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Agenda item 9

REPORT OF COMMITTEE I

Rapporteur: Ms. Kerstin Oldfelt (Sweden)

PART ONE

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Conference, at its 2nd plenary meeting on 31 May 1976 allocated to Committee I agenda item 9 "Declaration of Principles".
2. Committee I met under the chairmanship of Father George K. Muihoho (Kenya). It held 14 meetings between 1 and 11 June 1976. At its 1st meeting it elected by acclamation Mr. Hikmat Al Hadithi (Iraq), Mr. Antonio de Leon (Panama), Dr. Susan Stefanovic (Yugoslavia), Vice-Chairmen; Ms. Kerstin Oldfelt (Sweden), Rapporteur.
3. The Committee considered item 9 at its 2nd to 4th and 14th meetings. For the consideration of the item it had before it a draft Declaration of Principles (A/CONF.70/4) prepared by the Secretariat and the amendments submitted thereto (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.2 and Add.1-5).
4. At its 2nd meeting, the Committee decided, without a vote, to establish a working group to consider the draft Declaration of Principles (A/CONF.70/4) and the amendments thereto (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.2 and Add.1-5). The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Snaggs (Trinidad and Tobago) and was composed of a core group of two representatives from each region (Australia, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Iran, Jamaica, Mexico, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates and Zambia; Hungary and Uganda were replaced respectively by Czechoslovakia and Nigeria at a later stage). Participation in the Working Group was open to all members of the Committee. The Working Group held eight meetings. The report of the Working Group (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.11) was received by the Committee at its 14th meeting.

## II. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

5. Many delegations supported the general structure and form of the draft Declaration of Principles included in document A/CONF.70/4, whereas many amendments were proposed to particular points in it. The need to have a Declaration that was universally acceptable was emphasized as was the view that it could have a more positive outlook. It was suggested that the Declaration be referred to as the "Declaration of Vancouver on Human Settlements". It was felt that there was an urgent need for action in the area of human settlements and that national and international financial institutions should increase their support to such activities.

6. Many delegations emphasized the importance of the New International Economic Order in relation to human settlements. Some representatives emphasized the importance of the integration of social and economic aspects of human settlements. It was stressed by many delegations that the problems of human settlements are not isolated from the social and economic conditions of countries and that they cannot be set apart from international economic relations.

7. It was felt that some rearrangement of priorities as listed in the preamble was needed. The question of population growth and distribution was discussed in particular. It was emphasized that all groups of the population, including youth and women, should be encouraged to participate fully in the development of policies and plans for human settlements and in their implementation, with particular attention to their special needs. The present and future requirements of the population, especially those of children, youth, the elderly and the handicapped, should be recognized. It was also felt that there was a need to ensure the rights of all immigrants. It was pointed out that it would be useful to highlight (a) rural development and the harmonization of urban/rural structures; (b) conservation, water, energy, food and health; (c) preservation, especially of historical areas, and rehabilitation of existing human settlements as an alternative to the development of new settlements; (d) education and training in the human settlement area.

8. The need for peace and disarmament, with regard to the potential beneficial redistribution of resources thus released for development, was stressed by many delegations. The possibility of environmental destruction through nuclear proliferation was also pointed out.

9. Many delegations drew attention to involuntary migration, politically motivated relocation and expulsion of people from their homeland, as well as the need to fight against colonialism and any form of racism and racial discrimination.

10. Stress was generally placed on the need for national action in the human settlements area to be supplemented by the activities at the international and regional levels. The important role of non-governmental organizations was also recognized.

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PART TWO

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

11. The Committee at its 14th meeting decided to transfer to the plenary the following documents for consideration:

- (a) A/CONF.70/4: draft Declaration of Principles;
- (b) A/CONF.70/C.1/L.2 and Add.1-5: amendments to the draft Declaration of Principles;
- (c) A/CONF.70/C.1/L.11: Report of the Working Group on the Declaration of Principles;

It should be noted that the representative of Iran, on behalf of the Group of 77, announced that, in connexion with the revised draft of paragraph 16, as contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Working Group, the Group of 77 had decided to retain the original wording of the paragraph as contained in document A/CONF.70/C.1/WG.1/CRP.1.

- (d) A/CONF.70/C.1/WG.1/CRP.1 and Corr.1: draft Declaration of Principles submitted by the Group of 77;

It should be noted that the representative of Iraq stated that A/CONF.70/C.1/WG.1/CRP.1/Corr.1 should read as follows:

"referred to in the resolutions as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations."

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