

1997th meeting

Monday, 15 October 1973, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1997

AGENDA ITEM 54

Human rights in armed conflicts: protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict: report of the Secretary-General (concluded) (A/9073)

CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION (concluded)

1. Mr. COSTA COUTO (Brazil) said that, following intensive consultations, the sponsors of the draft resolution¹ which he had introduced at the preceding meeting, who were anxious to see it adopted unanimously or by consensus, wished to make some minor changes in the draft. The word "necessity" in operative paragraph 1 should be replaced by "desirability", and the following words should be added at the end of paragraph 3: "having regard to the deliberations and findings of the Diplomatic Conference".
2. He announced that Tunisia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.
3. Mr. SHAFQAT (Pakistan) recalled that, in introducing the draft resolution at the preceding meeting, the Brazilian representative had clearly explained the considerations which had prompted the Brazilian and Pakistan delegations to suggest deferring consideration of the draft convention until the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. His delegation wished to take the opportunity to reaffirm his country's support, in principle, for the idea of drawing up a convention on the protection of journalists; it had noted during the debate, however, that several articles had been interpreted in various ways by a number of delegations and that doubts had been expressed concerning the manner in which certain provisions would be applied in the context of different types of conflict. Some delegations had also felt that the provisions of the convention might duplicate those of the Geneva Protocols and that it might therefore be preferable to continue the discussion of the draft articles after the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts so that the results of the latter's work could be taken into account; that idea was reflected in the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 3.
4. He was certain that the two amendments proposed by Brazil would receive unanimous support.
5. Mr. KEITA (Guinea) said that it was not because of indifference that his delegation had not taken part in the debate on the question under consideration. Rather, it felt that the matter was a controversial one which should therefore receive further study, and it accordingly endorsed the proposals contained in the draft resolution. Deferring consideration of the question until the twenty-ninth session would give his delegation an opportunity to study the problem in greater depth.

He felt that the draft resolution should refer to the amendments proposed in the course of the debate.

6. Mr. BAL (Mauritania), recalling that his delegation had made certain observations during the discussion, noted that operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution called for transmitting to the Diplomatic Conference the observations and suggestions made during the twenty-eighth session—which, in the opinion of his delegation, were as important as the draft articles themselves—but that nothing was said about a special document in which they would be reproduced. He would like to know whether the observations and suggestions were to appear in such a document or whether it would be necessary to refer, in the customary manner, to the summary records of the meetings. He wondered, in that connexion, what the situation was with regard to the *in extenso* reproduction of the Algerian statement (1994th meeting), which had been requested.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that it had been decided to report the Algerian statement fully in the summary record and that all the summary records would be transmitted to the Diplomatic Conference.

8. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) asked whether the sponsors' proposed amendment to operative paragraph 1 might not cause that paragraph to conflict with the first preambular paragraph, which recalled the resolutions in which the General Assembly had expressed its conviction that there was a need for an additional instrument.

9. She agreed that the Conference should be informed of the observations and suggestions made during the session and in that regard noted that she understood the observations of the Mauritanian and the Guinean representatives in that light.

10. Mr. SHAFQAT (Pakistan) said that the Italian representative's point was well taken; he proposed that the word "reiterates" in paragraph 1 should be replaced by "mindful of" or something of that nature.

11. Mr. CATO (Ghana) agreed that the Italian representative's comment was a valid one; he noted that the expression "mindful of" was normally used in the preamble of draft resolutions rather than in the operative part and therefore proposed that paragraph 1 should begin with the words "*Expresses the desirability of adopting*".

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to adopt the Ghanaian amendment.

It was so decided.

13. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

¹Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2009.