself had considered submitting a draft declaration to be annexed to the Secretary-General's report on non-governmental organizations (E/4476 and Corr.1). However, his desire to reconcile divergent points of

view had finally led to the text now before the Council. He would have preferred the draft resolution to have been much more strongly worded. He fully endorsed the statement of the representative of Sierra Leone and thought that no delegation should have difficulty in voting in favour of such a mild text.

11. Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that operative paragraph 5 of the revised text of the draft resolution (E/L.1207/Rev.2) contained many debatable points. He understood that an attempt had been made to find a more comprehensive formula than that contained in operative paragraph 4 of the original text (E/L.1207), which referred to "the black citizens of the United States and the United Kingdom". However, entirely new elements had been introduced which considerably weakened the text.

12. He did not see why it would necessarily be desirable for organizations representing minority groups to be associated with the Office of Public Information. For instance, the white minority in South Africa had no need of non-governmental organizations to defend its interests. On the other hand, there were many States where minorities did not exist. He would support the amendment to operative paragraph 5 proposed by the representative of Kuwait.

13. His delegation considered, moreover, that organizations from all States, whether or not they were Members of the United Nations, had the right to be associated with the Office of Public Information. The wording used by the sponsor of the draft resolution was discriminatory, and he proposed that the words "from all States Members of the United Nations" in the first sentence of operative paragraph 5 should be deleted.

14. Mr. VIAUD (France) pointed out that the draft resolution concerned non-governmental organizations, namely, private organizations representing groups which defended interests in the economic and social fields which were not necessarily the interests of Governments. Viewed in that light, the text gave rise to certain reservations. For instance, losing sight of the subject under consideration, the sponsor of the revised draft resolution spoke, in operative paragraph 5, of associating with the Office of Public Information organizations "representing peoples from Africa". Apart from the fact that the text should specifically refer to "non-governmental" organizations, it was obviously inconceivable that organizations of that kind could represent peoples.

15. He also had reservations about the use of the words "minority" and "origins" in operative paragraph 5. The meaning was not very clear. The amendment to that paragraph proposed by the representative of Kuwait would dispel any misgivings about the phrase in which those words were used.

16. His delegation could support the rest of the text, subject to certain amendments which it considered necessary. The second preambular paragraph, which rightly stressed the valuable contribution which non-governmental organizations could make to the dissemination of information about the United Nations, should specify that such information should relate to activities in the economic and social field. Thus amended, the statement would reflect a continuing practice which had been followed ever since the

creation of the Council and the establishment of consultative status.

17. His delegation would support operative paragraph 3, which had been proposed by the representative of Kuwait at the 1521st meeting, because it implied condemnation of all violations of human rights, and not only those relating to apartheid and racial discrimination. He nevertheless reserved the right to propose a text which would dispel the doubts some delegations still entertained concerning that paragraph.

18. His delegation was prepared to accept operative paragraph 8, provided that it referred specifically to the Secretary-General's annual report to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The twenty-third session was ruled out because the Secretary-General would not have sufficient information on the implementation of the resolution by that time to make it worth mentioning in his report.

19. Mr. FORSHELL (Sweden) said that his delegation supported operative paragraph 3 as amended orally by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the understanding that the Office of Public Information, in reviewing the status of organizations associated with the Office or considering new applications for association, would base its findings only on the material at its disposal—the structure of the non-governmental organizations concerned, policy statements, etc.—and would not undertake inquiries to assess whether individual organizations should be regarded as "good" or "bad". That question was essentially political and therefore should be a matter for the organs of the United Nations, not the Secretariat.

20. Subject to that reservation, his delegation would vote for the revised draft resolution as a whole.

21. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) said that the purpose of associating non-governmental organizations with the Office of Public Information was to make the United Nations' work as widely known as possible. To reach the widest public, however, it was necessary to authorize the accreditation of non-governmental organizations representing minority groups as well as of those representing majority groups, the more so since the former, as in the United States for example, often spoke a different language from that of the majority and could not learn about the United Nations work unless the organizations representing them were accredited. In that connexion, the reason why the list of non-governmental organizations associated with the Office of Public Information included many American organizations representing a large variety of groups and a wide range of viewpoints was that the United States was an open society and was constantly on the alert to prevent tyranny by the majority and, therefore, encouraged the development of non-governmental organizations.

22. That explained why his delegation supported the revised draft resolution's provisions in operative paragraph 5 for the representation of minority groups. It would be a mistake, from the point of view, both of the Council's objectives and of the spirit of the revised draft resolution, to revert to the previous wording as recommended by the Kuwaiti, Indian and Soviet representatives. The word "ethnic" gave rise to no difficulty; it appeared in article 9 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

Discrimination and in article 1 (part I) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It neither weakened nor in any way restricted the scope of the text. Racial minorities, whose representation the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania clearly wished to ensure, presented a serious problem and its importance was self-evident; there was no need to belabour the racial issue in the draft resolution. The text being considered by the Council concerned a practical problem, namely, how the Office of Public Information could use the non-governmental organizations to greatest advantage.

23. Mr. JHA (India) thought that the question of ethnic, religious and cultural minorities raised by operative paragraph 5 was inappropriate in a text intended purely and simply to combat racial discrimination, the more so since it seemed to imply that minorities existed in all countries, which was not always true and might encourage separatism. Obviously, it would be improper for the Council to encourage such tendencies. His delegation favoured the establishment of organizations representing a cross-section of the population. For those reasons, his delegation also supported the Soviet proposal to delete from paragraph 5 the words "from all States Members of the United Nations".

24. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom), referring to the criticism of operative paragraph 5, said that it was the proposed amendments which restricted the scope of the text in that they excluded any reference to non-governmental organizations representing groups other than racial groups. Moreover, the amendments defeated the purpose of the draft resolution, which was to secure the co-operation of as many different organizations as possible, so that they, in turn, could disseminate information among the various sectors of public opinion which they reached, on the United Nations work. The argument adduced by the representative of Kuwait to justify the deletion of the words "minority . . . of diverse religious, ethnic, racial and cultural origins" would be valid if applied to all types of groups; since it applied only to certain groups and exempted others, namely, racial groups, it obviously became arbitrary. Mention of a particular group to the exclusion of others could only encourage the separatist tendencies which were feared.

25. The last sentence of operative paragraph 5, which stated that special efforts should be made to encourage association with the Office of Public Information of organizations representing peoples from Africa or those of African descent, placed too much stress on race, and the Council was not obliged to authorize special treatment for any particular group. The question should be dealt with in general terms in the context of the first sentence.

26. Unlike the French delegation, his delegation had no hesitation in supporting the word "origins" in operative paragraph 5 and would not request its deletion.

27. Lastly, he suggested a slight change in the wording of the oral amendment made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to operative para-

graph 3; it would read simply: "organizations whose aims or practices have the effect of propagating".

28. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) proposed the addition, in the preamble of the revised draft resolution, of a paragraph recalling the resolution of the Council (1296 (XLIV)), in particular paragraphs 9 and 17. He further proposed the deletion of operative paragraphs 2 and 7, and suggested certain changes in operative paragraphs 4 and 5.

29. Mr. JHA (India) proposed the deletion of the words "from all States Members of the United Nations" from operative paragraph 5.

30. Mr. VIAUD (France) thought that the Indian proposal could only complicate an already highly complex debate. The deletion of the words "from all States Members of the United Nations" was not acceptable to all Council members; furthermore, the text, as amended by India, would authorize association with the Office of Public Information of any groups, even those, for example, of an essentially political nature.

31. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) explained his delegation's position with regard to the various amendments proposed. He acknowledged the merits of the drafting change in operative paragraph 3 proposed by the United Kingdom; on the other hand, his delegation thought that the amendments submitted by the Upper Volta took no account of the history of the draft resolution and he rejected them outright. The Indian amendment to operative paragraph 5 raised more problems than it solved. He therefore suggested that the Indian and Soviet representatives should support the amendment to operative paragraph 5 proposed by the representative of Kuwait, which would probably obtain wide support, or, as a compromise, he personally suggested that the words: "particularly those representing minority groups of diverse religious, ethnic, racial and cultural origins" should be replaced by the words "particularly those representing ethnic and racial groups".

32. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that, as his amendments had not been accepted by the sponsor of the draft resolution, he would submit them in writing.

33. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone), supported by Mr. VERCELES (Philippines), thought that it would be as well to close the debate on the agenda item under discussion.

34. Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. SQUIRE (United States of America) and Mr. BAKO (Chad), said that it would be as well, in view of the number and complexity of the amendments submitted, to postpone the voting until they were before the Council in writing.

35. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. SQUIRE (United States of America), proposed that the debate should be closed and that the vote on the draft resolution and the various amendments should be deferred until the following meeting.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.*