

United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records*



THIRD COMMITTEE

61st meeting

held on

Wednesday, 28 November 1979

at 3 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 61st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOBHY (Egypt)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE
(continued)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3519 (XXX): REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (b) STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION AND IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (c) INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (d) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (e) WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE

AGENDA ITEM 76: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 79: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(continued)

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3650, 666 United Nations Plaza (Moscow Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/34/SR.61
17 December 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE
(continued) (A/34/357, 542; A/C.3/34/L.42, L.52)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3519 (XXX): REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/471, 113, 391)
- (b) STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION AND IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/321, 577 and Add.1; A/C.3/34/L.49)
- (c) INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/579; A/C.3/34/L.47)
- (d) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/612; A/C.3/34/L.44, L.45)
- (e) WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE (A/CONF.94/PG/12; A/34/657 and Add.1; A/C.3/34/L.48, L.50, L.53, L.66, L.67)

1. Miss COYE (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.44 on agenda item 80 (d) and said that the delegations of Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Mozambique and Somalia had joined in sponsoring that text. The sponsors had held consultations with the delegation sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.45, also concerning the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and were ready to continue those consultations with a view to reaching a consensus.

2. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.44 had agreed to certain amendments. After the fifth preambular paragraph, a new sixth preambular paragraph should be inserted, which would read: "Noting also with appreciation the expansion of the activities supported by the Fund and the increased co-operation of the organizations of the United Nations system". The last part of operative paragraph 5 should be deleted, and the entire paragraph should read: "Decides that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women shall continue to be situated at Headquarters". A new paragraph 6 should be inserted which would read: "Decides also to review this decision in the context of its considerations and conclusions on the future of the Fund, in the light of the study requested in operative paragraph 4 of this resolution". The other paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

3. Referring to the third, fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs, she noted that the initial work of the Fund had been effective, for the new procedures had facilitated the review and execution of projects. The Fund had been established to provide financial support for activities involving women, but was not supposed to be the main source of funding.

4. The selection of five Member States which would appoint representatives to

(Miss Coxe, Jamaica)

serve on the Consultative Committee for three years, referred to in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, met the need for continuity, to which the sponsors attached importance. Not all the current members of the Consultative Committee had to continue their functions; an effort was being made to draw on the experience of one or more representatives in the review and evaluation of projects.

5. Mrs. HOLZER (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.45, thanked the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.44 for their efforts to reach a compromise formula which would cover both draft resolutions. Her delegation was prepared to continue consultations in order to arrive at a consensus.

6. Austria, while not seeking to prevoke any debate on the question, was convinced that the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women were part of the work programme of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Consequently, the activities of the Fund and those of the Centre were inseparable and the Fund must be transferred to Vienna, the present headquarters of the Centre. Those conclusions were based on General Assembly resolutions 31/194 and 33/181, which had been adopted by an overwhelming majority. Keeping the Fund in New York would be contrary to those resolutions and might even jeopardize the success of the relevant activities.

7. UNIDO, which was one of the executing agencies of UNDP and was based in Vienna, could play an effective role in the activities of the Fund. The direct assistance of UNDP, which some delegations considered indispensable, was more important only in relation to field activities, in other words, in the selection of country projects. Most of the institutions which collaborated with the Fund were based in Europe. Some of the expenditure occasioned by the move could be offset by the savings resulting from the change of headquarters. The argument that many countries did not have permanent representatives in Vienna was not valid, because Vienna was a city where major international organizations functioned regularly and where meetings and conferences at all levels were often held.

8. Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) replied to questions concerning the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and its relationship with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. It had been pointed out that in General Assembly resolution 31/133 nothing was said about the Fund's being part of the Centre. Paragraph 1 of the resolution, however, set forth the "criteria and arrangements for the management of the Voluntary Fund" and specified that "the resources of the Fund should be utilized to supplement activities" in the "arena designed to implement the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women". The substantive work relating to the Decade was within the competence of the Advancement of Women Branch in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, according to its terms of reference.

9. In paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 31/133 the General Assembly had endorsed the arrangements for the management of the Fund contained in the annex to the resolution. Section I of the annex stated that "the Controller, in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, shall determine

(Mrs. Sipilä)

the responsibility and procedures for soliciting voluntary contributions to the Fund". Section II provided that "subject to the criteria for disbursements from the Fund endorsed by the General Assembly, the Controller may, after consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, allocate resources of the Fund" to relevant agencies and bodies. It provided that before making disbursements for technical co-operation activities, "the Controller should consult the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme". It also provided that "in respect of activities conducted by the United Nations, requests for allotments of funds shall be submitted to the Controller by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs". Section III of the annex dealt with reporting procedures and provided that an annual report on the financial aspects of the Fund would be submitted by the Controller to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, to the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission was being serviced by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

10. In accordance with the programme budget of the United Nations, that Centre was responsible for the operation of the Fund in connexion with its subprogramme on integration of women in development. That responsibility had been assigned to the Centre in the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 adopted by the General Assembly in 1977. In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, which included a section on the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and which had already been approved by the Fifth Committee, there was a programme element entitled "Management of Voluntary Fund and support of International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women". The conclusion was that the management of the Voluntary Fund was a part of the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

11. The Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund, whose mandate was to advise the Secretary-General on the application of the criteria to the use of the Fund, had made recommendations at its third session concerning the inclusion in the staff of the Centre of officers with special responsibility for co-ordinating the Fund with the work of the Centre, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies. She noted in that connexion that several posts financed by the Fund had been established in the Centre.

12. One delegation had asked whether the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had the competence to supervise the work of the Fund, in view of the fact that most of the activities financed by the Fund were in the nature of technical assistance. In that connexion it should be noted that the relocation of the Centre to Vienna covered the totality of its functions, which included research and analysis on the one hand and technical co-operation activities on the other. That had been clearly stated in document A/C.5/32/86.

13. A question had also been raised as to what would be the impact on the work of the Centre if the management of the Voluntary Fund remained in New York. The answer was that the Fund's co-ordination activities would benefit from its being in the same place as the Centre.

14. As to the close relationship between the work of the Fund and that of UNDP

/...

and UNICEF, co-operation with UNDP was a legal mandate given to the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 31/133. The Voluntary Fund did not replace, but rather supplemented, assistance from other funds, especially for poor women in urban and rural areas in the least developed countries. In order to avoid any duplication of work and of sources of funding, it was important continuously to compare project applications with UNDP programmes. More than a year earlier, UNDP and the Centre had reached an agreement to the effect that project proposals submitted to the Voluntary Fund would be reviewed by the UNDP regional offices at Headquarters. Through such co-operation the needs of women in various regions had been brought to the attention of the UNDP regional offices, and UNDP itself had agreed to provide women's programmes in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific with \$1 million and \$900,000 respectively..

15. Since many projects submitted to the Voluntary Fund were closely related to those financed by UNICEF, the two funding agencies also collaborated through their respective field representatives in virtually all the developing countries. Such co-operation would become increasingly important if UNDP endorsed and applied the decision taken by the Consultative Committee in March 1979 to accept project proposals formulated directly at the national level, provided they were received through the UNDP resident representatives. Project applications were currently being received directly from many countries. The relocation of substantive units away from New York raised problems and somewhat disrupted the co-ordination of work, but those difficulties were not insurmountable. As indicated in the report on the Voluntary Fund, the Secretary-General would spare no effort to ensure effective collaboration between the Fund and the other United Nations offices and agencies concerned. The Secretary-General intended to proceed with the relocation of the management of the Fund, unless the General Assembly decided otherwise.

16. Replying to a question put by Miss RICHTER (Argentina), Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) said that delegations would be able to obtain copies of the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

17. Replying to a request from Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) that the decision on the draft resolutions concerning agenda item 80 should be postponed until the following meeting, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that a large number of draft resolutions requiring a decision had accumulated. He suggested that the Committee should consider them, without prejudice to the possibility of postponing until the following meeting any draft resolutions on which delegations needed to hold further consultations.

18. It was so decided.

19. Mr. HASSA (Jordan) said that in the Arabic version of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.46 the dates of the adoption of the General Assembly resolutions referred to were incorrect.

20. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.52 had agreed to revise that text in order to take into account the views expressed by the representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees and by several delegations.

/...

(Mrs. Shabanu, Philippines)

21. The beginning of paragraph 2, as revised, would read: "Requests the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to prepare a report for the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference at its third session and a final report for the World Conference within the framework of the over-all refugee problem with which his Office is seized, which would: ...".

22. She announced that Australia, Chile, Somalia, the Sudan and the United Republic of Cameroon had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.52.

23. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.52, whom he thanked for the understanding they had shown in accepting the suggestions of other delegations.

24. Mr. HERMIDA (Nicaragua) said that the heroic participation of women in his country's revolution had made possible the triumph of the people, as had been the case throughout the history of its struggle for freedom. Women, who had been denied any participation in society by the fallen dictatorship, had been in the vanguard on all fronts. Under the new régime in Nicaragua, women, enriched by their experience, were participating in activities at every level, helping to consolidate the achievements of the revolution.

25. His delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.3/34/L.47, L.48 and L.50.

26. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) announced that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.3/34/L.52 and L.53.

27. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the following delegations had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.42: Australia, Canada, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Greece, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Japan and the United States of America.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.42, as revised.

29. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.42, as revised, was adopted without a vote.

30. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the following delegations had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.47: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the Upper Volta and Venezuela.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.47, as revised.

32. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.47, as revised, was adopted without a vote.

33. Mrs. SAKELIAN (German Democratic Republic) announced that Sao Tome and Principe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.48.

(Mrs. Serizler, Gerraar
Democratic Republic)

34. After holding consultations to consider the amendments proposed in documents A/C.3/34/L.66 and L.67, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.48 had agreed to make the following changes: the fourth preambular paragraph would be replaced by the paragraph suggested in the draft amendment contained in document A/C.3/34/L.67; in the fifth preambular paragraph, after the words "international peace", the words ", to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms" would be inserted and, in the English version, after the words "participation of women", the words "with men" would be inserted; at the end of the sixth preambular paragraph the words "and to the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms," would be added; at the end of paragraph 2 the words "and on the recommendations by the regional Preparatory Conferences" would be added; in paragraph 3 the words "with priority" would be deleted and at the end of the paragraph the words "and for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" would be added.

35. Replying to questions put by the CHAIRMAN, Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) and Mrs. MORRISON (Lesotho), she said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.48 had not been able to accept the amendment proposed in document A/C.3/34/L.66. In view of the numerous amendments put forward and the various revisions that had been made in the text, she said that no decision should be taken on the draft resolution until the Committee's next meeting.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that such was the sense of the Committee.

37. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 76: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(continued) (A/C.3/34/L.54)

38. Mrs. SIBAL (India), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, introduced the draft resolution in document A/C.3/34/L.54 and announced that the Group of 77 was holding negotiations and consultations in which all interested delegations were invited to participate, so that the draft resolution could have the widest possible support.

39. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that his country and others had made suggestions to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.54 to facilitate its adoption by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 79: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/34/158 and Corr.1 and Add.1, 290, 309, 542;
A/C.3/34/L.57)

40. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/34/L.57.

41. There were more than 450 million disabled persons in the world, mostly in developing countries. It was for that reason that, in paragraphs 7 and 8, it was

/...

(Mr. Abdul-Asiz, Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya)

requested that special attention should be given to the disabled in those countries and that an international symposium on the subject should be organized, setting aside all political considerations. The work of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries, with headquarters in Iran, had been interrupted; for that reason the Secretary-General was requested in paragraph 9 to explore the possibilities of continuing the activities of the Institute.

42. The problem of disabled persons aroused humanitarian feelings of compassion and entailed the need for moral and practical assistance. The matter had no political connotations whatsoever, nor did it run counter to any ideologies; it was purely a humanitarian matter and merited the full attention of the international community. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

43. Mr. MAZAIRAC (Director, Division for Economic and Social Information, Department of Public Information) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for Disabled Persons (A/34/158 and Add.1) contained proposals regarding a public information programme. It was to be hoped that that programme would provide the necessary support for the Year and facilitate the participation of disabled persons in society, limited only by their own disabilities and not by any other factors, social or cultural. Since some of the proposals would be financed from extrabudgetary resources, he hoped that those resources would be adequate.

44. Mr. RAMAZANI (Zaire) said that in his country activities aimed at assisting the disabled comprised material assistance and the establishment of educational and vocational centres to prepare the disabled, as the persons mainly concerned and the primary beneficiaries, to participate in the process of adopting the relevant decisions. In addition to the Centre National Professionnel pour Handicapés et Invalides Physiques there were 80 private multidisciplinary centres in the country which provided paramedical, educational and vocational services to disabled persons.

45. A national commission on rehabilitation would shortly be established in order to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments and bodies dealing with matters relating to disability, in accordance with a recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the International Year. Since 1977 his country had been in contact with international organizations concerned with the problems of disabled persons such as ILO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and others, in order to secure their co-operation so as to render activities in the field of rehabilitation more operational, dynamic and substantive. At the regional level, Zaire co-operated closely with its neighbours, Cameroon, Burundi and Rwanda, through an exchange of experiences in the Association des Centres pour Handicapés de l'Afrique Centrale.

46. At the international level, his country was a member of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons, endorsed the objectives of the Year and felt that Governments should strengthen national and regional

/...

(Mr. Ramazani, Zaire)

programmes for rehabilitation and the prevention of disabilities and include them in national development plans. The most important world problem with regard to rehabilitation was the full and effective reintegration of disabled persons in the social and economic activities of their countries.

47. He stressed the fifth and seventh preambular paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57, which referred respectively to the relationship between the individual and his environment and to the furtherance of peace, since many disabled persons were victims of war and other forms of violence. The expansion of the theme of the Year to "full participation and equality" strengthened the concept of the full integration of disabled persons in their environment, and the organization of an international symposium of experts would enhance international co-operation among developing countries in that field. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

48. Mrs. AKAMATSU (Japan) said that her delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57. In paragraph 2 of the draft resolution it was proposed that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons should be adopted as a plan of action for the Year. In that connexion, her delegation attached particular importance to the vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons and industrial skill contests for disabled persons were often organized for that purpose in her country. An international industrial skills contest for disabled persons was planned for the year 1981. Her delegation also supported the proposal in paragraph 12 of the draft resolution to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee in 1980, at which time her country would introduce the idea of the contest she had just mentioned.

49. Ms. ADAMSON (Australia) proposed that a tenth preambular paragraph should be added to draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57 which would read: "Noting that the Secretary-General will appoint an Executive Secretary for the Year 21". Foot-note 21 would refer to document A/34/158/Add.1. The next preambular paragraph would then begin "Noting also". Her delegation hoped that the appointment of the Executive Secretary would give extra impetus to the preparations for the Year, and that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

50. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that although he had been able to consult only some of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57, in principle he felt that the amendment proposed by the delegation of Australia would be acceptable.

51. Mr. PAPADENAS (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the following delegations had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57: Benin, the Comoros, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, the Sudan, the Upper Volta and Viet Nam.

52. There was a slight difference between paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, in which 1980 was set for the meeting of the Advisory Committee, and paragraph 20 of

/...

(Mr. Papademas)

document A/C.3/158/Add.1, in which February 1981 was given as the date. The difference in no way affected the financial implications of the draft resolution.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57 without a vote.

54. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57, as amended, was adopted without a vote.

55. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation subscribed to the noble objectives of the International Year for Disabled Persons and hoped that they would be reached, especially through measures at the national level. It had reservations, however, regarding some of the activities planned at the international level for the preparations for and the holding of the Year in accordance with the plan set forth in document A/34/158/Add.1 and various paragraphs of the draft resolution that had just been adopted, especially because the activities had financial implications which he did not feel were fully justified.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 79.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.