

General²¹ and the observations received from Governments²² in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1960 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, so that at the twenty-first session of the Assembly Member States will be in a position to complete the preparation of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights.

*1404th plenary meeting,
20 December 1965.*

2081 (XX). International Year for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been an instrument of the highest importance for the protection and promotion of the rights of individuals and the furtherance of peace and stability,

Convinced that its role in the future will be of equal significance,

Considering that the further promotion and development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms contributes to the strengthening of peace throughout the world and to friendship between peoples,

Considering that racial discrimination, and in particular the policy of *apartheid*, constitutes one of the most flagrant abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that persistent and intense efforts must be made to secure its abandonment,

Reaffirming the belief that the cause of human rights will be well served by an increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made, and the conviction that the year 1968 should be devoted to intensified national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of the achievements in this field,

Stressing the importance of further development and implementation in practice of the principles of the protection of human rights laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Convinced that an intensification of efforts in the intervening years will heighten the progress that can be made by 1968,

Convinced further that the proposed international review of progress in the field of human rights can advantageously be carried out by means of an international conference,

Noting the interim programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, recommended by the Commission on Human Rights and set out in the annex to the present resolution,

Noting further that the Commission on Human Rights is continuing the preparation of a programme of observances, measures and activities to be undertaken in 1968,

1. *Calls upon* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, regional inter-governmental organizations, the specialized agencies and the national and international organizations concerned to devote the year 1968 to intensified efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights, including an international review of achievements in this field;

2. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures in preparation for the International Year for Human Rights, and in particular to emphasize the urgent need to eliminate discrimination and other violations of human dignity, with special attention to the abolition of racial discrimination and in particular the policy of *apartheid*;

3. *Invites* all Member States to ratify before 1968 the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights, and in particular the following:

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery;

International Labour Organisation Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour;

International Labour Organisation Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation;

International Labour Organisation Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value;

International Labour Organisation Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize;

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education;

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Convention on the Political Rights of Women;

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

4. *Decides* to hasten the conclusion of the following draft conventions so that they may be open for ratification and accession if possible before 1968:

Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

Draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance;

Draft Convention on Freedom of Information;

5. *Decides* to complete by 1968 the consideration and preparation of the draft declarations which have been approved by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Commission on the Status of Women;

6. *Approves* the interim programme of measures and activities envisaged for the United Nations annexed to the present resolution and requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the arrangements for the measures to be undertaken by the United Nations set out in the annex;

7. *Invites* Member States to consider, in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, the possible advantage of undertaking, on a regional basis, common studies in order to establish more effective protection of human rights;

8. *Invites* regional inter-governmental organizations with competence in the field to provide the international conference envisaged for 1968 with full information

²¹ *Ibid.*, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 48, document A/5411.

²² *Ibid.*, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 65, documents A/5702 and Add.1.

on their accomplishments, programmes and other measures to realize protection of human rights;

9. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to participate and co-operate at every stage in the preparatory work for the International Year for Human Rights;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution and the interim programme annexed thereto to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, regional inter-governmental organizations, the specialized agencies and the interested international organizations;

11. *Recommends* that, in view of the historic importance of the observance of the International Year for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should be urged to mobilize the finest resources of culture and art in order to lend the International Year for Human Rights, through literature, music, dance, cinema, television and all other forms and media of communication, a truly universal character;

12. *Commends* to the States, regional inter-governmental organizations, agencies and organizations mentioned in paragraph 10 above the programme of measures and activities set out in the annex to the present resolution and invites their co-operation and participation in this programme with a view to making the celebrations successful and meaningful;

13. *Decides* that, to promote further the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to develop and guarantee political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and to end all discrimination and denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms on grounds of race, colour, sex, language or religion, and in particular to permit the elimination of *apartheid*, an International Conference on Human Rights should be convened during 1968 in order to:

(a) Review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, especially with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the practice of the policy of *apartheid*;

(c) Formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebrations of the International Year for Human Rights;

14. *Decides* to establish, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, a Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights, consisting of seventeen members, to complete the preparation for the Conference in 1968 and, in particular, to make proposals for the consideration of the General Assembly regarding the agenda, duration and venue of the Conference, and the means of defraying the expenses of the Conference, and to organize and direct the preparation of the necessary evaluation studies and other documentation;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint the members of the Preparatory Committee, eight of whom shall be States represented on the Commission on Human Rights and two of whom shall be States represented on the Commission on the Status of Women;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint an Executive Secretary for the Conference from within the Secretariat and to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance;

17. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to report on the progress of the preparation in order that such reports might be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions.

*1401th plenary meeting,
20 December 1965.*

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The President of the General Assembly, in pursuance of paragraph 15 of the above resolution, appointed the members of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights.²³

The Preparatory Committee will be composed of the following Member States: CANADA, FRANCE, INDIA, IRAN, ITALY, JAMAICA, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, SOMALIA, TUNISIA, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY and YUGOSLAVIA.

²³ *Ibid.*, *Twentieth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1408th meeting, para. 179.

ANNEX

International Year for Human Rights: interim programme recommended by the Commission of Human Rights

I. THE THEME OF CEREMONIES, ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS²⁴

It is recommended that the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken throughout the International Year for Human Rights should be calculated to encourage, on as wide a basis as possible, both nationally and internationally, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to bring home to all the people the breadth of the concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all its aspects. The theme of the ceremonies, activities and celebrations should be: "Greater recognition and full enjoyment of the funda-

²⁴ See E/CN.4/886, paras. 46-52.

mental freedoms of the individual and of human rights everywhere". The aim should be to dramatize universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

II. A YEAR OF ACTIVITIES²⁵

It is agreed that all the participants in the celebrations should be invited to devote the year 1968 as a whole to activities, ceremonies and observances relating to the question of human rights. International or regional seminars, national conferences, lectures and discussions on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and on other declarations and instruments of the United Nations relating to human rights, may be organized throughout the year. Some countries will wish to stress the entire content of the Declaration, as further elaborated in

²⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 53-58.

later United Nations human rights programmes. Some participating countries may wish to emphasize, during particular periods of the International Year for Human Rights, rights and freedoms in connexion with which they have faced special problems. During each such period the Governments would review, against the standards set by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other declarations and instruments of the United Nations relating to human rights, the domestic legislation and the practices within their society in respect of the particular right or freedom which is the subject of that period's observances. They would assess the extent to which the right had been effectively secured, give publicity to it and make special efforts to promote among their citizens a basic understanding of its nature and significance, so that the gains already made might not easily be lost in the future. To the extent that the right or freedom had not yet been effectively secured, every effort would be made during the period towards its achievement. In the choice of subjects, priority could of course be given to rights of a civil and political character and to those of an economic, social and cultural character.

A. *Measures to be undertaken by the United Nations in the period prior to the beginning of the International Year for Human Rights*

1. *Elimination of certain practices*²⁶

Believing that certain practices which constitute some of the grosser forms of the denial of human rights still persist within the territories of some Member States, the Commission on Human Rights recommends that the United Nations should adopt and set before the Member States, as a target to be achieved by the end of 1968, the complete elimination of the following violations of human rights:

(a) Slavery, the slave trade, institutions and practices similar to slavery, and forced labour;

(b) All forms of discrimination based on race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, social or ethnic origin, property, birth or other status;

(c) Colonialism and the denial of freedom and independence.

2. *International measures for the protection and guarantee of human rights*²⁷

Measures for the effective implementation of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other declarations and instruments of the United Nations relating to human rights have been under consideration in the United Nations for many years. The Commission on Human Rights is confident that action on the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and measures of implementation, and on the other conventions or international agreements in the field of human rights listed in the draft resolution prepared by the Commission in 1964 for consideration by the General Assembly, will be completed before the beginning of the International Year for Human Rights. If, however, by the beginning of 1968, international machinery for the effective implementation of these covenants and conventions or international agreements does not form part of the instruments adopted, international measures for the guarantee or protection of human rights should be a subject of serious study during the International Year for Human Rights.

B. *Measures to be undertaken by Member States in the period prior to the beginning of the International Year for Human Rights*

1. *Review of national legislation*²⁸

Governments are invited to review their national legislation against the standards of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights and other declarations and instruments of the United Nations relating to human rights, and to consider the enactment of new, or the amending of existing, laws to bring their legislation into conformity with the principles of the Declaration and other declarations and instruments of the United Nations relating to human rights.

2. *Machinery for implementation on the national level*²⁹

All Member States are invited, as one of the measures they will undertake in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, to establish or refine, if necessary by the end of 1968, their national machinery for giving effect to the fundamental rights and freedoms. If, for example, within any Member States, arrangements do not exist which will enable individual persons or groups of persons to bring before independent national tribunals or authorities any complaints they may have concerning the violation of their human rights and obtain effective remedies, the Member State should be invited to undertake that such arrangements will be introduced. If such arrangements already exist, the Member States should be invited to undertake to refine and improve them. This is not a recommendation that any particular improvement in machinery should be introduced. In one set of circumstances, what may be needed is the establishment of a special court; in another, the appointment of an Ombudsman or Procurator General or similar official; and in still another, simply the setting up of offices to which individual citizens may bring their complaints. The determination as to what machinery or improvement in machinery is required for giving effect to the fundamental rights and freedoms would be within the sole discretion of the Government concerned.

3. *National programme of education on human rights*³⁰

Believing that there are limits to the effectiveness of laws in making the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms a reality, the Commission is convinced that a concentration of efforts on legal and institutional guarantees of human rights, although it will go far towards the achievement of the objectives we seek, will not go all the way. Attention needs to be concentrated, in addition, on means of changing some old ways of thinking on these subjects, and of rooting out deep-seated prejudices in regard to race, colour, sex, religion, and so on. In short, it is necessary to embark upon a complementary programme of education, including both adult and child education, designed to produce new thinking on the part of many people in regard to human rights. Accordingly, it is recommended that an integral part of any programme of intensification of effort to be undertaken in the next three years should be a world-wide educational programme in human rights. Such an educational programme would be consistent with the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade and also with the objectives in the field of human rights of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. This programme should aim at mobilizing some of the energies and resources of:

(a) Universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning, both private and public, within Member States;

(b) The teaching staff of primary and secondary schools;

(c) Foundations and charitable, scientific and research institutions;

(d) Media of information and mass communication, including the Press, radio and television;

(e) Interested non-governmental organizations; towards the education of the people, adults and children, about the state of human rights in their communities and elsewhere, and about the further steps which need to be taken to secure the fullest and most effective realization of these rights. Member States with federal systems of government are called upon to encourage the activities in the field of human rights of local and state educational institutions.

The success of this educational effort would be guaranteed if the national leaders within Member States would give it

²⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 73-77; see also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/4024)*, paras. 424 and 425.

²⁷ See E/CN.4/886, paras. 93-99.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, paras. 116-120.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 121-129.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 130.

every encouragement. Within this effort Governments would organize conferences of universities and other institutions of higher learning within their territories and invite them to consider how the curricula and their teaching programmes might be utilized to improve the awareness in the student population of the fundamental questions of human rights, how their research programmes might be directed to this end, and how they might co-operate with other interested organizations, through extra-mural and other programmes, in furthering the aims of adult education in human rights. In this context, studies of local customs and traditions could be undertaken by national authorities with a view to examining to what extent they might be fostering and encouraging attitudes or values contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how these customs and traditions can eventually be eliminated. Charitable and philanthropic foundations might be invited to consider making grants for programmes of research and study in this field and to make bursaries and fellowships available for research in human rights. Responsible authorities of colleges, and of elementary and secondary schools, could be invited to review their curricula and textbooks in order to eradicate bias, intentional and unintentional, towards the preservation of ideas and concepts contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to introduce courses of study which positively promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It has been noticed with appreciation that certain universities have already included in their curricula courses in the international protection of human rights; other universities could be guided by such programmes and benefit by those experiences. Attention is also called to the Associated Schools Project in Education for International Understanding and Co-operation, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Governments might also convene, or give encouragement to the convening of, conferences among the radio and television broadcasting services within their territories, inviting them to consider how their facilities might most usefully co-operate with other organizations within the country, and with international agencies, in advancing the effort to educate the people to have greater respect for individual rights and fundamental freedoms.

The specialized agencies of the United Nations, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation, can make a particularly valuable contribution towards the intensification of the educational effort with the co-operation of United Nations regional institutes, bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 958 D I (XXXVI) of 12 July 1963. It is recommended that they should be invited to do so.

2106 (XX). International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

A

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is appropriate to conclude under the auspices of the United Nations an International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Convinced that the Convention will be an important step towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and that it should be signed and ratified as soon as possible by States and its provisions implemented without delay,

Considering further that the text of the Convention should be made known throughout the world,

1. *Adopts* and opens for signature and ratification the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* States referred to in article 17 of the Convention to sign and ratify the Convention without any delay;

3. *Requests* the Governments of States and non-governmental organizations to publicize the text of the Convention as widely as possible, using every means at their disposal, including all the appropriate media of information;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate and wide circulation of the Convention and, to that end, to publish and distribute its text;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly reports concerning the state of ratifications of the Convention, which will be considered by the General Assembly at future sessions as a separate agenda item.

*1406th plenary meeting,
21 December 1965.*

ANNEX

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The States Parties to this Convention,

Considering that the Charter of the United Nations is based on the principles of the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings, and that all Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action, in co-operation with the Organization, for the achievement of one of the purposes of the United Nations which is to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, colour or national origin,

Considering that all human beings are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law against any discrimination and against any incitement to discrimination,

Considering that the United Nations has condemned colonialism and all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith, in whatever form and wherever they exist, and that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 14 December 1960 (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) has affirmed and solemnly proclaimed the necessity of bringing them to a speedy and unconditional end,

Considering that the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 20 November 1963 (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII)) solemnly affirms the necessity of speedily eliminating racial discrimination throughout the world in all its forms and manifestations and of securing understanding of and respect for the dignity of the human person,

Convinced that any doctrine of superiority based on racial differentiation is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and that there is no justification for racial discrimination, in theory or in practice, anywhere,

Reaffirming that discrimination between human beings on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin is an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and is capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples and the harmony of persons living side by side even within one and the same State,

Convinced that the existence of racial barriers is repugnant to the ideals of any human society,

Alarmed by manifestations of racial discrimination still in evidence in some areas of the world and by governmental policies based on racial superiority or hatred, such as policies of apartheid, segregation or separation,