

Third Committee

The delegates of the Third Social Committee returned to the chapel for day two of the fall session. While the committee buzzed with energy the previous night, they lack the same tenacity today. The committee meandered through attendance procedures before returning to resolution R-2/25, which they began considering last night.

Delegates immediately begin drafting amendments to reform the resolution's operative clauses. Before a new speaker's list was even formed, friendly amendments meant to improve the resolution's goal inundated the chair. Many of the amendments brought to the delegation's attention added operative clauses from other resolutions, including R-2/16 and R-2/8. During the consideration of so many amendments, the delegate from Guatemala spoke for the resolution, stating his belief in its strong foundation and ability to be passed once properly amended. Even so, despite this bit of hope, no one was prepared for just how long the amending process would take.

The delegation continued drafting amendments and revising the resolution, making the committee seem lost in trying to keep up with the amendments. One amendment in particular hung over the entire delegation. A friendly amendment was brought forward singling out Islam as a religion notorious for denying women their health rights. It also called for legal action against countries that violated women's right to access healthcare, as discussed in the resolution. Following this amendment's addition, much of the delegation rejected the resolution.

Observing the confusion among the delegation, the delegate from Nigeria called for a committee of the whole to clarify certain amendments and discuss others. During the discussion, many delegates opposed the amendment segregating Islam. The delegate from Saudi Arabia said the amendment "infringed upon the rights of the Islamic people." Even the amendment's original author questioned its validity. Thus, the delegation struck the amendment from the resolution and replaced it with many new friendly amendments. Having already spent hours discussing this one resolution, the committee seemed eager to have something to show for it.

The delegate from the United States of America said that amendments and revisions were over-saturating the resolution, so only imperative amendments should be added to it. Many of the delegates, who now faced a resolution boasting over 10 amendments, agreed. Final touches to the resolution were made as the delegation was motioned into closure of debate.

"Yes's" and "No's" rang throughout the chapel as the delegates voted on the much-deliberated resolution. With over 12 amendments and little collaboration, the resolution passed. Though the process did not go as smoothly as the committee would have hoped, the delegates were happy to see their work completed; applause broke out. As the break for lunch loomed in the horizon, the committee began tackling their next topic: humanitarian assistance in times of armed conflict.