

2497 (XXIV). Youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development

The General Assembly,

Recalling, *inter alia*, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples,

Recognizing the important role and contribution of youth in the promotion of world peace, justice, social and economic progress and human rights, and in the realization of the goals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and welcoming the views of youth on these subjects,

Recognizing further the importance of co-ordinating the activities and programmes relating to youth among the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned,

Noting the ideas relating to youth expressed by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization,¹

Noting further the impact of the unprecedented development of science and technology on the needs and aspirations of youth,

Taking into account the responsibility of the family in the education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Desirous of devising new methods through which the enthusiasm and energy of youth might be more effectively directed towards the spiritual and material advancement of all peoples,

I

1. Reaffirms the provisions of its resolutions 2445 (XXIII) and 2447 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 on the education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on that subject² containing the replies of Governments concerning the education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and invites Governments which have not yet done so to reply thereon before the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

3. Affirms that it is important to undertake all necessary measures to:

(a) Promote by all appropriate means the education of youth in the countries and territories still under colonial and foreign occupation with a view to expediting the process of decolonization, liberation and self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(b) Ensure that education in the countries and territories referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above is undertaken in complete respect for the national, religious and language traditions of the indigenous population and that its nature is not altered to serve political purposes;

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1A (A/7601/Add.1).

² Ibid., Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda items 62 and 92, document A/7662; A/7662/Add.1.

4. Appeals to youth to affirm solemnly its faith in international law and in the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations which aim at the realization of world peace, friendly relations and co-operation among States, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. Invites the attention of Governments to their responsibility for maintaining a policy consistent with the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the effective struggle for peace and justice and for the elimination of colonialism, racism, *apartheid* and similar policies, thus safeguarding, *inter alia*, the faith of youth in these values;

6. Recommends to the Secretary-General that appropriate use should be made of the resources of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights for the achievement of the purposes of the present resolution and that in this respect regional seminars on youth should be organized as early as possible;

7. Recommends to Governments, the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned to ensure a greater involvement of youth in the activities relating to the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of the International Education Year;

II

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1407 (XLVI) of 5 June 1969 relating to long-term policies and programmes for youth in national development and notes with appreciation the Secretary-General's preliminary report on that subject;³

2. Recommends that Governments, in formulating national youth policies, should ensure a more co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs and aspirations of youth;

3. Further recommends to Governments that, especially during the Second United Nations Development Decade, youth and youth organizations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies engaged in various studies and programmes on the problems and needs of youth and its participation in national development to identify separately the problems and needs of youth in the developed and developing countries and suggest possible solutions accordingly;

5. Invites the attention of Governments, the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned to the need for ensuring to youth equal and increased opportunities of access to education at all levels and to employment;

6. Urges the early completion of the studies on youth being undertaken by the Secretary-General, in particular the study being prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1407 (XLVI) and those included in the work programmes of the specialized agencies concerned;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in connexion with the study referred to in paragraph 6 above, to consider further the ways and means through which the United Nations can best serve the objectives of the

³ A/C.3/613.

present resolution, in particular the measures to be taken to establish channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly as early as possible.

1792nd plenary meeting,
28 October 1969.

2542 (XXIV). Declaration on Social Progress and Development

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the pledge of Members of the United Nations under the Charter to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Reaffirming faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms and in the principles of peace, of the dignity and worth of the human person, and of social justice proclaimed in the Charter,

Recalling the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of resolutions of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the standards already set for social progress in the constitutions, conventions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and of other organizations concerned,

Convinced that man can achieve complete fulfilment of his aspirations only within a just social order and that it is consequently of cardinal importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, thus contributing to international peace and solidarity,

Convinced that international peace and security on the one hand, and social progress and economic development on the other, are closely interdependent and influence each other,

Persuaded that social development can be promoted by peaceful coexistence, friendly relations and co-operation among States with different social, economic or political systems,

Emphasizing the interdependence of economic and social development in the wider process of growth and change, as well as the importance of a strategy of integrated development which takes full account at all stages of its social aspects,

Regretting the inadequate progress achieved in the world social situation despite the efforts of States and the international community,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for the development of the developing countries rests on those countries themselves and acknowledging the pressing need to narrow and eventually close the gap in the

standards of living between economically more advanced and developing countries and, to that end, that Member States shall have the responsibility to pursue internal and external policies designed to promote social development throughout the world, and in particular to assist developing countries to accelerate their economic growth,

Recognizing the urgency of devoting to works of peace and social progress resources being expended on armaments and wasted on conflict and destruction,

Conscious of the contribution that science and technology can render towards meeting the needs common to all humanity,

Believing that the primary task of all States and international organizations is to eliminate from the life of society all evils and obstacles to social progress, particularly such evils as inequality, exploitation, war, colonialism and racism,

Desirous of promoting the progress of all mankind towards these goals and of overcoming all obstacles to their realization,

Solemnly proclaims this Declaration on Social Progress and Development and calls for national and international action for its use as a common basis for social development policies:

PART I

PRINCIPLES

Article 1

All peoples and all human beings, without distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, family or social status, or political or other conviction, shall have the right to live in dignity and freedom and to enjoy the fruits of social progress and should, on their part, contribute to it.

Article 2

Social progress and development shall be founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and shall ensure the promotion of human rights and social justice, which requires:

(a) The immediate and final elimination of all forms of inequality, exploitation of peoples and individuals, colonialism and racism, including nazism and *apartheid*, and all other policies and ideologies opposed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

(b) The recognition and effective implementation of civil and political rights as well as of economic, social and cultural rights without any discrimination.

Article 3

The following are considered primary conditions of social progress and development:

(a) National independence based on the right of peoples to self-determination;

(b) The principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

(c) Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;

(d) Permanent sovereignty of each nation over its natural wealth and resources;

(e) The right and responsibility of each State and, as far as they are concerned, each nation and people to determine freely its own objectives of social development, to set its own priorities and to decide in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations the means and methods of their achievement without any external interference;