

nation. To that end, his delegation supported the draft resolution recommended by the Council. The Decade had been proclaimed in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That Declaration was not meant as a utopian concept but as a common aim, closely linked to the safeguarding of peace and the promotion of the sovereign equality of all States and stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations.

21. Although Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique had gained their right to self-determination, the Secretary-General had reported that the internal situation in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa continued to deteriorate. The international campaign against colonialism and racial discrimination carried on by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations had had little impact because of the unwillingness of certain States to give effect to many of the measures called for. At the previous session his delegation had stated in the Third Committee (1983rd meeting) that in order to solve the problem it was necessary to persuade all nations and peoples to recognize the dignity of the human person and to fulfil all the obligations which that recognition entailed. Racism as a social system defined and maintained group boundaries, and created within those boundaries a structure of privileged and underprivileged classes. Such differences existed in every society, but when accompanied by racism they took on broader social meaning and were used to justify the unequal treatment of different groups. In contrast, human rights as a social system defined no group boundaries, and did not create a structure of privileged and underprivileged classes. Human rights—simply defined—meant respect and consideration for all human beings regardless of sex, race or religion. In that connexion, his delegation praised and supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff in their fight against the evils of racism, and would continue to do so until the final victory.

22. Indonesia had long recognized that imperialism and colonialism were the motivating factors of racial discrimination. Since its independence, the process of national

awareness and education had united the Indonesian people and had helped them to achieve racial harmony among the different ethnic and religious groups. Education was the best tool for helping the younger generations to gain a better understanding of all peoples of the world. In Indonesia children were taught from primary school the doctrine of Panca Sila, based on five philosophical principles embodied in the Constitution of the State. One of those principles, that of democracy, protected the human rights of citizens with regard to political, social and cultural equality.

23. Indonesia had always been firm in its belief that racial discrimination must be eradicated. His Government had made modest contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity, and was actively participating as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In 1973 Indonesia had been one of the 11 Member States offering scholarships and training facilities to the inhabitants of two Trust Territories. It was therefore doing its utmost to eliminate the scourge of racism and racial discrimination at both the national and international level.

24. Indonesia hoped that the implementation of the Programme for the Decade would help to build a future in which all mankind would enjoy fundamental rights and all nations, large and small, would understand and cherish the dignity and worth of the human person.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that if she heard no objections, the list of speakers on the items under consideration would be closed at 11 a.m. the following day.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

2056th meeting

Thursday, 3 October 1974, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2056

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9666 and Add.1 and 2, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475):

- (a) **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*)**;
- (c) **Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)**

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the United Nations had been considering the question of the struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination for many years. The policies of colonialism and racism, which constituted a weapon of imperialist exploitation, had been condemned in numerous resolutions by a number of United Nations bodies, including the Security Council and the General Assembly. All of those

decisions had had as their aim the total elimination of colonialism and racism. The landmarks of that campaign had included the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 1514 (XV)) in 1960 at the initiative of the USSR, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 1904 (XVIII)), the International Covenants on Human Rights (see resolution 2200 A (XXI)) and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex). Those instruments reflected the firm decision of peoples to put an end to racism and colonialism. Important victories had already been won in the efforts to achieve that objective. The forces engaged in the struggle had grown stronger and were now extremely powerful; the liberation of the peoples still suffering under colonialism and racism was very near. Those victories of the liberation movements were cause for satisfaction and pride to his delegation, which was especially gratified to welcome the new States Members of the United Nations.

2. The proclamation by the General Assembly, in resolution 3057 (XXVIII), of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the approval of the Programme for the Decade annexed to that resolution constituted a new contribution by the United Nations to the elimination of racism and discrimination. The Programme for the Decade was very broad in scope and included a great variety of measures, the application of which should serve to promote the noble goal of eradicating racism. It was therefore necessary to ensure its full and strict implementation.

3. Racism and racial discrimination had been condemned by all mankind. Nevertheless, some countries had expressed reservations concerning the Programme for the Decade. That fact raised the question how the strength and resistance of the policies of *apartheid* and racism could be explained. There were some who justified them with antiquated theories of the inferiority of certain races, but that was totally unacceptable to his delegation. In the introduction (A/9601/Add.1) to his report on the work of the Organization the Secretary-General reported with regret that there had been no improvement in the internal situation in Southern Rhodesia and that in Namibia conditions continued to deteriorate. He also stated that in South Africa there had not been any relaxation in the rigorous application of the policies of *apartheid*. The Secretary-General added that there was a growing international campaign against colonialism and racial discrimination by the United Nations and by governmental and non-governmental organizations but that the impact of those efforts had been blunted by the unwillingness of States to give effect to many of the measures advocated by the United Nations, a circumstance which was particularly evident in the case of the application of mandatory sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. It was obvious that some NATO member countries continued to maintain political relations with the racist régimes and were giving them assistance, as shown by the data in the report of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* submitted to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to the implementation by States of United Nations resolutions on

apartheid.¹ While the developing countries, disregarding the disadvantages to themselves, had broken off trade relations with the racist régimes, the trade of the Western countries with those régimes continued to increase. The Western countries were refusing to implement United Nations resolutions and were increasing their private capital investments in the region; those investments yielded high profits, as a result of the low wages paid to the indigenous population, and were also helping to maintain the white racists in power.

4. At its fifty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1864 (LVI), in which it stated that it considered the States giving assistance to the racist and colonial régimes in southern Africa to be accomplices of those régimes in respect of their criminal policies of racial discrimination, *apartheid* and colonialism and condemned the activities of those States. His delegation endorsed such resolutions against colonialism and racism.

5. Moreover, the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session had adopted resolution 3068 (XXVIII), in which it adopted and opened for signature and ratification the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. That Convention represented an important step towards the elimination of the policies and practices of *apartheid*, and States should sign it and ratify it as early as possible. It declared that *apartheid* was a crime against humanity and specified responsibilities in connexion with it. For those reasons, it constituted a warning to the racist régime of South Africa. It was regrettable that some States, such as Australia, Belgium, Israel, Italy, Japan, the United States and, of course, South Africa, had neither signed nor ratified the Convention. The General Assembly should appeal to those States which had not signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

6. The objective of the Programme for the Decade was the elimination of the social causes of racial discrimination and racism. In spite of the demands of the world community, racial discrimination persisted, and its manifestations were not isolated facts but mass phenomena. Racial discrimination and racism resulted from the social structure of exploitation of man by man, and its eradication was part of the peoples' struggle for independence, self-determination and equality. That noble goal required the commitment of the united strength of all anti-racist elements in the world.

7. The Soviet Union's position of condemnation of *apartheid* and colonialism was well known. The social structure of the USSR guaranteed full equality to all its inhabitants. Lenin's prediction that socialism would create a new and higher form of community life had been fulfilled. The USSR had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) and the International Covenants on Human Rights and had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. The Soviet Union had always opposed colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and, for that reason, had given and would continue to give its full support to the liberation movements. The

¹ A/9168.

United Nations had adopted many resolutions with a view to eliminating racism and racial discrimination at the initiative of the USSR. In conformity with that policy, his delegation had supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1863 (LVI) and annexed to document A/9666, a document whose merit lay in the fact that it called upon States to take measures to eliminate racism and racial discrimination.

8. Mr. BATIBAY (Turkey) welcomed the representatives of Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau and said that their presence symbolized the victory of the national liberation movements and was a significant milestone on the road to the elimination of colonialism and racial discrimination.

9. In the face of the world community's condemnation and indignation, the deliberate practice of racial discrimination had become institutionalized and systemic in southern Africa. However, although racism took on its most virulent form in that region, more subtle forms of it existed in many parts of the world. It was a complex phenomenon which must be considered in the context of human relationships, since it was rooted in fear and ignorance and often served to justify economic oppression.

10. Turkey fully supported the principle of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. At the international level, it had never supported racist Governments and did not have relations with them. At the national level, Turkish society was free from the prejudices of racism and racial discrimination, maintaining an attitude inherited from the Ottoman Commonwealth and bolstered later by the innovations introduced by the Turkish Republic. Discrimination and the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority and hatred were criminal offences in Turkey. His Government was extensively implementing the Programme for the Decade, and the country's information media and educational system were concerning themselves not only with the evils of racism but also with matters of human rights in general and the equality of all human beings. Turkey had signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and he was confident that at the next session of the Committee he would be able to announce that Turkey had ratified the Convention. Turkey would also continue to contribute to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, within the limits of its resources, by providing scholarships.

11. In the previous week, the General Assembly had once again rejected the credentials of the racist régime in Pretoria and had, by its resolution 3207 (XXIX), taken the historic decision to call upon the Security Council to review the relationship between the United Nations and South Africa. His delegation had fully supported that measure and had voted for it. It would also support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council. More than a quarter of a century after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, racism and racial discrimination were still plaguing mankind. His delegation hoped that those evils would be eradicated by the end of the Decade, and it pledged its full co-operation to that end.

12. Mr. HAUGSTVEDT (Norway) said that the Government and people of Norway were firmly opposed to all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination. Such manifestations constituted violations of basic human rights and were contrary to the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and of several other international instruments. His Government had therefore warmly welcomed the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and had endorsed the Programme for the Decade annexed to that resolution. It had noted with particular satisfaction that a recurrent theme in the Programme was the need for education and information concerning racial discrimination and racism, since the illusion of racial superiority was unquestionably nourished by prejudice and ignorance. Since those evils were universal phenomena, his delegation wished to emphasize the fundamental importance of the provisions of the Programme relating to measures at the national level to enlighten public opinion on racial problems and educate it in the spirit of respect for human rights.

13. As a contribution to the world community's efforts in support of the victims of colonialism and *apartheid* in southern Africa, Norway had acted as host to the International Conference of Experts organized by the United Nations and the OAU, held in Oslo in April 1973. In recent years his Government had also made substantial contributions to the various United Nations funds established with a view to alleviating the plight of the victims of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and it would continue to do so in the year to come.

14. Mr. TRAVERT (France) said that the principle of non-discrimination was embodied in the Constitution, laws and customs of France, and it was for that reason that his country had played a major role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On 28 July 1971, acting in that spirit, France had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had then been unanimously ratified by the National Assembly, thus demonstrating the support which French public opinion gave to the noble objectives of that international instrument. On 1 July 1972, a law had been enacted in France which made it a crime punishable by a fine or even by imprisonment to offer incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence against a person or group of persons for reasons of ethnic, national, racial or religious origin. The law also prescribed penalties for public officials, businessmen or employers who practised discrimination.

15. It should be pointed out, however, that any law could have only a limited effect unless it was supported by the citizenry, and that could be brought about only through knowledge of what racism was and of its historical origins, causes and motivations. That task of enlightenment must start in the schools, and the French Ministry of National Education therefore saw to it that the curricula prepared by the National Institute of Pedagogy included information on the subject. A similar function was performed with regard to university courses by the Institute of Human Rights. One result was the influence which those teachings had had on social legislation in behalf of aliens, which reflected the Government's continuing effort to reduce and eliminate in practice the inequality which was repudiated by French national law.

16. At the international level France had consistently opposed the concept and policy of *apartheid*, which it regarded as contrary to the basic articles of the United Nations Charter, particularly Articles 55 and 56. His delegation had been in favour of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX), which had set up the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, and his country contributed to that Fund as well as to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. The position which France had occasionally been forced to adopt for purely legal reasons and out of respect for the principle of State sovereignty should not therefore be interpreted as implying support for the policy of *apartheid*, regarding which his Government reaffirmed once again its profound revulsion and total opposition.

17. Mr. HSING Sung-yi (China) said that the struggle of the third world countries and peoples against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism was surging forward. The peoples of Africa had won new victories: the arduous armed struggle in the Portuguese colonies had brought about the downfall of the fascist régime in Lisbon and had led to the glorious birth of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the conclusion of the agreement on the independence of Mozambique.

18. None the less, the racist authorities in South Africa were still frantically practising their policy of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, depriving the indigenous people of their political and economic rights and even of their basic right to existence. At the same time, the South African colonialists had intensified their repressive measures against the people of Namibia, arresting, torturing and slaughtering large numbers of patriots. The racist régime in Rhodesia was also continuing its war against the guerrillas of Zimbabwe and had declared that life imprisonment or the death penalty would be meted out to those Africans who had contacts with the guerrillas. What caused the greatest indignation was that the Rhodesian authorities were pursuing a policy of genocide, forbidding the growth of the black population and trying to replace the African inhabitants with large numbers of white immigrants in order to maintain their colonialist rule.

19. His delegation strongly condemned the crimes perpetrated by the colonialist and racist régimes and expressed its conviction that the heroic people of southern Africa would never be cowed by the brutal oppression of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism. Over a long period they had remained firm and undaunted and, with intelligence and courage, had dealt heavy blows to the colonial authorities, winning one victory after another. Following the important triumph of the 300,000 people of Ovamboland in their struggle to boycott the election farce directed by the reactionary South African authorities in 1972, the people of Namibia had won another victory the following year in their boycott of the elections to the "constitutional parliament". In the meantime, their armed struggle had developed further. The same thing was happening in Zimbabwe, where besides organizing strikes and demonstrations, the people had strengthened their military organizations and created a new dimension for the continued development of armed struggle.

20. All those facts demonstrated vividly that the racist and colonialist régimes in southern Africa, which were running

against the tide of history, were bound to perish and that the national liberation movements, which represented the trend of the time, would grow stronger and achieve final victory. However, the racist and colonialist régimes in southern Africa would never abandon the struggle of their own accord. As the situation was developing in a manner unfavourable to the colonialist authorities, the latter, in addition to the continued use of violent repression, were resorting to all kinds of tricks and schemes to lull the people, such as setting up puppet authorities, splitting the liberation movement and promising what they called "autonomy". That called for increasing vigilance on the part of the international community.

21. It should be pointed out that the prolonged existence of *apartheid* and racial discrimination in southern Africa was entirely due to the political, economic and military support given by imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and hegemonism to the South African and Rhodesian régimes and their reactionary alliance. The numerous declarations, conventions and resolutions against colonialism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination adopted by the United Nations had remained unimplemented as a result of obstruction and sabotage by colonialism and neo-colonialism, whose criminal actions must be strongly condemned. His delegation maintained that, in order to uphold the principles and spirit of the United Nations Charter, the Organization must severely condemn the South African and Rhodesian racist régimes and denounce imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. All peoples which were devoted to justice must give firm support and assistance to the people of southern Africa in their just struggle against racial discrimination and national oppression. His delegation therefore supported the Programme for the Decade and felt that effective, practical measures should be taken to implement it.

22. Miss VOLLMAR (Federal Republic of Germany) said that her country attached great importance to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany had recently stated at the 2239th plenary meeting of the General Assembly. Document A/9666/Add.2 contained a summary of her Government's contributions to the objective of eliminating all vestiges of racism at the national and international level. In that connexion, it attached particular importance to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and an independent expert from the Federal Republic of Germany was a member of the Committee established under the Convention. That body had so far considered three reports from the Federal Republic of Germany and had found them satisfactory. Moreover, her country had been one of the first to ratify the two International Covenants on Human Rights and, as was reported in the above-mentioned document, the Federal Republic of Germany was contributing to the Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. Her Government would continue to lend its active support to the Programme for the Decade and would spare no effort to contribute to the achievement of its objectives.

23. Mr. CRESPO (Portugal) said that his country condemned and rejected *apartheid* and all other forms of racial

discrimination because it considered them an affront to human dignity. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal had stated at the 2239th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the Portuguese people, now free from the burdens of internal oppression and colonial domination, had recovered their traditional character and universal humanism.

24. It was regrettable to find that human rights were still being violated in many countries which had subscribed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Portugal was opposed to all forms of oppression and racial discrimination and categorically condemned the existence and perpetuation of discriminatory social systems such as *apartheid*. The Portuguese Government's recognition of the right to self-determination and independence of all countries and peoples under Portuguese administration stemmed from its deeply rooted belief in the basic equality of all human beings. The Portuguese Government wished to declare its willingness to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to take the necessary measures to eliminate racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations.

25. Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) said that the criminal practice of *apartheid* as an established system and the continuing oppression of African peoples by racist minorities continued to be the main concern of his country and of all the independent nations of Africa. Algeria would do everything in its power to combat racial discrimination wherever it occurred and would strongly condemn the Fascist régimes and those who supported them. In that connexion, it welcomed the elimination of Fascism in Portugal because it had enabled that country to re-establish its former democratic traditions and had helped bring about the independence of Guinea-Bissau. It expressed the hope that the liberal trend would spread to the rest of the Territories under Portuguese administration.

26. Ian Smith's Rhodesia and Vorster's South Africa nevertheless continued to defy the United Nations, ignoring its resolutions and methodically applying the system of separate development, as a result of the silence of the administering Power and with the support of certain western European countries. The Programme of Action for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination must not again serve as an alibi for those who pretended to respect the recommendations of the United Nations while continuing to collaborate with the supporters of racism and *apartheid*. Algeria—which had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had been the second country after the Syrian Arab Republic to sign the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and had outlawed the practice of racism—was firmly determined to contribute to the success of all aspects of the Programme for the Decade.

27. His delegation noted with satisfaction that 82 States had now ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. With regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, it hoped that an equally large number of States would soon do the same. The struggle of the oppressed peoples, which was being waged with the support of concrete international

action by those who believed in human freedom and equality, would ensure the triumph of law and justice in the regions of the world which were still under the yoke of racism and *apartheid*.

28. Mr. VARCHAVER (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that developments in the contemporary, post-colonial and post-industrial world had led to a re-examination of the usefulness of a model of social development which assumed that, through a variety of processes, all the different groups in society would be assimilated into a more or less homogeneous whole. Attention should also be directed towards other models so that understanding might be gained of phenomena such as the insistence of some groups on maintaining a sense of internal cohesion.

29. The relatively new wave of migrants seeking work in the industrial societies of northern Europe had led to reconsideration of one of the characteristic features of racism and racial discrimination, namely, the clash of cultures. A group of experts from the host countries and the migrants' countries of origin had met in October 1973 at UNESCO headquarters, with the participation of representatives of the ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR and several interested non-governmental organizations, to discuss the education of foreign workers and their families. Subject to the approval of the eighteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, which would be held in late October 1974, the Director-General would, on the recommendation of that group of experts, implement the following programme: in view of the immense gaps in basic information, he would initiate a research programme on the educational difficulties encountered by migrant workers and their families, including the problem of the language used in instruction; he would convene a meeting of educational planning experts to deal with the needs of migrant workers and their families in the formulation of national educational policies; he would organize an international seminar for educators and social workers with a view to seeking solutions to the educational problems of migrant workers and their families, both during their stay abroad and upon their return home; and he would stimulate a campaign to inform the general public about the problems of migrants and the substantial contributions they could make to the countries which received them. UNESCO hoped that that programme, envisaged for migrant workers in northern Europe, would serve as a basis for the solution of similar problems in other regions of the world.

30. For a long time, UNESCO had also been concerned about another kind of migrant, namely, the migrant from political tyranny, who was better known as a refugee. UNESCO had co-operated closely both with UNHCR and the OAU in providing educational assistance of many kinds for African refugees and peoples struggling to free themselves from colonialism and *apartheid*. As a necessary complement to those necessarily limited direct assistance efforts, UNESCO was trying to promote public awareness of the effects of racism on the quality of life in southern Africa and, to that end, had published a book entitled *Apartheid: its effects on education, science, culture and information*² which was already a classic in its field. That

² UNESCO, Paris, 1972.

publication would soon be accompanied by three similar volumes dealing, respectively, with Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the Territories formerly and currently under Portuguese administration. In addition, seven volumes of a general history of Africa prepared by African scholars and Africanists, with the assistance of the national liberation movements, would be published in the next two years.

31. Another related task of UNESCO in the cultural field was the development of the social sciences to deal with the problems of racial and ethnic discrimination which confronted the world today. In that connexion, it was proposed to conduct a series of pilot studies on racial and ethnic relations which would cover, in addition to the African peoples, a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries as well as some Asian nations. It was also proposed to explore the effects of migration, internal and external, on race and social structure in four western European countries.

32. The term "culture" meant nothing more nor less than the vast reservoir of a people's values, fears and hopes. As such, culture lay at the very heart of the war against racism and racial discrimination. For that reason, UNESCO intended to bring together artists from liberation movements recognized by the OAU, along with sociologists and artists from other regions, to discuss the interaction between social structure, revolutionary change and the role of the artist in southern Africa. The organization was also continuing to study the role of the mass media in relation to minority problems.

33. At its eighteenth session, the General Conference of UNESCO would consider two proposals of importance to the Decade. The first was a draft Declaration of Fundamental Principles on the Role of the Mass Media in Strengthening Peace and Understanding and in Combating War Propaganda, Racism and *Apartheid*. The draft contained a variety of articles which directly supported the objectives of the Decade. The second proposal was a preliminary study of the legal and technical aspects of a draft Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice which would enable a committee of governmental experts to prepare a new international instrument. That new Declaration would be based upon the Statement on Race and Racial Prejudice³ adopted by a committee of experts on the subject convened by UNESCO in September 1967 and also upon subsequent research by UNESCO on racial and ethnic relations. While it would complement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, unlike the United Nations Convention it would not set forth a number of practical measures for the elimination of discrimination through the exercise of civil and political rights. Instead, it would illuminate the origins of racist theories, demonstrate their causes and expose their fallacies. Further, the draft would emphasize the dangers of latent racism, the role of the mass media with respect to the promotion of equality and other means of eliminating racial prejudice and discrimination.

34. Referring to the increasing complexity and danger of racism, the Director-General of UNESCO had said that in the struggle against that evil, UNESCO, which had neither

the means nor the responsibility for political or economic action, would continue to use its own weapons, namely, those of education, science, culture and communication. Those weapons had their own effectiveness which, although indirect, was none the less deep and durable. It was to be hoped that the concerted efforts of the Decade would make them even more so.

35. Mr. NEYTCHEV (Bulgaria), after extending a welcome to the representatives of the new Members of the United Nations, said that the elimination of racism and racial discrimination was one of the more urgent and important tasks confronting mankind. The United Nations had played an important role in the struggle against those evils, and his delegation noted with satisfaction that at the current session the question was being considered on a priority basis. The very proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been an encouraging development and it was now possible, one year after that proclamation, to note an intensification of that struggle by Governments, peoples and international organizations. None the less, that did not mean that all possibilities of intensifying efforts had been exhausted.

36. Various international meetings and congresses, as well as a number of national and international bodies, had condemned colonialist and racist practices. At its fifty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council had carried out an examination of the activities undertaken or planned in connexion with the Decade and had approved a draft resolution which it recommended for adoption by the General Assembly (A/9666, annex). His country was closely following the Council's work on the question and shared the views set out in the afore-mentioned draft resolution.

37. There was no prejudice or discrimination whatever in Bulgaria against other races in the political, social or economic spheres. The Constitution prohibited the granting of any privileges or restriction of rights on grounds of race. Any manifestation of racial intolerance was punished under the Penal Code. In addition to the usual activities carried on in Bulgaria against racism and racial discrimination, other steps had been taken that were directly connected with the Programme for the Decade. They included lectures to educate young people in a spirit of solidarity and equality with all peoples, the study of documents and the dissemination of information on the question. For example, on 21 March, the Bulgarian people had celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, the Bulgarian Government had been one of the first to sign and ratify 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*. Similarly, his country was strictly implementing the decisions of the United Nations and other international bodies aimed at eliminating the racist and colonialist policies of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. Bulgaria had always provided material and moral support to oppressed peoples and to the liberation movements and would continue to do so in implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

38. Mrs. DE ALBA (Dominican Republic) said that the people and Government of the Dominican Republic con-

³ UNESCO SHC/CS/122/8, appendix 4.

demned the practice of racial discrimination, since the Constitution of the country laid down that all citizens were equal before the law without distinction as to sex, race, political ideology or religious belief. The Dominican Republic was peopled by a multiracial society in which no type of racial discrimination had ever existed or existed at present. Since the beginning of the colonial era, it had witnessed a process of amalgamation, not only of races but also of customs and beliefs. The result had been a multicoloured and multiracial society in which blacks constituted 10 per cent, whites 20 per cent and persons of mixed race 70 per cent. That process of racial integration had been so authentic and natural that it was difficult for the Dominican people to imagine or comprehend that a person was discriminated against because of the colour of his skin. They were aware, however, that there was no country in the world in which all forms of discrimination had been completely and definitively eradicated, since although the struggle against racial discrimination had been won in some cases, there were other discriminatory practices that were more subtle and difficult to eradicate, such as economic, educational, social and cultural discrimination. It was therefore necessary for every country to examine its discriminatory practices and to take measures to eliminate all conditions which were detrimental to human dignity and justice.

39. The Dominican Republic was in favour of and supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and hoped that the resolutions on the question would be effectively implemented in order to ensure the beginning of a new phase in the struggle for social progress, for human liberty and dignity and for harmony among peoples.

40. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that the efforts made by the various bodies of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to put an end to racism and racial discrimination were commendable. However, experience showed that the worst enemies of the oppressors were the oppressors themselves. The international community was not seeking to eliminate South Africa; it was the South Africans who made the use

of force necessary and who could ignite the spark that would cause the conflagration.

41. There were various aspects to the problem posed by the situation prevailing in southern Africa. There was a social facet characterized by the contrast between the poverty of the masses and the wealth of a minority. The poor were being systematically subjected to discrimination and poverty was being systematically perpetuated to ensure that the people had no opportunity to escape from their sad plight. There was also the political aspect: it was paradoxical to find that, in the present day and age, there were still millions of human being who were deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms and were subject to the dictates of a racist minority that was doing nothing to adapt to historical change. Portugal had recognized in time the inevitability of the liberation of its Territories and had acted accordingly. The blindness of South Africa and Rhodesia and the vested interests of other Powers which supported them in their foolhardy adventure could only lead in the long run to a disaster that would benefit no one in the end. In operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council (A/9666, annex) all States were urged to ensure immediate termination of all measures and policies as well as activities—military, political, economic and other—which enabled racist régimes in the southern part of Africa to continue the repression of the African people. Attention should be drawn in that regard to the double game being played by some countries which proclaimed and defended human rights and freedoms in certain forums and secretly entered into financial and economic arrangements with the same régimes whose policy they professed to condemn publicly.

42. Nevertheless, methods of persuasion should not be abandoned. Although the establishment of the United Nations Council for Namibia had not brought peace for the Namibians, that did not mean that there had to be bloodshed. It might still be possible to convince those who were helping South Africa and to awaken the South Africans who were oppressing their people.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

2057th meeting

Friday, 4 October 1974, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2057

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9666 and Add.1-3, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475):

- (a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*);
- (c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. FERGUSON (United States of America) said it was fitting that the General Assembly, by its resolution 3057 (XXVIII), launched the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and equally fitting that, at the current session of the General Assembly, it should be the first item on the agenda of the Third Committee. His delegation had