

Decides to admit the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to membership in the United Nations.

*1714th plenary meeting,
12 November 1968.*

2389 (XXIII). Representation of China in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling the recommendation contained in its resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950 that, whenever more than one authority claims to be the Government entitled to represent a Member State in the United Nations and this question becomes the subject of controversy in the United Nations, the question should be considered in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the circumstances of each case,

Recalling further its decision in resolution 1668 (XVI) of 15 December 1961, in accordance with Article 18 of the Charter, that any proposal to change the representation of China is an important question, which, in General Assembly resolutions 2025 (XX) of 17 November 1965, 2159 (XXI) of 29 November 1966 and 2271 (XXII) of 28 November 1967, was affirmed as remaining valid,

Affirms again that this decision remains valid.

*1724th plenary meeting,
19 November 1968.*

2398 (XXIII). Problems of the human environment

The General Assembly,

Noting that the relationship between man and his environment is undergoing profound changes in the wake of modern scientific and technological developments,

Aware that these developments, while offering unprecedented opportunities to change and shape the environment of man to meet his needs and aspirations, also involve grave dangers if not properly controlled,

Noting, in particular, the continuing and accelerating impairment of the quality of the human environment caused by such factors as air and water pollution, erosion and other forms of soil deterioration, waste, noise and the secondary effects of biocides, which are accentuated by rapidly increasing population and accelerating urbanization,

Concerned about the consequent effects on the condition of man, his physical, mental and social well-being, his dignity and his enjoyment of basic human rights, in developing as well as developed countries,

Convinced that increased attention to the problems of the human environment is essential for sound economic and social development,

Expressing the strong hope that the developing countries will, through appropriate international co-operation, derive particular benefit from the mobilization of knowledge and experience about the problems of the human environment, enabling them, *inter alia*, to forestall the occurrence of many such problems,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1346 (XLV) of 30 July 1968 on the question of convening an international conference on the problems of the human environment,

Bearing in mind the important work on some problems of the human environment at present being undertaken by organizations in the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations (including the Economic Commission for Europe), the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on activities of United Nations organizations and programmes relevant to the human environment,⁵

Aware of the important work being done on the problems of the human environment by Governments as well as by intergovernmental organizations such as the Organization of African Unity and non-governmental organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the International Council of Scientific Unions and the International Biological Programme,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere,⁶ convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the participation of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization,

Convinced of the need for intensified action at the national, regional and international level in order to limit and, where possible, eliminate the impairment of the human environment and in order to protect and improve the natural surroundings in the interest of man,

Desiring to encourage further work in this field and to give it a common outlook and direction,

Believing it desirable to provide a framework for comprehensive consideration within the United Nations of the problems of the human environment in order to focus the attention of Governments and public opinion on the importance and urgency of this question and also to identify those aspects of it that can only or best be solved through international co-operation and agreement,

1. *Decides*, in furtherance of the objectives set out above, to convene in 1972 a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session, a report concerning:

(a) The nature, scope and progress of work at present being done in the field of the human environment;

(b) The main problems facing developed and developing countries in this area, which might with particular advantage be considered at such a conference,

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document E/4553.

⁶ For the text of the recommendations, see the mimeographed version of document A/7291 (annex).

including the possibilities for increased international co-operation, especially as they relate to economic and social development, in particular of the developing countries;

(c) Possible methods of preparing for the Conference and the time necessary for such preparations;

(d) A possible time and place for the Conference;

(e) The range of financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of the Conference;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report, to consult Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency and appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, and to draw on contributions from appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

*1733rd plenary meeting,
3 December 1968.*

2403 (XXIII). Question of Namibia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966 and subsequent resolutions on this question,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 246 (1968) of 14 March 1968, in particular the last preambular paragraph in which the Council took cognizance of its special responsibility towards the people and Territory of Namibia,

Noting with appreciation the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia,⁷

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the legitimacy of their struggle against the foreign occupation of their country;

2. *Reiterates* its condemnation of the Government of South Africa for its persistent defiance of the authority and resolutions of the United Nations, for its refusal to withdraw from Namibia and for its policy and actions designed to destroy the national unity and territorial integrity of Namibia;

3. *Decides* to draw the attention of the Security Council to the serious situation which has arisen as a result of the illegal presence and actions of the Government of South Africa in Namibia;

4. *Recommends* the Security Council urgently to take all effective measures, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure the immediate withdrawal of South African authorities from Namibia so as to enable Namibia to attain independence in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2145 (XXI);

5. *Commends* to the appropriate organs of the United Nations acting in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, for their consideration, the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Council for Namibia to continue to discharge by every available means the responsibilities and functions entrusted to it;

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 64, document A/7338 and Corr.1.*

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary assistance and facilities to enable the United Nations Council for Namibia to perform its duties and functions.

*1742nd plenary meeting,
16 December 1968.*

2404 (XXIII). Petitions concerning Namibia

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the United Nations with regard to Namibia, including in particular those set out in General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966, 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967 and 2325 (XXII) of 16 December 1967,

Noting that the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has received and examined during 1967 and 1968 seventy-eight petitions concerning Namibia, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 and within the context of the implementation of the Declaration,

Noting further that these petitions relate, *inter alia*, to the general situation and recent developments concerning Namibia, the continued refusal by South Africa to implement General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) and 2248 (S-V), especially as regards the transfer to the United Nations Council for Namibia of the administration of the Territory, the illegal arrest, detention and trial of thirty-seven Namibians and the sentencing of thirty-one of them by South Africa, the extension of the Suppression of Communism Act to the Territory, the arrest of political leaders and restrictions on political activities in the Territory, the deproclamation of the Old Location in Windhoek, the plans to create a "self-governing homeland" in Ovamboland and the removal of Africans from their ancestral lands according to the recommendations of the Odenaal Commission,⁸

1. *Notes* that the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has taken these petitions into account in its consideration of the situation in Namibia within the context of the implementation of the Declaration;

2. *Notes further* that those petitions which raised matters of concern to the United Nations Council for Namibia have been brought to the latter's attention by the Secretariat and have been taken into consideration by the Council in the performance of the functions assigned to it by the General Assembly in resolutions 2248 (S-V) and 2325 (XXII);

3. *Draws the attention* of the petitioners concerned to the report concerning the Territory submitted by the Special Committee⁹ and to the resolutions on the question of Namibia adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions, as well as to the reports of the Secretary-General relating to the Territory and the reports of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

*1742nd plenary meeting,
16 December 1968.*

⁸ "Commission of Enquiry into South West Africa Affairs" established in 1962 by the Government of South Africa under the chairmanship of Mr. F. H. Odendaal.

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/7200/Rev.1), chapter VII.*