

71st plenary meeting
 Thursday, 18 December 2008, 3 p.m.
 New York

President: Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Kpotsra
 (Togo) Vice-President, took the Chair.*

human rights. The purpose is to ensure respect for human rights and help to build a more just world order, taking into account the diversity of today's world and traditional human values. As

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 64 (continued)

Promotion and protection of human rights

- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

**Report of the Third Committee
 (A/63/430/Add.2)**

The Acting President: Members will recall that the Assembly took action this morning on the draft resolutions contained in the report (see A/63/PV.70).

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak with respect to the resolutions adopted under this sub-item.

Lukiyantsev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*) Last week, we commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As Russian Federation President Medvedev stressed in a message sent to participants in the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly held on 10 December, goodwill and sincere effort on the part of all relevant actors, including States, international organizations and civil society institutions, are required if we are to overcome the trends in the area of promoting and protecting

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are complex and varied. The Republic of Belarus believes that those issues, which are sensitive and uniquely narrow in scope, should not be considered hastily, requiring a particularly prudent and thoughtful approach.

The Republic of Belarus agrees that a consensual approach should be taken in respecting the rights of all social groups. We believe that human rights issues should not be addressed in a manner that leads to rifts or confrontations among Member States. Rather, they should be discussed in a spirit of equitable and mutually respectful dialogue, as called for in resolution 61/166, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session at the initiative of Belarus.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I call on the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See.

Father Bené (Holy See): The Holy See is tak8 T ch

Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu

Against:

Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Russian Federation, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia

Draft resolution I was adopted by 94 votes to 22, with 63 abstentions (resolution 63/190).

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is

I shall now call on delegations wishing to make statements with respect to the motion before the Assembly.

Mr. Escalona Ojeda (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela once again expresses its firm rejection of the consideration of draft resolutions that respond to certain selective political interests and are based on double standards whose application is clearly contrary to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela believes that any action taken within the framework of the

Our delegations are intent on ensuring that United Nations bodies continue to be forums for addressing serious human rights situations wherever they occur, and we are strongly opposed to the stifling of debate on such issues. Regardless of their subject matter, all such draft resolutions should be reviewed and actioned on their merits.

A no-action motion on this draft resolution had already been presented in Third Committee and had failed. The draft resolution was then adopted by the Committee and recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. The introduction of yet another no-action motion only serves to undermine the credibility and the jurisdiction of the Third Committee and of the General Assembly.

For those reasons, we oppose the use of no-action motions. We call on all others to join us and vote "no" on this no-action motion.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): We requested the floor to support the no-action motion on draft resolution III, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Pakistan believes that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. It is, however, important that the international human rights agenda be addressed in a fair and balanced manner. That can be done only through an approach based on dialogue and cooperation.

A lesson that emerges from the results of country-specific resolutions is that such resolutions do not encourage better promotion of human rights. In addition, they reflect the politicization of human rights issues instead of encouraging cooperation among nations on the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world. Another problem of country-specific resolutions is that they create artificial barriers to equal and constructive dialogue between the Member State and the relevant international human rights mechanism.

Pakistan fully supports the no-action motion on draft resolution III and will vote in favour. We also strongly urge all delegations to support the motion.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote the motion submitted by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran that no action be taken on draft resolution III. A recorded vote on the motion has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Monlamcu Tw -3]TJ0.0165 Tein, Lithuania, Ructe T

Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania

The motion of no action was rejected by 84 votes to 69, with 25 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Belize advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who wishes to speak on a point of order.

Mr. Khazaei (Islamic Republic of Iran): In accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, my delegation would like to present two oral amendments to draft resolution III.

The amendments are to delete operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft resolution. Those paragraphs would request the Secretary-General to prepare a report and request continued consideration by the General Assembly of the human rights situation in Iran. Given the fact that, under the established procedures of the United Nations human rights mechanism, such a report should be prepared by the relevant rapporteur of the Human Rights Council rather than by the Secretary-General, and given the fact that such a report already exists, my delegation requests the deletion of operative paragraphs 6 and 7.

The whole campaign is of a political nature, something from which we believe the United Nations mechanism should be detached and protected. It is a commonly accepted belief that safeguarding human rights will never be achievable by political means or by applying double standards.

Therefore, my delegation would request that the Assembly proceed with these amendments separately, and we request delegations to vote in favour of them.

The Acting President: The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has submitted oral amendments to paragraphs 6 and 7 of draft resolution III, to the effect that they be deleted. In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly shall first take a decision on the amendment submitted by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We will proceed to consider the two amendments one by one. First, we turn to tr045 Twb16 -1.796(lamic Republic of amend 0 -1(paragraphs)-nd (f)2(th)-t res)

That is why we will vote against the proposed amendment and also against the second proposed amendment.

The Acting President: We shall now take a decision on the proposed amendment to paragraph 7 of draft resolution III. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain,
Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brunei
Darussalam, Central African Republic, China,

Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam,

Agenda item 97**Crime prevention and criminal justice****Report of the Third Committee (A/63/431)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report and one draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 27 of the same report. We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I to IV, one by one, and on the draft decision.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 63/193).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 63/194).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 63/195).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 63/196).

The Acting President: We now turn to the draft decision, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of

crime prevention and criminal justice". May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 97?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 98**International drug control****Report of the Third Committee (A/63/432)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 13 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 63/197).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 98?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 110 (continued)**Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly****Report of the Third Committee (A/63/433)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. We will now take action on the draft decision. The draft decision, entitled "Programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly", was adopted by the Third Committee. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 110.

Agenda item 119 (continued)**Programme planning****Report of the Third Committee (A/63/434)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23 of its report. We will now take action on the draft decision. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan,

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Korea, R

and the other sponsors — Albania, Australia, Austria, Belize, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Morocco, the Netherlands, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Thailand — draft resolution A/63/L.55, entitled “Supporting the United Nations International School in enhancing international education and promoting multicultural interaction”.

The United Nations International School (UNIS), is an educational institution that is dear to the hearts of many, past and present, who have served in the United Nations family here in New York, as well as to our children and grandchildren. The United Nations International School is a place where children from many different countries and cultures come together to learn and grow. It is a place where they can learn about their own culture and the cultures of others, and where they can develop a sense of global citizenship. The United Nations International School is a place where children can learn to respect and understand each other, and where they can learn to work together to solve problems. It is a place where children can learn to be responsible and to care for others. The United Nations International School is a place where children can learn to be proud of their country and to be proud of the United Nations. It is a place where children can learn to be happy and to be successful. The United Nations International School is a place where children can learn to be the best they can be.