

political systems. It is our sincere hope that in voting for the draft resolution now before us we are taking a decision which is expected by all those who believe in human dignity and who stand against punishment on the grounds of political, cultural and religious ideologies.

Voting Results

The Third Committee adopted on November 27, 1953, by a vote of 36 in favour (including Canada) to 5 against (Soviet bloc) with 10 abstentions a resolution (Doc. A/C.3/L.395) by which the Assembly affirms the importance it attaches to the abolition of all systems of forced labour. The resolution was sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, Pakistan, United Kingdom and United States.

When the resolution came up in plenary session, it was approved without change by a vote of 40 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (Soviet bloc) with 12 abstentions (the Arab group, India, South Africa and Argentina).

Text of Resolution

Following is the text of the resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling the determination of the peoples of the United Nations under the Charter to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person.

Regretting that the Economic and Social Council at its sixteenth session was unable to consider the conclusions contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour,

Considering that systems of forced labour constitute a serious threat to fundamental human rights and jeopardize the freedom and status of workers in contravention of the obligations and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Observing that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour has now been placed on the agenda of the seventeenth session of the Economic and Social Council and of the 123rd session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office,

Considering that in view of this delay there is still time for certain governments which have not yet done so to provide information in response to the Ad Hoc Committee's request for comments and observations on the allegations concerning them,