



# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
17 January 2011

Original: English

---

## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 43rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 November 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe . . . . . (Cameroon)

## Contents

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*)

Agenda item 63: Report of the Human Rights Council (*continued*)

Agenda item 66: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (*continued*)

- (a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (*continued*)

Agenda item 67: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*)

Agenda item 68: 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*)

Agenda item 27: Social development (*continued*)

- (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women

- (a) Advancement of women (*continued*)

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*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 DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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



*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (continued)**

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.56: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa*

1. **Ms. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the African Group, said that the text contained a few updates and changes to the resolution adopted by the Committee last year. Those changes included a new formulation for preambular paragraph 4, which should read “gravely concerned by the poor living conditions of a large number of refugees and displaced persons in many regions in Africa”.

2. Paragraph 3 of the resolution adopted last year had been deleted as the information was outdated. Paragraph 5 had been updated to reflect the most recent decision adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union. A reference to the sixtieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been added to paragraph 6. Paragraph 8 had been added to draw attention to the important conclusions adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its sixty-first session, which provided guidance on identifying protracted refugee situations and on protecting persons with disabilities, as well as guidelines on preventing, responding to and solving such situations. Lastly, paragraph 31 had been modified to request that the Secretary-General submit a comprehensive report on the matter at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

3. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Haiti and Portugal had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

**Agenda item 63: Report of the Human Rights Council (continued)**

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.59: Proclamation of 24 March as the International Day for the Right to Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims*

4. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) said that Armenia, Belgium, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece,

Honduras, Italy and Panama had joined the sponsors. The call for 24 March to be proclaimed International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims had been made to honour the memory and life of victims of serious and systematic violations of human rights and to recall the importance of the right to truth and justice. It was Member States’ moral and political responsibility to pay tribute to those who had dedicated their lives to promoting human rights and those who had died fighting for that cause. In particular, it honoured the invaluable efforts of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, former Archbishop of El Salvador, who became the voice for those who could not make their voices heard. It would be a day of hope and national remembrance. As the President of El Salvador had acknowledged, Monsignor Romero had been illegally killed by a death squad and the perpetrators had been protected by State officials. Those responsible had been identified by international tribunals of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. The decisions of those bodies had been accepted by El Salvador and the President had publicly asked for forgiveness for the murder of Monsignor Romero.

5. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Albania, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia and Slovenia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.57: Report of the Human Rights Council*

6. **Mr. Diallo** (Mali) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of African States and requested its adoption by consensus.

7. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Russian Federation and Turkey had joined as sponsors.

**Agenda item 66: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (continued)**

**(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (continued)**

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.50: Inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*

8. **Mr. Lukiyantsev** (Russian Federation), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.50 on behalf of its sponsors, said that Angola, Benin, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Uganda and Uzbekistan had joined the sponsors.

9. Regrettably, the draft resolution was growing more and more relevant. The sponsors of the draft resolution were profoundly concerned about the rise in neo-Nazi and skinhead groups that committed violent acts against people of other races and religions. They were particularly grateful to the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, who had for two consecutive years done special work on the issues referred to in the previous year's resolution on the same topic.

10. It was utterly unacceptable to make heroes of those who had been involved in Nazi crimes, such as members of the SS and Waffen SS, organizations deemed criminal by the Nuremburg Tribunal. Dedication ceremonies for Nazi memorials, proclamations of the dates of liberation from Nazism as days of mourning and detention of people who called for remembrance of those who had fought the Nazis had all become regular occurrences, highlighting the relevance of the draft resolution. Such acts were sacrilegious, and they played into the hands of those who agitated for "racial purity" and racial and ethnic discrimination.

11. The Nuremburg Tribunal, whose sixty-fifth anniversary would be marked on 20 November 2010, had clearly shown who had represented the force of good and who the force of evil during the Second World War. Attempts to revisit those decisions could not be countenanced.

12. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Cuba, Guinea, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Zimbabwe had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.53: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*

13. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the list of sponsors included on the draft resolution should also include Slovenia.

14. **Ms. Ponikvar** (Slovenia), introducing the draft resolution, said that Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had also become sponsors. The biennial resolution called for the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The first part of the resolution focused on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, based on the reports it produced. Paragraph 6 had been added to highlight the criteria for the nomination of Committee members and reference had been made in paragraph 15 to General Assembly resolution 63/243, which had proved to be effective in reducing the backlog of reports awaiting consideration. The second part considered the financial situation of the Committee and called on States parties to ratify the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of the Committee and to provide adequate funding. The third section on the status of the Convention now included paragraph 24.

15. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Georgia, Monaco and Thailand had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

#### **Agenda item 67: Right of peoples to self-determination** (*continued*)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.51: Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination*

16. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that the Central African Republic, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niger and Somalia had become sponsors of the draft resolution. The right to self-determination was laid down in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations as one of the fundamental rights and the basis for all human rights. It was also the cornerstone of the International Covenants on Human Rights. Exercising that right had led peoples to rise up and free themselves from colonialism, apartheid, foreign occupation and alien domination. The text of the draft

resolution contained only minor updates to the text adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session.

17. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.52: The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination*

18. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the 95 sponsors, which included Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, China, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Eritrea, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Viet Nam, said that while the Palestinian people were denied the basic human right of self-determination his delegation would continue to sponsor the resolution in the Committee. The draft resolution contained a number of technical updates, but the text was largely the same as that adopted by the Committee last year. He hoped that Member States would send a strong message of solidarity to the Palestinian people by adopting the resolution and that their right to self-determination would soon be recognized and an independent, viable sovereign State could be established, with East Jerusalem as its capital, where the Palestinian people could live alongside Israel.

19. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Albania, Angola, Botswana, Croatia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of the Congo, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.54: Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*

20. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which

included the Comoros, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Namibia and Peru, said that the text of the draft resolution before the Committee invited Member States to study carefully the draft proposal made by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination for a possible new international legal instrument regulating private military and security companies and also to contribute to the Human Rights Council's open-ended Working Group tasked with elaborating a new convention on the matter.

**Agenda item 68: 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*)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.30: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance*

21. **Ms. Gasri** (France), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Andorra, Armenia, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Vanuatu had joined the sponsors. She recalled that 19 States had ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and welcomed the imminent ratification of the Convention by several other States, particularly given that the Convention would enter into force shortly after the twentieth ratification. The date proposed for the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances in the draft resolution, 30 August, had been used by families of victims in Latin America as a day of remembrance since the 1980s and had since been taken up by civil society and people all over the world for that purpose. Observance of that day by the international community as a whole would be evidence of its will to combat a grave crime against humanity.

22. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, Niger, Serbia and Togo had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.31: Missing persons*

23. **Mr. Mehdiyev** (Azerbaijan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors. He noted that the draft resolution took into account the best practices on the issue of missing persons recommended by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

24. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Armenia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Montenegro, Qatar, Romania and Senegal had joined the sponsors.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.32: Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief*

25. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced the following revisions to the draft resolution: in paragraph 11 (h) the phrase “individuals responsible for committing acts of desecration or destruction” should be deleted and replaced with the phrase “those responsible for destruction”; and in paragraph 11 (k), the words “reflect on” should be replaced by the word “consider”.

26. **Mr. Burniat** (Belgium), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the European Union and the other sponsors, said that Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Georgia, Japan, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined as sponsors. The draft resolution built on resolutions adopted in previous years and highlighted new concerns, including the continuing acts of intolerance against members of religious communities and religious minorities, including by non-State actors, as well as the limited progress made in eliminating all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief. The text also placed special emphasis on the need for specific laws and measures to prevent discrimination

and the need for non-discriminatory implementation of existing laws.

27. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Angola, Armenia, Benin, Guatemala, Madagascar, Paraguay, Peru and San Marino had joined the sponsors.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.33: Programme of activities of the International Year for People of African Descent*

28. **Ms. Salazar-Mejía** (Colombia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Uruguay had joined the sponsors.

*Draft resolution L.36: Human rights and extreme poverty*

29. **Mr. Pérez** (Peru), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Australia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors. He noted that the draft resolution urged States to contribute to the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights.

30. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe had joined as sponsors.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.38: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights*

31. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced a revision to the draft resolution. In the seventeenth preambular paragraph, the word “an” before the word “impact” should be deleted.

32. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that

Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali and Rwanda had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution was a sincere attempt to correlate globalization with the promotion of human rights by calling attention to the vulnerability of developing countries to economic and financial crises and affirming the need to respect cultural diversity.

33. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Grenada, Lesotho and Uganda had joined as sponsors.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.43: Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*

34. **Mr. De León Huerta** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Montenegro, Peru, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay had joined as sponsors. The draft resolution was based on resolutions adopted in previous years and included a new reference to States' obligation to protect the right to privacy. It also urged all Working Groups of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to include a human rights perspective in their work and called on States to provide effective remedies and reparations to victims of human rights violations.

35. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Estonia, Iceland, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the sponsors.

#### **Agenda item 27: Social development (continued)**

##### **(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (continued)**

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.12/Rev.1: Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond*

36. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

37. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Norway should have been listed as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

38. **Ms. Maduhu** (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of her delegation and that of the Philippines, said that Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Japan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Qatar, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Uruguay and Zambia had joined the sponsors.

39. It was important that persons with disabilities were regarded as active participants and beneficiaries of development. The outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting entitled Keeping the promise, united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals had recognized that policies and actions must focus, inter alia, on persons with disabilities.

40. The draft resolution reaffirmed previous resolutions, in particular, General Assembly resolution 64/131, Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, and General Assembly resolution 63/150, Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities through the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

41. The draft resolution continued to stress the need for more data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities and information on best practices at the international, national, regional and subregional levels for including persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts. The resolution requested an implementation report with a view to convening a high-level meeting at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on strengthening efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to all aspects of development efforts.

42. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Grenada, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea,

Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.12/Rev.1 was adopted.*

#### **Agenda item 28: Advancement of women** *(continued)*

##### **(a) Advancement of women** *(continued)*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.7 on the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*

44. **The Chair**, recalling that at its forty-first meeting the Committee had adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.55, paragraph 11 of which endorsed the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, said that draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.7 endorsing that same declaration was accordingly withdrawn.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.18/Rev.1: Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula*

45. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

46. **Mr. Babadoudou** (Benin), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the African Group, informed the Committee that Belize, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen had joined the sponsors.

47. The resolution was intended to save the lives of women and girls by addressing one of the most severe unresolved reproductive health issues and the leading cause of maternal mortality in the developing countries in the twenty-first century. The condition, stemming from prolonged obstructed labour, bore a stigma and the affected women were often ostracized by their families and communities. In the mainly rural areas where obstetric fistula was common, poor reproductive health care and poverty were part of a vicious cycle that caused at least 2 million women in Africa, Asia and the Arab region to live with the condition. Yet, obstetric fistula was almost entirely preventable with proper maternal and reproductive health care. The draft resolution reflected the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/150) on what must be

done at the national, regional and international levels to prevent obstetric fistula and end maternal morbidity and mortality.

48. The text before the Committee should be revised to restore the language agreed to during the negotiations: in the first sentence of paragraph 8, the words "through, inter alia," should be reversed to read ", inter alia, through". In paragraph 9 (h) the adjective "socio-economic" should be inserted before the word "reintegration"; and in paragraph 9 (i) the words "through, inter alia," should again be reversed to read ", inter alia, through".

49. The African Union attached great importance to the issue, and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted with overwhelming support.

50. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Afghanistan, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nepal, Russian Federation, Rwanda and Trinidad and Tobago had joined the sponsors.

51. **Mr. Burniat** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the presentation of the draft resolution as an initiative of the entire African Group was an important signal of the urgent need to fulfil Millennium Development Goal 5, improving maternal health and achieving universal access to reproductive health, by 2015. All 27 member States of the European Union had decided to sponsor the draft resolution because of their commitment to the international efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula, and welcomed the fact that a record number of United Nations Members had decided to do the same.

52. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) said that the huge endorsement of the important text before the Committee showed that excellent results could be achieved when the Committee focused on such important matters as women's health and such relevant issues as discrimination and stigma against women with health problems, or the status of health care in the developing countries and in isolated areas. The African Group had been the first to introduce a resolution on obstetric fistula in years past, when many were still unaware of the painful condition, and it had now provided the Committee with a text that could attract consensus and majority support.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.18/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

54. **Ms. Murphy** (Observer for the Holy See) said that respecting the dignity of women was key to overcoming the problem of obstetric fistula, and that entailed addressing poverty and providing women with health care. The Holy See of course supported maternal and emergency obstetric care, the availability of skilled attendants at birth, and prenatal and postnatal care. Once again, however, it had reservations about the use in the resolution just adopted of terms such as “sexual and reproductive health” if they were misconstrued as constituting a right to abortion, or as endorsement, promotion or support for funding of abortion. Attempts to prevent obstetric fistula by promoting the use of reproductive health commodities by developing countries treated women not as persons but as objects of the agendas of the donor countries. What was needed was an approach that took into account the overall well-being of women, which necessarily encompassed sufficient health care.

55. **Ms. Flood-Beaubrun** (St. Lucia) said that it was an individual, community and State responsibility to ensure that women, regardless of age or socio-economic status, were able to have healthy, safe pregnancies and deliveries. Unfortunately, less than five years from the target date, Goal 5 was far from achievement, as was the eradication of obstetric fistula, a tragedy that afflicted more than 2 million women throughout the world, even though it was entirely preventable with proper obstetric care.

56. One must ask why safe delivery was still so far out of reach for so many women. There were many small developing countries, such as her own, where although unfortunately poverty and rates of early pregnancy were quite high, obstetric fistula did not occur. The reason was simple: St. Lucia provided adequate medical care for all pregnant women, and emergency obstetric care for all who developed complications.

57. The resolution just adopted did not focus specifically on access to emergency obstetric care as the single most important factor in preventing obstetric fistula, but rather made it one of many interventions, all of them admittedly relevant: and that was a disservice to women, for that was what worked and must be made the prime strategy. Her delegation had joined the consensus on the resolution on the understanding that resources should be directed towards addressing the real needs of expectant mothers

through the provision of skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care above all other priorities.

**Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.58: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

58. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

59. **Mr. Lennartsson** (Sweden) said that the draft resolution aimed to reaffirm the support of the General Assembly for the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its executive committee and focused on essential policy elements.

60. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Madagascar, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

61. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.58 was adopted.*

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*