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Agenda item 99

QUESTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr Carlos CASAJUANA (Spain)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered the item jointly with items 97, 98, 100, 101 and 106 at its 39th to 43rd, 46th and 55th meetings, on 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 28 November 1988. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/43/SR.39-43, 46, 51 and 55).
3. At the 39th meeting, on 10 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/43/L.46

4. At the 46th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Poland, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama,

Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.46) entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child". Subsequently, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Tunisia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement.
6. At the 55th meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Egypt made a statement.
7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.46 without a vote (see para. 8).

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### Question of a convention on the rights of the child

##### The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions as well as Commission on Human Rights and Economic and Social Council resolutions on the question of a convention on the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger and disability and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced of the positive contribution that an international convention on the rights of the child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, would make to protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being,

Noting with appreciation that the first reading of a full text of a draft convention on the rights of the child has been completed by the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind that 1989 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child <sup>1/</sup> and of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child,

Considering that these anniversaries could constitute an appropriate target date for completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child and for its adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989,

Bearing in mind the necessity of taking due account of the cultural values and needs of developing countries in the second reading of a draft convention on the rights of the child, in order to achieve the universal recognition of those rights in the future convention,

1. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/40 of 27 May 1988, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of up to two weeks in November-December 1988 with a view to completing the second reading of a draft convention on the rights of the child prior to the forty-fifth session of the Commission;
2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to a draft convention on the rights of the child and to make every effort at its session in 1989 to complete a draft and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;
3. Invites all Member States to offer their active support to the completion of a draft convention on the rights of the child in 1989, the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all the support and facilities necessary for the successful completion and adoption of a draft convention on the rights of the child;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Adoption of the convention on the rights of the child".

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1/ Resolution 1386 (XIV).