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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 73: REVIEW AND CO-ORDINATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMMES OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 79: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/C.3/36/L.41)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 34/46 AND 35/174: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/36/L.43)
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Draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.41

1. Mrs. FLOREZ (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.41, said that Argentina, Guyana and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had become sponsors. As everyone knew, in recent years efforts had been made within the United Nations to develop the concepts set forth in General Assembly resolution 32/130. Over the years new concepts had evolved, and the sponsors had taken them into consideration in preparing the draft. The sponsors believed that the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group referred to in the ninth preambular paragraph had been a positive step, and they viewed the resumption of its work with optimism. The concept of the right to development as an inalienable human right, as referred to in the tenth preambular paragraph, had been agreed on by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries at their recent meeting at New Delhi. The eleventh preambular paragraph reflected the sponsors' belief that peace and security were essential elements for development. The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar referred to in the twelfth preambular paragraph were important, and so was the study referred to in the thirteenth preambular paragraph. The sponsors believed that both documents constituted positive steps towards drawing the attention of the international community to concern for human rights. All those features were included in paragraphs 6 to 9, and the sponsors wished to thank delegations that had made suggestions regarding the text. They looked forward to suggestions from other delegations with a view to improving the draft in a spirit of co-operation.

2. Mrs. NGUYEN BINH THANH (Viet Nam) said that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.41.

Draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.43

3. Mrs. de BARISH (Costa Rica), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.43, said that the United Kingdom had become a sponsor. For many years, her delegation had shared the concern of others at the shortcomings of the existing system for international action in the face of serious violations of human rights. For that reason, her delegation had co-operated with delegations from various regions with a view to achieving gradually the establishment of effective machinery for ensuring

(Mrs. de Barish, Costa Rica)

that the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights became a reality. The sponsors of the draft resolution believed that the establishment of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would be an important step in that direction and would obtain positive results similar to those achieved by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The draft resolution was self-explanatory, and the sponsors hoped that all delegations would give it serious consideration and accept it in a spirit of understanding and co-operation, so that it could be adopted by consensus in the Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.42

4. Miss KHAPARDE (India), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.42, said that Morocco and New Zealand had become sponsors. The sponsors wished to reaffirm their belief that national institutions had a very important role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights. Several of the concepts in the draft resolution were drawn from previous General Assembly resolutions, and the thrust of the present draft was to enhance public awareness of international human-rights instruments. That could be done through wider publicity and distribution of international human-rights instruments. That could be done through wider publicity and distribution of international instruments and through educational institutions; those ideas were contained in paragraphs 4 and 5. The sponsors wished to encourage Member States to exchange experience in that field, and that was reflected in paragraph 6. Several requests were made to the Secretary-General in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9; the sponsors wished to draw particular attention to paragraph 8, which requested that priority should be accorded to the needs of the developing countries in publicity activities. The sponsors hoped that the draft would be adopted without a vote, and they would welcome any suggestions aimed at improving the text. One such suggestion which had been accepted by the sponsors was to delete the words "drawing upon all available resources" in paragraph 9 because it had been felt that that phrase was too general and broad. She regretted that her delegation had not been able to meet with each of the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 34/49 but hoped that they would join in sponsoring the draft resolution and that it would be adopted without a vote.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.