



## General Assembly

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Agenda item 113

### Right of peoples to self-determination

#### Report of the Third Committee

*Rapporteur* : Ms. Anzhela Korneliouk (Belarus)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item jointly with item 112, entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", at its 26th to 30th meetings, from 18 to 20 October 2000, and took action on item 113 at its 32nd, 37th, 41st and 47th meetings, on 24, 26 and 30 October and 6 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.26-30, 32, 37, 41 and 47).

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General ( [A/55/176](#) and [Add.1](#) );

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/55/334).

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#### II. Consideration of proposals

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#### C. Draft resolution [A/C.3/55/L.32](#)

13. At the 41st meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman,

Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Palestine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" (A/C.3/55/L.32). Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, India, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At its 47th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.32 by a recorded vote of 147 to 2, with 3 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

*In favour :*

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against :*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining :*

Canada, Marshall Islands, Tonga.

15. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Israel: after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Australia and Canada (see A/C.3/55/SR.47).

16. Also at the 47th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, the Russian Federation and France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Iceland and Liechtenstein), and by the observer for Palestine (see A/C.3/55/SR.47).

### **III. Recommendations of the Third Committee**

17. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

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#### **Draft resolution III**

#### **The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination**

*The General Assembly ,*

*Aware* that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in its Charter,

*Recalling* the International Covenants on Human Rights, 9/ the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10/ the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 11/ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 12/

*Recalling also* the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, 13/

*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, 14/

*Expressing hope* for an immediate resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and for the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

*Affirming* the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to a State;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the Palestinian people will soon be exercising their right to self-determination, which is

not subject to any veto, in the current peace process;

3. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

*Notes*

9/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

10/ Resolution 217 A (III).

11/ Resolution 1514 (XV).

12/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

13/ See resolution 50/6.

14/ Resolution 55/2.