

## 2063rd meeting

Friday, 11 October 1974, at 10.50 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2063

*In the absence of the Chairman, Miss Dubra (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

### AGENDA ITEM 12

**Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III (sections D to F), IV (section J), V (sections A to C, D, paragraphs 436 to 478, 487 to 492 and 494 to 506, and E), VI (sections A.1 to 5 and 7, E and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9603, A/9637, A/9733, A/9764, A/9767, A/9785)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited members of the Committee to speak on the section of the report of the Economic and Social Council dealing with human rights questions (A/9603, chap. V, sect. C).

2. Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America) asked how the Committee would discuss the rather broad item before it; would it discuss only the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirtieth session,<sup>1</sup> dealt with in

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5.*

chapter V, section C.2 of the report of the Economic and Social Council, or would it discuss the report as a whole?

3. The CHAIRMAN said that she would prefer to follow the order of work decided on at the previous meeting as far as possible.

4. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) asked whether the Committee would begin by considering the question of human rights as such or would first discuss any draft resolutions which it might have before it at the next meeting and then go on to a more general discussion.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that it was too early to say how the Committee would deal with the item, as so far no draft resolutions had been submitted and no members had asked to speak. However, it was the Committee's practice when taking up an item to make general statements and to discuss any draft resolutions at the same time. She urged those members who wished to speak to inscribe their names on the list as soon as possible.

*The meeting rose at 11 a.m.*

## 2064th meeting

Monday, 14 October 1974, at 10.55 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2064

### AGENDA ITEM 12

**Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III (sections D to F), IV (section J), V (sections A to C, D, paragraphs 436 to 478, 487 to 492 and 494 to 506, and E), VI (sections A.1 to 5 and 7, E and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9603, A/9637, A/9707, A/9733, A/9764, A/9767, A/9785, A/C.3/L.2106)**

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/9767), prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3059 (XXVIII) which had requested the Secretary-General to inform it of the consideration which might have been given to the question, under the report of the Economic and Social Council. She noted that the Committee had before it a draft resolution on the question (A/C.3/L.2106) and announced that the representatives of Australia, Belgium and Japan had become sponsors of the draft.

2. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that his delegation wished to facilitate the progress of the Committee's work by introducing at the current stage draft resolution A/C.3/L.2106, of which it was a sponsor. It reserved the right to make general observations at a later stage on chapter V of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

3. Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that no one should be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. That article should be the point of departure for any consideration of the problem at hand, which was of increasingly grave concern, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 3059 (XXVIII), paragraph 1 of which rejected any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The practice of torture seemed to be slowly but gradually spreading, while the defences against it in the modern world were weakening.

4. In any discussion on torture, several distinctions should be kept clearly in mind. Torture practised by one individual