

ARTICLE XIII

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify the States referred to in article VI (1) of the following:

- (a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions received in accordance with articles VI and VII;
- (b) The date upon which the present Convention comes into force in accordance with article XIII;
- (c) Denunciations received in accordance with article X (1);
- (d) Abrogation in accordance with article XI;
- (e) Notifications received in accordance with article XII.

ARTICLE XIV

1. The present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to each State referred to in article VI (1).

3. The present Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on the date of its coming into force.

631 (VII). Future work of the United Nations in the field of freedom of information

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated, the promotion of which is one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations,

Considering that in 1946 the General Assembly initiated⁴ the study in the United Nations of the problems of freedom of information and continues to take great interest in the said problems and to concern itself with them directly,

Considering the continuing need for study, inquiry and investigation with a view to positive action for the removal of obstacles to the free flow of information,

Considering that the Third Committee has not studied the draft Convention⁵ on Freedom of Information during the sixth and seventh sessions of the General Assembly,

Noting the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 442 C (XIV) of 13 June 1952 to appoint, for an experimental period of one year, and in a personal capacity, a rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information,

Noting that the rapporteur designated by the Council has already undertaken, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the professional organizations concerned, both national and international, the preparation,⁶ for submission to the Council in 1953, of a sub-

⁴ See resolution 59 (I).

⁵ See document A/AC.42/7, annex A.

⁶ See document E/2345.

stantive report covering major contemporary problems and developments in the field of freedom of information, together with recommendations regarding practical action which might be taken by the Council, in order to surmount those obstacles to the fuller enjoyment of freedom of information which can be surmounted at the present time,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the records of the Third Committee on the subject of freedom of information to the Economic and Social Council, in order that they may be taken into consideration by the Council during its studies and discussions;

2. *Decides* to consider further at its eighth session the problem of promoting and safeguarding freedom of information, including the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, on the basis of the rapporteur's report to the Economic and Social Council in 1953 and after the Economic and Social Council has had an opportunity to examine the rapporteur's report; and accordingly,

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to submit to the General Assembly at its eighth session a statement of its views and plans regarding future work in connexion with freedom of information.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

632 (VII). Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press

The General Assembly,

Considering the constructive work done by the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press during its five sessions,

Considering that it has not hitherto had an opportunity to express an opinion on the work of the Sub-Commission,

1. *Decides* to express its appreciation for the work which the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press has accomplished;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convey its thanks for the service which the Sub-Commission has honourably rendered in discharging its duties.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

633 (VII). Information facilities in under-developed regions of the world

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is essential for the proper development of public opinion in under-developed countries that independent domestic information enterprises should be given facilities and assistance in order that they may be enabled to contribute to the spread of information, to the development of national culture and to international understanding,

Convinced that the development of information media contributes greatly to the economic and social progress of peoples,

Convinced that the time has arrived for the elaboration of a concrete programme and plan of action in this respect,

Taking note with approval of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 442 E (XIV) of 13 June 1952 with regard to the study of ways and means of encouraging and developing independent domestic information enterprises,

Noting, however, that the above decision only refers to the encouragement and development of independent domestic information enterprises, including Press, radio, newsreels and television, therefore,

1. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, in the light of the discussions at the seventh session of the General Assembly, the desirability of expanding the area of its study of this question; and, to that end,

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the report called for under the above-mentioned resolution of the Council, also to elaborate a programme of concrete action which would include, *inter alia*:

(a) Measures to reduce economic and financial obstacles in the field of information;

(b) Measures to organize and promote among countries the exchange of information personnel;

(c) Measures to assist the training of information personnel, the raising of professional and technical standards, the provision of fellowships and the holding of regional seminars;

(d) All necessary measures in connexion with the supply of newsprint;

3. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to submit the above-mentioned programme, together with recommendations thereon, to the General Assembly at its eighth session;

4. Further invites the Council to recommend to the organizations participating in the technical assistance and other programmes providing aid or assistance at the request of Member States that they give sympathetic consideration to requests which governments may submit for such aid or assistance within the framework of those programmes with a view to improving information facilities and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of information available to the peoples of the world, as one means of implementing the right of freedom of information as enunciated in the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 3, and Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

634 (VII). Question of false or distorted information

The General Assembly,

Considering that the dissemination of false or distorted information by national as well as international information enterprises is one of the causes of the lack

of mutual understanding among nations, to the detriment of international harmony,

Considering that this specific problem should be studied in connexion with the general item entitled "Freedom of information",

Decides to recommend that United Nations bodies studying the problems of freedom of information should consider appropriate measures for avoiding the harm done to international understanding by the dissemination of false and distorted information.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

635 (VII). Freedom of information and of the Press: draft International Code of Ethics

The General Assembly,

Noting the action taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 442 B (XIV) of 12 June 1952 on the draft International Code of Ethics¹ drawn up by the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press at its fifth session,

Considering that all further work connected with the draft Code should be undertaken by professional members of information enterprises with no interference from governments, either on the national or the international level,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, if a representative group of information enterprises and of national and international professional associations expresses a desire to do so, to co-operate with it in organizing an international professional conference for the purpose of:

(a) Preparing and adopting a final text of an International Code of Ethics;

(b) Taking such further steps concerning implementation of the Code as it may deem advisable;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the text of the present resolution to the notice of the information enterprises and national and international professional associations to which he communicated the draft Code.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

636 (VII). Dissemination of resolutions of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having regard to resolution 442 D (XIV) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 13 June 1952,

1. Urges governments, on receipt of any resolutions dealing with questions of substance adopted by any principal organ of the United Nations, to make every effort to disseminate such resolutions through the customary channels;

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 4 A, Annexes.*