



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

65th plenary meeting

Monday, 19 December 2016, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Thomson (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Reports of the Third Committee

The President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 26, 27, 60, 63 to 68, 106, 107, 121 and 135.

I request the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, Ms. Cécile Mballa Eyenga of Cameroon, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Committee.

Ms. Mballa Eyenga (Cameroon), Rapporteur of the Third Committee (*spoke in French*): It is a great privilege for me to introduce to the General Assembly the reports of the Third Committee, submitted under agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly, namely, items 26, 27, 60, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 106, 107, 121 and 135.

The reports, contained in documents A/71/476 to A/71/488, include the texts of draft resolutions and decisions recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. For the convenience of delegations, the Secretariat has issued document A/C.3/71/INF/1, which contains a checklist of actions taken on the draft proposals contained in the reports before the Assembly.

Under agenda item 26, including sub-items (a) and (b), entitled “Social development”, the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 27 of document A/71/476, the adoption of five draft resolutions, and, in paragraph 28, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 27, entitled “Advancement of women”, the Third Committee recommends, in

paragraph 34 of document A/71/477, the adoption of four draft resolutions, and, in paragraph 35, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 60, entitled “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions”, the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 14 of document A/71/478, the adoption of three draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 63, entitled “Report of the Human Rights Council”, the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 17 of document A/71/479, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 64, entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”, the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 29 of document A/71/480, the adoption of three draft resolutions, and, in paragraph 30, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 65, entitled “Rights of indigenous peoples”, the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 12 of document A/71/481, the adoption of one draft resolution, and, in paragraph 13, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 66, entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 24 of document A/71/482, the adoption of three draft resolutions, and, in paragraph 25, the adoption of one draft decision.

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Draft resolution II was adopted by 116 votes to 16, with 52 abstentions (resolution 71/203).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Pakistan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled “Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Yemen

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African

Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia

Draft resolution III was adopted by 85 votes to 35, with 63 abstentions (resolution 71/204).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Yemen

Against:

Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Eritrea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Philippines, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan,

Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 70 votes to 26, with 77 abstentions (resolution 71/205).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to those delegations that wish to speak in explanation of vote or position after the voting.

Mr. Cepero Aguilar (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation disassociates itself from the consensus on resolution 71/202, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea", in line with our opposition to the imposition of selective and politically motivated mandates.

We believe that genuine international cooperation based on the principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity is the only way to promote and protect all human rights effectively. We urge that here, as in other cases, an opportunity be given to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism to promote a debate that is unpoliticized and without confrontation, with a view to promoting respectful cooperation with the country concerned. This resolution continues to promote sanctions and the dangerous and counterproductive role of the Security Council in issues outside its purview. Therefore, Cuba cannot join the consensus on a text that seeks to support Security Council sanctions and punishment in situations that do not pose a threat

to international peace and security. We cannot be accomplices to attempts to deny the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea their right to peace, free determination and development. We wish to indicate that our opposition to this selective and politicized mandate gives no added value to other pending issues referred to in paragraph 3 of the resolution, which require a fair and honourable solution, as well as the agreement of all interested parties.

Mr. Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi (Islamic Republic of Iran): This is an explanation of position and of vote after the adoption, respectively, of resolutions 71/202 and 71/203.

With regard to resolution 71/202, in line with our principled position on country-specific resolutions that are submitted to the Third Committee and the General Assembly, and bearing in mind the harm that such an unconstructive practice inflicts on the human rights discourse at the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran disassociates itself from resolution 71/202, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We kindly request this position to be reflected in the records of the Assembly.

With regard to resolution 71/203, on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, apart from the unfair and politically motivated approach adopted by the sponsors of the resolution, which is objectionable in its own right, resolution 71/203 includes provisions that run counter to basic principles of international law and cause the Third Committee to stray from its statutory course. The content of paragraph 24 of the resolution sinisterly labels and condemns exactly those who are in Syria to fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham and the Al-Nusra Front and their affiliates. In doing so, the paragraph blurs the lines between terrorists and those who heroically fight them and creates confusion with regard to the United Nations-designated terrorist groups.

The two forces that are mentioned in paragraph 24 are part of the regular armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran deployed in Syria on an exclusively advisory basis at the formal invitation of the Government of that country and are resisting the terrorist onslaught in Syria. The accusations levelled in the paragraph, apart from being totally baseless, have nothing to do with the mandate of the Third Committee, nor are they compatible with the title of the resolution. Its incorporation in this resolution cannot amount to