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Agenda item 119

Human rights questions

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Juraj **Priputen** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled:

“Human rights questions:

- “(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
- “(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- “(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
- “(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
- “(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/583 and Add.1-5.



Item 119

Human rights questions

Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2001¹

Letter dated 20 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the appeal by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the world community on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War (A/56/118)

Letter dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/56/3)

Item 119 (a)

Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Human Rights Committee²

Report of the Committee against Torture³

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/56/156)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/56/177)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/56/178)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/56/179)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/56/181)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/56/205)

Letter dated 23 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/212)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/56/603)

Letter dated 31 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/56/5)

¹ A/56/3; to be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/56/3/Rev.1).

² Ibid., *Supplement No. 40* (A/56/40), vols. I and II.

³ Ibid., *Supplement No. 44* (A/56/44).

Item 119 (b)**Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/56/190)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/56/204 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/56/207 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/230)

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/56/254 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/255)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/56/256)

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/56/258)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/56/292 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/56/310)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/56/334)

Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/56/344)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (A/56/168)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia (A/56/209)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief (A/56/253)

Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights of persons with disabilities (A/56/263)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/56/271)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative on human rights defenders (A/56/341)

Letter dated 23 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/212)

Letter dated 5 November 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the International Seminar on Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE Region: Challenges to Law and Practice, held at The Hague on 26 June 2001 (A/56/608)

Item 119 (c)

Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/56/505)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food (A/56/210)

Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel (A/56/217)

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the joint mission of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (A/56/220)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/56/278)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone (A/56/281)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/56/312)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/56/327)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/56/336)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in East Timor (A/56/337)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/56/340)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/56/409 and Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967 (A/56/440)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/56/460)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/56/479)

Letter dated 17 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/56/4)

Letter dated 5 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/56/7)

Item 119 (d)

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights⁴

Letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the Dubrovnik Conclusions of the International Conference on Human Rights and Democratization, held at Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 8 to 10 October 2001 (A/56/524)

Item 119 (e)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights⁴

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

3. At its 55th meeting, on 30 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of human rights (see para. 4).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

4. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

⁴ Ibid., *Supplement No. 36* and corrigendum and addendum (A/56/36 and Corr.1. and Add.1).

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

Under sub-item 119 (a):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;⁵

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;⁶

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;⁷

Under sub-item 119 (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development;⁸

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights of persons with disabilities;⁹

Under sub-item 119 (c):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone;¹⁰

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in East Timor;¹¹

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967;¹²

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Burundi;¹³

Under sub-items 119 (d) and (e):

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.¹⁴

⁵ A/56/177.

⁶ A/56/181.

⁷ A/56/205.

⁸ A/56/256.

⁹ A/56/263.

¹⁰ A/56/281.

¹¹ A/56/337.

¹² A/56/440.

¹³ A/56/479.

¹⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36 and corrigendum and addendum (A/56/36 and Corr.1 and Add.1).*