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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

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DISTR. GENERAL

A/C.3/44/SR.36

27 November 1989

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: PREPARATION AND ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2)

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (A/44/40, 331, 364, A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/441, 592 and Add.1, 662; E/1989/22; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/20, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/SR.22-27 and Corr.1, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/SR.13, 16, 18-24 and 26, E/CN.4/1989/SR.26-33)

AGENDA ITEM 106: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE (A/44/190 and Corr.1, A/44/271 and Corr.1, A/44/300, 310, 327, 330 and Corr.1, 336, 342, 346, 348, 360, 405, 411, 412, 618, 666; A/C.3/44/3)

AGENDA ITEM 107: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/551 and 606)

AGENDA ITEM 108: ADOPTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (A/44/240, 306, 393 and 616; A/C.3/44/7)

AGENDA ITEM 112: TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (A/44/46, 171, 238 and Corr.1, 443, 477, 623, 706 and 708)

AGENDA ITEM 114: ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE ELECTIONS (A/44/254-S/20607, A/44/454 and Corr.1)

AGENDA ITEM 115: PREPARATION OF AN INSTRUMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS BASED ON SOLIDARITY (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/551 and 706)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, together with a copy of a communication addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, expressing concern that the practice of holding one of the Committee's three sessions in New York had been discontinued.

2. Mr. MARTENSON (Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights), referring to agenda item 98, "International Covenants on Human Rights", said that since the Secretary-General's report (A/44/441) had been issued, the number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had reached 93 and the number of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had reached 88. The number of States ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol had risen from 43 to 47, the new States parties being Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand and the Philippines. The Human Rights Committee had continued to discharge its mandate effectively, particularly in expanding its dialogue with States parties concerning the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, although it would require greater support in order to maintain its excellent record of performance. At its third session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had considered

(Mr. Martenson)

14 reports by States parties and discussed the rights contained in article 11 of the Covenant, particularly the right to food. The Committee's report was contained in document E/1989/22.

3. With respect to the sub-item "Elaboration of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty", respect for the right to life had figured prominently in international human rights instruments since the adoption of the Universal Declaration. The General Assembly had before it an analysis of the proposal to elaborate a second optional protocol (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/20) and a report by the Secretary-General containing comments by Governments on the question (A/44/592 and Add.1).

4. With respect to item 106, "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance", he referred to General Assembly resolution 43/108. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, acting on a request by the Commission on Human Rights to consider the elaboration of a binding international instrument, had recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to hold, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations University and other non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, a global consultation on the positions of different religions on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. With respect to agenda item 107, "Human rights and scientific and technological developments", he said that since the proclamation of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, the Commission on Human Rights had made every effort to implement its provisions and had established an open-ended working group to examine the draft body of principles and guarantees for the protection of mentally ill persons and for the improvement of mental health care.

6. The Commission on Human Rights had been dealing with agenda item 108, "Adoption of a convention on the rights of the child" for 10 years and, in its work on the convention, had encouraged all countries to take an active part in elaborating the text so that it would reflect the needs of children the world over.

7. The draft convention recognized the child's right to an identity from the moment of birth, in other words, the right to a name, a nationality and to be cared for by his or her parents and maintain relations with them in case of separation. It also protected the child from, inter alia, dangers to which he or she was particularly exposed, such as all forms of physical or mental violence or abuse; any form of exploitation; work likely to be harmful to his or her physical or mental health or to interfere with the child's education; and the illicit use of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

8. The draft convention provided for the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of the Child which would review the progress made by States parties in fulfilling their obligations under the convention. The Committee would have a

(Mr. Martenson)

broad mandate and could, inter alia, invite specialized agencies and other competent bodies to provide expert advice on the implementation of the convention. In view of the negative consequences which unreliable financial mechanisms had had on the functioning of some treaty bodies, the Committee must have reliable and viable financing procedures.

9. The year 1989 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which should inspire everyone to greater efforts for the promotion and protection of children's rights. With the adoption of the draft convention on the rights of the child, it would be possible to offer every child in the world the necessary conditions that would enable him or her to grow up healthy and to realize his or her full potential in freedom and dignity.

10. Referring to agenda item 112, "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", he said that over the past 20 years, the United Nations had accorded increasing importance to the fight against torture, through the adoption of international instruments and the establishment of investigatory machinery. The most important of those instruments, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, had been adopted by the General Assembly in 1984 and entered into force in 1987. At the same time, the United Nations had come to realize the terrible consequences of torture for victims and their families and, consequently, had recognized the need to provide assistance. Thus, in 1981, the General Assembly had decided to come to the aid of torture victims by establishing the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, which was responsible for receiving voluntary contributions from Governments, organizations and individuals and distributing them to help aid torture victims and their relatives. Since the Fund had begun operations in 1983, it had authorized 155 grants, totalling more than \$4 million, for 77 projects.

11. Referring to agenda item 114, "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", he said that in its resolution 43/157, the General Assembly had called upon the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-fifth session, to consider appropriate ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, in the context of full respect for the sovereignty of Member States, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council. Documents A/44/454 and Corr.1, which the Committee had before it, established the framework for future efforts to be undertaken by the United Nations in that regard.

12. With respect to agenda item 115 on the preparation of an instrument on human rights based on solidarity, he said that at its forty-third session, the General Assembly had decided to include the item in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session. The Assembly had later allocated it to the Third Committee.

13. Mr. POWER (Assistant Director-General for Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recalled that the General Assembly had proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year in resolution 42/104 and had decided to include the item on preparation and organization of the Year in

(Mr. Power, UNESCO)

the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session. The International Literacy Year would be officially launched on 6 December 1989 in a ceremony to be held at United Nations Headquarters, in which the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) would participate.

14. The essential message of International Literacy Year was that education was the major force in shaping the world of tomorrow. Development, the cause to which the United Nations had devoted several decades, depended above all on upgrading human competencies and skills through the education and training of men and women. There could be no meaningful development without education, and literacy was unquestionably the most essential of educational skills. UNESCO understood the term "literacy" in a very broad sense. It meant not only the ability to read and write, but also the ability to acquire basic knowledge. One of the major lessons of psychology and pedagogy was that reading was not only decoding, but also analysis, appraisal and learning. For UNESCO, literacy was what others termed "basic education". Hence, literacy implied the universalization of primary education as well as the provision of out-of-school instruction to young people and adults. International Literacy Year was aimed at schools, pupils and teachers, and also at literacy workers and learners in out-of-school settings.

15. UNESCO was sparing no effort efficiently to meet the responsibilities that had been entrusted to it as the lead organization for the Year. However, what ultimately mattered most was not what UNESCO achieved, but what was done by teachers and learners around the world during the year and the part played by Governments, since it was Governments that had the fundamental responsibility for education. He was pleased to report that 85 Member States had formed special committees for the Year or had designated particular agencies to assume responsibility for organizing activities in connection with the Year. UNESCO had also worked closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in preparing the Year. An Intersectoral Task Force, comprising a coalition of over 30 NGOs, had been established for the Year and was carrying out its work very effectively.

16. However, as the observance of International Literacy Year was not the exclusive responsibility of UNESCO, the Director-General had requested the co-operation of all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and had met with an encouraging response. Several agencies would be working with UNESCO to emphasize the importance of education for women and girls, as that was the greatest problem and the most fundamental requirement for creating a literate world.

17. UNESCO particularly valued the contribution of the mass media to International Literacy Year, as it believed that education and communication were interdependent processes.

18. International Literacy Year had been planned as an alliance of partners and players, in which UNESCO would have an active role in encouraging and assisting others to attain better results. UNESCO believed that it could thus make the best use of its limited resources and also fulfil its essential obligation as the lead organization.

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(Mr. Power, UNESCO)

19. Literacy was UNESCO's absolute priority and, to achieve that objective, many different activities would be carried out in the following decade. The Year would be the beginning of a Plan of Action based on the existing four major regional programmes for the universalization of primary education and the elimination of illiteracy. During the year UNESCO, together with UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and other sponsors would organize the World Conference on Education for All to support the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in planning and implementing education plans in the following decade. As a follow-up to that World Conference, the forty-second session of the International Conference on Education, to be held in 1990, would be entirely devoted to working out national plans for achieving literacy for all.

20. For UNESCO, as for the international community, International Literacy Year was not an end in itself, but a means of clarifying and resolving problems. A judgement on the success of the Year would not be rendered until some time near the end of the century. If by then, universal primary education was fast becoming a reality and adult illiteracy was being reduced, it could be said that the Year had served its purpose.

21. UNESCO appreciated the contributions made by the Governments of Canada, Finland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden and the United States to the International Literacy Year Secretariat. Their contributions had been vital because, in accordance with the guidelines for international years approved by the General Assembly, the years should, in principle, be financed from voluntary contributions. It should be noted that further support and assistance were still needed.

22. UNESCO reiterated that education was the best hope for building a more equitable, free and sustainable future.

23. Mr. BONNECORSE (France), speaking on behalf of the 12 member countries of the European Community, said that the purpose of the draft second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty was intended, not to impose obligations to that end on States that were resolved to continue to apply that penalty, but rather to give States the opportunity to renounce it if they so wished. The Twelve believed that, in so far as the second protocol was and continued to be optional, its adoption should pose no problems for States parties to the Covenant that wished to keep the death penalty in their penal statutes. Accordingly the Twelve trusted that the General Assembly would adopt the draft second protocol by consensus.

24. The draft convention on the rights of the child, which was the result of 10 years of hard work, provided a protective mechanism that was based on the fundamental rights guaranteed in the two International Covenants on Human Rights, particularly regarding the civil rights of the child, and on a set of provisions which had not appeared to date in any other international legal instrument. Consequently, the Twelve believed that it was feasible to adopt the convention

(Mr. Bonnacorse, France)

without a vote although some members of the European Community had noted some inadequacies in the process of negotiating the draft.

25. Torture was among the most atrocious human rights violations because, in addition to the physical violence involved, it was designed to make a human being disown himself and, to that end, to destroy his honour, dignity and sense of values. The adoption in 1984 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had been a further step in the long struggle waged against torture by the United Nations. A year later the Commission on Human Rights had appointed a Special Rapporteur on torture, and at the end of 1987 the Committee against Torture had been established to monitor implementation of the Convention. Appropriate machinery was thus available, each of whose parts was essential for the smooth functioning of the whole.

26. The Twelve had noted with satisfaction that the number of States parties to the Convention had increased from 29 to 41 between 1988 and 1989. The members of the European Community were either parties to the Convention already or planned to become parties shortly. However, a cause of serious concern was the increase in cases of torture and complaints received by the Special Rapporteur, as reflected in his report to the Commission on Human Rights. The replies to communications sent to 37 countries as a result of such complaints were unsatisfactory, even though some of those countries had shown their willingness to co-operate with the Special Rapporteur.

27. The Twelve wished once again to express appreciation for the effective way in which the Special Rapporteur had discharged his duties, and were in favour of the renewal of his mandate by the Commission on Human Rights at its next session.

28. For the second consecutive year, the Twelve had noted that the Committee against Torture found it impossible to perform its functions satisfactorily because many States parties to the Convention had not met their financial obligations. It should be borne in mind that the Organization and its Member States shared the responsibility of resolving the financial problems encountered by the Committee against Torture and other bodies established in accordance with United Nations human rights instruments. It was the belief of the Twelve that the declaration concerning the expenses of the Committee against Torture made by a State party when ratifying the convention did not in any way affect the obligations of that State party.

29. The European Community agreed that, the Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur should both be involved in combating torture, as each had its own characteristics and its own mandate. Both should receive the required United Nations assistance and material support needed to fulfil their functions.

30. The Twelve reaffirmed their support to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Since 1983 the Fund had allocated more than \$3 million to projects in some 30 countries. It was hoped that the Governments of Member States would make new contributions to the Fund so that it could continue its indispensable activities in defence of human rights.

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31. Mr. HENNESSY (Ireland) said that it was sometimes overlooked that the United Nations had been concerned with the promotion of freedom of religion and belief since its founding. The United Nations Charter and accepted international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights contained provisions on the matter. As a complement to that normative framework, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief had been adopted in 1981. Although there were differences of opinion regarding the legal obligations derived from the various instruments cited, the important thing was that the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights had acknowledged that freedom of religion and belief should be the concern of the international community.

32. The Government of Ireland therefore welcomed indications that religious freedom was becoming reality in some countries that until recently could not claim that right. However, as stated in the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, violations in that area continued. For that reason it would be desirable for the Commission to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period.

33. In 1991 the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration would be celebrated. It could now be said that its framers were insufficiently ambitious. The Declaration addressed the elimination of intolerance, but mere tolerance was not sufficient. Social harmony required mutual respect and understanding without conditions. As with all human rights issues, appreciation of differences and diversity must be learned. Educators and religious leaders must take on special responsibility in that regard.

34. Regarding the setting of further standards in the area of freedom of religion and belief, his delegation had welcomed with satisfaction the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. It had taken note of the conclusion that before the drafting of any new international instrument, an in-depth investigation and broad consultations with religious and other groups must be held. Only then could it be guaranteed that any new instrument would be consistent with existing standards and that its provisions would offer greater protection.

35. Mr. WALDROP (United States of America), referring to the Declaration of Independence adopted by the United States Congress on 4 July 1776, emphasized the significance of a text written over 200 years earlier that had proclaimed that "all Men are created equal". At the same time, he emphasized the paradox that Jefferson, drafter of the Declaration, had been a slave-owner, like other congressmen. That proclamation of equality had not been implemented until 1865, with the abolition of slavery a measure of the effort and time often needed for the implementation of agreed-upon principles. The text of the Declaration of Independence was relevant to the item before the Committee, in that Governments exercised power with the consent of the governed.



(Mr. Waldrop, United States)

36. Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government". The significance of that principle had not diminished over time; to the contrary, it had increased. The only way in which the will of the people could prevail, as article 21 went on, was its expression "in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures". The United States had sponsored General Assembly resolution 43/157, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections" which, together with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51, reflected the ideas of numerous delegations. He hoped that the current draft would likewise be adopted without a vote. Periodic and genuine elections were the only internationally acceptable source of the right to govern. The electoral process created an enduring bond between those governed and those who exercised authority in the name of the people. Elections embodied for society a cyclical pattern of catharsis, healing and civic rededication. Because freely elected representatives served the interests of the people and defended their rights, the process of determining the people's will promoted and encouraged respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The international community, in seeking to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, was contributing to the enhancement of the effectiveness of a wide range of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, including political, economic, social and cultural rights.

37. But there was no single political system or electoral method equally suited to all nations and their peoples. Each State was entitled to exercise its independent discretion in choosing those methods it considered appropriate to its citizens.

38. In relation to the principle of periodic and genuine elections, it would be inadvisable to attempt to appraise the institutions and practices of any given State or to seek to draft a legally-binding instrument. It would be more fruitful to prepare summaries or analytical commentaries on the various experiences of the international community, which could be helpful to the people and Government of each State if they decided to adapt them to their own circumstances.

39. The State existed to serve the people and protect their rights. In terms of international relations, it was clear that those Governments which cherished human rights and freedom would recoil from embarking on armed assaults aimed at coercion and domination, and that democracies attempted to resolve their quarrels without recourse to arms. The search for peace required the international community to adopt a long-term strategy aimed at promoting the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections.

40. Mr. MORA (Spain) supported the statement by France on behalf of the European Community. His delegation fully supported the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Although some points in the draft could be improved, he believed that reopening the debate on any particular article could endanger the adoption of the Convention and would be a useless exercise. He hoped that the Convention would be adopted by consensus. Regarding torture, his delegation noted

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(Mr. Mora, Spain)

with concern the increase in that hateful practice in many countries. He appreciated the quality of the report of Special Rapporteur, Mr. Koojmans, and hoped that his mandate would be renewed at the next session of the Commission on Human Rights. Spain welcomed the continuing development of the activities of the Committee against Torture, and hoped that it could become an effective instrument to combat that assault on human dignity. Consequently, its financial difficulties must be overcome. His delegation supported the draft second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for the abolition of the death penalty. For a State which, like Spain, had abolished the death penalty, it was a matter of elevating that provision to the level of an international commitment.

41. Mr. KRENKEL (Austria) said that, despite the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child and other international instruments in force, there was still a wide gap between the proclamations of the principle and their actual realization. Among the issues addressed during the International Year of the Child in 1979, the proposal of Poland to elaborate an international convention on the rights of the child had shown tangible results. The importance of such a comprehensive legal framework for the welfare of children was undisputed, above all in the light of the large number of children subject to economic exploitation, sexual abuse, trading or recruitment for war in addition to the even more common phenomenon of neglect or deprivation of basic rights, such as the right to food and education.

42. The draft Convention was the result of 10 years' continuous effort by the Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Lopatka, with the help of various intergovernmental organizations, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and non-governmental organizations. It had not been easy to draft a convention which would be a common standard for countries with different social systems. Austria, as a member of the Working Group, had been guided by the principle of improving or at least preserving the standards already set by existing human rights instruments. The drafting of new international instruments was mostly the result of prolonged negotiations between parties representing different political, economic, cultural or religious backgrounds. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was no exception and its adoption by consensus would be of particular importance as a clear signal by Member States of their commitment on the issue.

43. Austria was disappointed that article 38, on the protection of children in armed conflicts, fell below the standards contained in the 1977 second additional protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Article 38 as it now stood provided that children under the age of 15 should not take a direct part in hostilities. The 1977 first additional protocol contained the same prohibition in respect of international armed conflicts, but also contained an absolute prohibition of the direct or indirect use of children under the age of 15 in non-international armed conflicts. Austria considered that only an age limit of 18 years for participation in armed conflicts could satisfy humanitarian concern, and consequently the fundamental objectives of the Convention were not adequately reflected in article 38.

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(Mr. Krenkel, Austria)

44. The draft Convention contained various alternatives for financing the activities of the committee to be established under article 43. In view of the responsibility of Member States by virtue of the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Austria preferred the first alternative, contained in paragraph 10 bis of article 43, which provided that the activities of the committee should be financed by the United Nations.

AGENDA ITEM 94: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.25

45. Mr. MOLINA ARAMBARRI (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.25, entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women", which outlined the programme of activities and the main aspects of the Institute. Samoa and Turkey had become sponsors. The draft resolution noted that in 1990 the Institute would observe its tenth anniversary and invited Governments and intergovernmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which was financed entirely from voluntary contributions.

AGENDA ITEM 103: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.29

46. Mr. SKIRSTED (Denmark) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.29, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", and said that Bangladesh, Guatemala, Poland, Suriname and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 104: FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE YEAR 2000 (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.26

47. Mrs. MEHTA (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.26, entitled "United Nations Development Fund for Women", which was sponsored by the States members of the Consultative Committee on the Fund.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.27

48. Mrs. McLENNAN (United States of America) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.27, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat", whose sponsors had been joined by Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Myanmar, Samoa, Suriname, Thailand and Uruguay. She also pointed out that in paragraph 1, the word "employed" had been inserted after the word "women" in the

(Mrs. McLennan, United States)

third line; and that at the end of the paragraph the words "as provided in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 40/258 B of December 1985" had been added.

49. She noted the modest increase in the number of women in the Professional posts subject to geographical distribution, which was a long way from the target set by the General Assembly in 1985 of 30 per cent of women by 1990. That goal was not recognized as an end in itself, but as an objective that could ultimately be reached and surpassed.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.28

50. Mrs. TAVARES de ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.28, entitled "Elderly women", on behalf of the sponsors, said that they had been joined by Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Suriname. The following amendment had been made to the draft resolution: in the seventh line of paragraph 2, the words "under the priority theme of development" had been inserted after the word "Women".

51. The sponsors of the draft resolution felt that it was important to recognize the part played by elderly women in the economy in order to help them to overcome the marginal status to which society relegated them. To that end, up-to-date statistics and a specialized data base were essential. The sponsors therefore attached particular importance to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, in which the United Nations Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Statistical Office, in co-operation with the regional commissions, were invited to pay special attention to older women. If the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies were to be implemented without discrimination, the older women, who would represent more than a quarter of the world population of women by the year 2025, could not be ignored. She therefore urged the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.30

52. Mr. ZAMRI (Malaysia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.30, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", on behalf of the Group of 77, drew attention to the following correction: in the last line of paragraph 16, the year "1992" should read "1993" and the year "1993" should read "1994".

53. The draft resolution took into consideration the problems and difficulties faced by women, particularly in the developing countries, and offered some remedial suggestions for further action for the benefit of women the world over. It also stressed the need to increase women's participation in political, economic, social and cultural fields. The draft resolution had been prepared on the basis of consultations among a number of delegations, not only those of the sponsoring countries. He therefore expressed the hope, on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

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Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.31

54. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.31, entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas", said that Benin, Costa Rica, Gabon, Guatemala, Senegal and Suriname had joined the sponsors.

55. The concern of the sponsors was fully justified, because 59 per cent of women lived in rural areas. Their arduous and largely unrecognized work contributed to the national economy and development. Together they produced at least 50 per cent of world's food. Yet in most cases they were classified as non-active members of the population or as unpaid domestic workers, which meant that their work was not included in statistics, or even appreciated. The sponsors urged the members of the Committee to adopt the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.