



General Assembly

Seventy-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
10 February 2020

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 48th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 15 November 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Yaremenko (Vice-Chair)..... (Ukraine)

Contents

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*)

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>)

19-19785 (E)



Please recycle



In the absence of Mr. Braun (Luxembourg), Mr. Yaremenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

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.3/74/L.10/Rev.1, A/C.3/74/L.54 and A/C.3/74/L.55/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.54: Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief

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

2. **Mr. Moussa** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said that the draft resolution was the successor to the delicately negotiated resolution on the same topic adopted by consensus at the seventy-third session. The world was witnessing a resurgence of xenophobia, intolerance, racism and discrimination, which contravened human dignity and fundamental rights and freedoms and undermined social stability. At a time when populist leaders and right-wing political movements were building their platforms on the promotion of the hatred and social exclusion of particular religious, ethnic, national or other groups, it was important to bear in mind that democracy and the rule of law were incompatible with all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

3. **Mr. Mahmassani** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Canada, Cuba, Eritrea, Japan, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). He then noted that Burundi and Papua New Guinea also wished to become sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.54 was adopted.*

5. **Ms. Simpson** (United States of America) said that her delegation joined the consensus on the draft resolution, having addressed its concerns in a detailed statement delivered at the 44th meeting.

Draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.55/Rev.1: Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

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

7. **Mr. Almoslechner** (Austria), introducing the draft resolution, said that it placed an emphasis on the connections between statelessness and minority status, as more than 75 per cent of known stateless persons belonged to minority groups.

8. **Mr. Mahmassani** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). He then noted that Haiti also wished to become a sponsor.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.55/Rev.1 was adopted.*

10. **Mr. Butt** (Pakistan) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. It particularly welcomed the focus on statelessness in the text. Statelessness was a human rights violation that disproportionately affected minority groups.

11. As highlighted in the most recent report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues (A/74/160), millions of persons belonging to minority groups in Assam, India, were currently at risk of becoming stateless as a result of a process for the registration of citizens. As noted by the Special Rapporteur, the process could exacerbate the xenophobic climate in the country, fuel religious intolerance and discrimination and lead to other states in India using similar approaches to deny or remove citizenship for Muslims and other minorities. The treatment of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian Government, in particular since the abrogation of articles 35A and 370 of the Indian Constitution on 5 August 2019, was clearly aimed at making the Muslim population a minority in the region

and thus gave credence to the assessment of the Special Rapporteur. Muslims in occupied Jammu and Kashmir faced an existential crisis; there were significant fears that the situation could lead to them being displaced and treated as second-class citizens or even stripped of their citizenship. The recent court decision concerning the destroyed Babri Masjid was another warning sign. His delegation, as a matter of urgency in view of the risk and scale of the crisis in India, called upon the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council to consider entering into immediate discussions with the Government of India and working with it to protect the human rights of those affected and prevent the situation from developing into a threat to regional peace and security.

12. **Ms. Arndt** (United States of America) said that her delegation supported the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and welcomed the increased visibility given to the question by the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. Distinctions based on characteristics protected under national law, including language, were permissible when such distinctions were, at a minimum, rationally related to a legitimate government objective. States should be encouraged to consider ratifying or acceding to international instruments when doing so would be possible and appropriate. Her delegation had addressed additional concerns in a detailed statement delivered at the 44th meeting.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice

Draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.10/Rev.1: Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

13. **Mr. Mahmassani** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that extrabudgetary resources in the amount of approximately \$200,000 per year would be required to cover the post and non-post costs that would be incurred by holding the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group provided for under paragraph 11 of the draft resolution. The extrabudgetary resources needed to cover the post and non-posts costs associated with collecting information on national efforts to combat trafficking and relevant national mechanisms and making up-to-date information available to Member States, pursuant to paragraph 23, would amount to approximately \$680,000 in 2020 and \$361,000 in 2021. The activities related to the requests contained in those paragraphs would be carried out only if those

extrabudgetary resources were made available. The report requested under paragraph 26 was a recurring report provided for as part of the entitlements of the General Assembly and, as such, would not entail any additional appropriation under the proposed programme budget for 2020.

14. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus), introducing the draft resolution, said that human trafficking, including for the purposes of organ harvesting, occurred in all States and was evolving as a result of organ trafficking on the dark web and in zones of armed conflict. Addressing the threat therefore required broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The draft resolution provided for the convening of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons at its seventy-sixth session. In the draft resolution, the General Assembly would welcome the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group at the level of principals of the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations and request that such meetings be convened on a regular basis. For the first time, the draft resolution reflected the appreciation of the General Assembly for the various initiatives of Member States.

15. **Mr. Mahmassani** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. He then noted that the following delegations wished to become sponsors: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Togo and Tunisia.

16. **Ms. Nguyen Lien Huong** (Viet Nam) said that a strengthened response was needed to combat and prevent the immoral and inhumane practice of human trafficking. At the national level, her Government was committed to adopting effective legislative and policy measures. However, given the transnational and interregional nature of the crime, a coordinated response at the regional and global levels was also vital. Her

country was a party to a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements on the matter.

17. **Ms. Khusanova** (Russian Federation), highlighting the effective work of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, said that the transparent negotiations and the willingness of the coordinators to take on board comments from all delegations had enabled her delegation to join the consensus on the draft resolution. Her delegation welcomed the emphasis in the text on the need for coordination and the importance of victim support, prevention and prosecution.

18. **Monsignor Hansen** (Observer for the Holy See) said that his delegation welcomed the references to family reunification measures in the draft resolution, in particular since reuniting children with their families would reduce the likelihood of their being subjected to violence, exploitation or abuse. His delegation also welcomed the attention given to the challenges associated with the use of information and communications technology for the purposes of human trafficking and hoped that that important issue would be explored further in the future.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.