



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 1998
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-third session

Agenda item 110 (d)

Human rights questions: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Third Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled “Human rights questions: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered the item at its 30th to 32nd meetings, on 2 and 3 November 1998, and took action on the item at its 51st meeting, on 20 November. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.30–32 and 51).
3. For the documents before the Committee under this item, see A/53/625.
4. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/53/SR.30).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.65

5. At its 51st meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/53/625 and Add.1–5.

Programme of Action (A/C.3/53/L.65), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.65 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which it endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,¹ as well as its subsequent resolutions on this matter, in particular resolution 52/148 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also paragraph 100 of part II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the five-year review of progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including the need to pay special attention to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the five-year implementation review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, carried out on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² has provided an opportunity to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, that their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments, and that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Convinced that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming the significant steps taken over the past five years at both national and international levels to implement the recommendations made by the World Conference on Human Rights,

Deeply concerned, however, about the wide gap that continues to exist between the promise of human rights and their promotion and protection worldwide, and also deeply concerned about denials and violations of human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — including the right to development,

Reaffirming the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of all human rights and in humanitarian activities at the national, regional and international levels, and appreciating their contribution to increasing public awareness of human rights

¹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

² Resolution 217 A (III).

issues, to the conduct of education, training and research in this field, and to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council devoted the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1998 to the question of the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action³ and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Solemnly declares* its commitment to the fulfilment of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;¹

3. *Welcomes* agreed conclusions 1998/2 of the Economic and Social Council⁴ on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and calls for their full implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action continues to constitute a solid foundation for further action and initiatives by States, the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and organizations, as well as concerned national institutions and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Calls upon* all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights for all in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

³ A/53/372, annex.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/53/3)*, chap. VI, para. 3.