



General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 December 2007

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 48th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 19 November 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 42: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions *(continued)* (A/C.3/62/L.82)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.82: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

1. **Mr. Jesus** (Angola), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of African States, said that it addressed the needs of the over 14.2 million Africans who were refugees, returnees or displaced persons. Even though the situation in some areas of Africa had improved considerably over the past year, the rest of the continent remained susceptible to conflicts and natural disasters and the number of people fleeing their homes to live in deplorable conditions in camps was increasing.

2. The current year's draft resolution highlighted the situation of children at risk in the hope that States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and all other relevant actors would strengthen the protection of children who were asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced, returnees or stateless and assisted by UNHCR or under its protection. Noting that consultations were ongoing, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would not only achieve the consensus it had enjoyed in previous years, but also attract the support of other delegations outside the region, in order to send an even stronger message of support to that vulnerable group.

3. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Guinea wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Agenda item 68: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination *(continued)*

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action *(continued)* (A/C.3/62/L.65)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.65: From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

4. **Mr. Hayee** (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said

that the greatest challenge facing the United Nations system and, indeed, the human race was how to tackle war and intolerance, poverty and underdevelopment, economic and racial injustice, and hatred in all its manifestations. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action had provided a solid basis for the international community to work together for the total elimination of racism in all its forms and manifestations. It was regrettable that the world was experiencing resurgent and violent forms of racism. Racial and religious hatred were assuming new dimensions.

5. Since the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, there had been more than enough rhetoric. States must demonstrate their commitment to offer greater protection to victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In particular, they must guarantee them maximum remedy and safeguards and adopt a policy of zero tolerance with regard to impunity for acts of racism. Lastly, tangible progress must be made on all key undertakings before the Durban Review Conference in 2009.

6. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Russian Federation wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Agenda item 69: Right of peoples to self-determination *(continued)* (A/C.3/62/L.63)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.63: The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

7. **Mr. Attiya** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution, said that Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Monaco, the Russian Federation and Spain had joined the sponsors.

8. For over four decades, the Palestinian people had been suffering from Israeli occupation and denied their basic human rights in a flagrant violation of international law. The continued denial of their legitimate aspiration to self-determination, by oppressive and brutal means, compelled his delegation once again to submit the draft resolution in question.

9. The text was essentially the same as that of the resolution adopted at the previous session; one new preambular paragraph stressed the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. That element was central for

the attainment and exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, for it was only upon such Territory that they could establish their independent, sovereign and viable State, alongside the State of Israel.

10. His delegation hoped that Member States would send a strong message of solidarity and encouragement to the Palestinian people by adopting the draft resolution by consensus. International support for such an important resolution would contribute to the ultimate realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable and long-overdue right to self-determination on their own land and in their own independent, sovereign and viable State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

11. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Montenegro, Mozambique, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Suriname and the United Republic of Tanzania also wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Agenda item 42: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (continued) (A/C.3/62/L.64 and L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.64: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

12. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Japan, Lebanon and Romania wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.64 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.67: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

15. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. **Ms. Wandel** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Dominica, Eritrea, Haiti, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique,

the Niger, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Tajikistan and Tunisia had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Furthermore, in paragraph 18, the phrase "and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees" should be added after "refugee problems".

17. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Bahamas, China, the Gambia and Sri Lanka also wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. **Ms. Pérez Álvarez** (Cuba), with regard to the reference to "regional organizations" in paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, said that her delegation would have preferred the sponsors to include the phrase "as appropriate" in order to reflect the fact that Cuba was not a member of the regional organization for the American continent.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.67, as orally revised, was adopted.*

20. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution on of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) contained in document A/C.3/62/L.67 because of its belief in the importance of providing a life of dignity for refugees and forcibly displaced persons until their hope of returning to their homelands was realized in accordance with all international, humanitarian and moral laws. Though the refugee question might outwardly appear to be a humanitarian issue, it was in essence a purely political issue and it was in that context that her delegation had joined the consensus. Her country had not acceded to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees or the related 1967 Protocol but it would continue to cooperate with the United Nations, including UNHCR, in order to facilitate assistance to refugees and internally displaced person in accordance with Syrian domestic law. The international community, while fully aware of the burden for her country of the assistance provided to refugees within its territory, whose number had reached 2 million or 12 per cent of the population, had thus far taken no steps to extend a helping hand, despite several international conferences on the question.

21. **Ms. Rodríguez de Ortiz** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) welcomed the fact that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus. The Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees did a very important job. In particular, she welcomed the inclusion in the draft resolution of text highlighting the need to address the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees and stressed the importance of respecting the agreements reached at the April 2007 conference in Geneva. She conveyed her appreciation to all delegations for their support and flexibility, particularly those that had presented alternative texts, and expressed the hope that the spirit of good faith that had enabled the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus would continue in the future.

Agenda item 63: Advancement of women (*continued*)
(A/C.3/62/L.14/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.14/Rev.1: Violence against women migrant workers

22. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

23. **Ms. Banzon-Abalos** (Philippines) said that, following a series of informal consultations, her delegation was submitting an improved version of the draft resolution for action. The draft resolution stressed the shared responsibility of all States in cooperation with international organizations and civil society in measures to prevent and address violence against women who migrated all over the world for work and stressed that, regardless of their immigration status, the human rights of women migrant workers should always be protected and respected. Lastly, she announced that Costa Rica and Uruguay had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

24. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, Benin, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka also wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.14/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 66: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*) (A/C.3/62/L.21/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.21/Rev.1: Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula

26. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

27. **Ms. Sow** (Senegal), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.21/Rev.1, recalled that Millennium Development Goal 5 consisted in reducing the maternal mortality rate. Every minute, 20 women suffered injuries and one died as a result of pregnancy complications. Obstetric fistula, which affected millions of women, was a major but avoidable cause of such health problems. National health systems were unable to cope with that situation. Accordingly, awareness of the issue should be enhanced and the efforts of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its partners in the area of obstetric fistula prevention and treatment should be strengthened.

28. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Afghanistan, Algeria, Belize, Burundi, Ethiopia, Grenada, Liechtenstein, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden and Uzbekistan wished to join the list of sponsors.

29. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted.*

30. **Ms. Norin** (United States of America), explaining her delegation's position, said that her country understood references to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their five- and ten-year reviews not to create any right to abortion or to constitute support for abortion. States had no duty to fulfil obligations under human rights instruments to which they were not a party. Moreover, there was international consensus that the term "sexual and reproductive health" did not include abortion or constitute support for abortion or use of abortifacients. Furthermore, the draft resolution did not create a new internationally agreed Millennium Development Goal. Lastly, the Global Campaign to End Fistula launched by UNFPA was one of a number of options available to Member States that wished to contribute to ending obstetric fistula.

Agenda item 70: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/62/L.31, L.39, L.45, L.46, L.48, L.50, L.52, L.54 and L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.31: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights

31. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

32. **Mr. Attiya** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.31 on behalf of the original sponsors and Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Ecuador, Mauritania, Suriname, Tunisia and Venezuela, said that the text did not prejudge the course of globalization or formulate value judgements but addressed the multidimensional intricacy of globalization, its impact on humanity and the need to optimize the enjoyment of all human rights in view of communication technology advances. The objective was to enable the international community to respond more effectively to global opportunities and challenges by offsetting any negative aspects of globalization through constructive dialogue.

33. **Mr. Strigelsky** (Belarus) said that the link between globalization and human rights was central to the text, which focused on reducing the divide between rich and poor and ensuring sustained economic growth.

34. *At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.31.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United

Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Chile, Singapore

35. Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.31 was adopted by 112 votes to 52, with 3 abstentions.*

36. **Ms. Carvalho** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, Liechtenstein and Moldova, said that the European Union could not support draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.31. Dealing with globalization and its effects in a comprehensive manner was high on the agenda of the European Union, which acknowledged that globalization could have an impact on the exercise of human rights. However, the draft resolution inaccurately implied that globalization had a negative effect on the enjoyment of rights as a whole. Although currently its benefits were not evenly shared, globalization could help to tackle the world's most acute problems, including extreme poverty, by stimulating growth. It could thereby contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights. Moreover, there were human rights and fundamental freedoms that were not affected by globalization. Regrettably, the sponsors had not engaged in consultations in order to bridge the gap between the text and the views of other delegations.

* The delegation of Gabon subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.39: Human rights and cultural diversity

37. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

38. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) reminded the Committee of the revisions made to the draft resolution at the time of its introduction.

39. **Mr. Emadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.39 on behalf of the original sponsors and Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Tunisia, said that respect for diversity facilitated the universal promotion and protection of human rights. The text currently before the Committee was almost the same as the resolution approved by consensus in 2006 and its adoption would be an important step towards strengthening tolerance within and between nations.

40. **Mr. Strigelsky** (Belarus) said that respect for the historical, cultural and religious particularities of States was a prerequisite for effective dialogue on human rights. His country valued the outcome of the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity held in September 2007 and supported the draft resolution.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.39, as orally revised, was adopted.*

42. **Ms. Carvalho** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova and Norway, said that the European Union understood the draft resolution to recognize that, with all their diversity, all cultures shared a set of universal values, including the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all human beings, as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace. Accordingly, the European Union saw draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.39 as a commitment to the principle that no culture, belief, religion, or doctrine could stand above the human rights and fundamental freedoms of each individual, including the right to life,

freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom of religion or belief and the right not to be discriminated against on any grounds. States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, had a duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals. The European Union noted that the draft resolution sought to promote cultural human rights; appreciated the sponsors' efforts to streamline the text and to accommodate some pressing concerns; and concurred with the emphasis on the need to freely use the media and new information and communication technologies. It was on that basis that the European Union had joined the consensus.

43. **Ms. Norin** (United States of America) noted that, in joining the consensus, her delegation interpreted the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress as being based on mutually agreed terms. Such a right could be exercised only in conjunction with any author's right to the protection of the moral and material interest resulting from his or her scientific, literary or artistic production in line with article 27, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.45: Human rights in the administration of justice

44. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

45. **Ms. Nguyen** (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.45 on behalf of the original sponsors and Albania, Andorra, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Gambia, Haiti, Honduras, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of South Korea, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uruguay, said that the draft resolution was procedural. It referred to the Secretary-General's report on human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice (A/HRC/4/102), and invited the competent United Nations bodies to continue the consideration of those issues and to pursue appropriate activities in that area.

46. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.45 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.46: Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

47. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

48. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Burundi, China, Iraq, Mali and Moldova had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

49. **Ms. Nguyen** (Austria), introducing the draft resolution, said that it was mostly procedural in nature and called on the General Assembly to continue at its sixty-third session consideration of the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.46 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.48: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

51. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

52. **Mr. Ferrer Arenas** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced the draft resolution, which would reaffirm commitment to international cooperation in the field of human rights. He hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.48 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.50: Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

54. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

55. **Mr. Ferrer Arenas** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced the draft resolution. Unilateral coercive measures, with a negative impact on trade and international relations, continued to be applied, despite recommendations from the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and major United Nations Conferences. He hoped that Member States would adopt the draft resolution in support of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

56. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.50.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

57. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.50 was adopted by 122 votes to 52.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.52: Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all

58. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

59. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Comoros, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

60. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.52.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark,

Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Chile, Mexico, Samoa, Singapore.

61. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.52 was adopted by 114 votes to 52, with 6 abstentions.*

62. **Ms. Carvalho** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that its members had voted against the draft resolution because the text assumed that peace was a prerequisite for the realization and fulfilment of human rights of all peoples and considered only the obligations and relationships between States in promoting peace. It failed to acknowledge the State's obligations towards its citizens, which was the core mandate of the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council. Although the promotion of peace and realization of human rights were linked, the issue should be dealt with in the appropriate forums.

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.54: Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

63. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

64. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Lesotho, the Niger and Uzbekistan had joined the list of sponsors. Cuba had been omitted from the original list of sponsors.

65. **Mr. Ferrer Arenas** (Cuba) said that Honduras had also joined the list of sponsors. International cooperation in the field of human rights could be achieved only by an approach which was non-selective, impartial and objective, and he urged all Member States to support the draft resolution.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.54 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.55: Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character

67. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

68. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Benin, Bolivia and Sierra Leone had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

69. **Mr. Ferrer Arenas** (Cuba) said that the draft resolution reflected the commitment of Member States to the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations. As a firm supporter of multilateralism, his delegation urged all Member States to vote for the draft resolution.

70. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.55.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Nauru, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Thailand, Uruguay.

71. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.55 was adopted by 102 votes to 53, with 11 abstentions.*

72. **Ms. Carvalho** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia aligned themselves with her statement of explanation after the vote. The European Union was opposed to the selective use and quotation of the Charter of the United Nations in the draft resolution. Given that one of the main aims of the United Nations was to promote and encourage respect for human rights, it could not accept the inference in the draft resolution that those rights could be promoted and protected in disrespect of the Charter. It remained unconvinced that the Third Committee was the right forum to examine that issue and regretted that the Cuban delegation had showed no willingness to discuss it in advance.

(e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/C.3/L.36/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/L.36/Rev.1: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

73. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria had been omitted from the list of original sponsors of the draft resolution.

74. Regarding the financial implications of the draft resolution and with reference to paragraph 4 thereof, he said that in paragraph 23.37 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/64/6 (sect. 23)) the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly that, should the Optional Protocol enter into force during the biennium 2008-2009, Member States would be informed of the budgetary implications in accordance with established procedures. Should the draft resolution be adopted by the General Assembly, no additional appropriations would be required at that time.

75. **Mr. Ochoa** (Mexico), speaking also on behalf of New Zealand and Sweden, said that Ghana, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Norway, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol had been open for ratification for only seven months and had already been signed by two thirds of the States Members of the United Nations. In order to maintain that positive momentum, all States which had not already signed the instruments should be encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Given that seven Member States had ratified the Convention, and that the Convention needed 20 instruments of ratification before entering into force, it was vital to pave the way for the entry into force of both instruments. The draft resolution therefore requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary staff and facilities to support Member States' efforts in that respect. United Nations agencies and organizations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, were also asked to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under the instruments.

76. Finally, Member States should involve civil society in their preparations for the entry into force and the implementation of the Convention, which was the outcome of cooperation between Governments and civil society.

77. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Cyprus, the Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the list of sponsors.

78. **Ms. Nassau** (Australia) said that her country had signed the Convention on the very day it had been opened for signature, demonstrating its commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities. Her country was at present undertaking the legislative scrutiny that was necessary before the Convention could be ratified.

79. *Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.36/Rev.1 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.