

43/140. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolution 41/153 of 4 December 1986, on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing that regional arrangements make a major contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and that non-governmental organizations may have a valuable role to play in this process,

Bearing in mind that intergovernmental arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights have been established in other regions,

Reiterating its appreciation for the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region, held at Colombo from 21 June to 2 July 1982,¹⁴⁵ and the comments on the report of the Seminar received from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and from States members of the Commission,¹⁴⁶

Welcoming the designation of the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as a regional human rights focal point,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/73 of 10 March 1988,²⁷

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁴⁷
2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist and encourage the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to pursue the establishment, within existing resources, of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials within the Commission at Bangkok, the function of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials in the Asian and Pacific region;
3. Renews its invitation to States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific that have not yet done so to communicate to the Secretary-General as soon as possible their comments on the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region and, in particular, to address themselves to the conclusions and recommendations in the report concerning the development of regional arrangements in Asia and the Pacific;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure a continuing flow of human rights material to the library of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok for appropriate dissemination in the region;
5. Notes the efforts of United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the human rights dimension more actively and systematically in their development activities;
6. Encourages United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to co-ordinate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific their efforts to promote the human rights dimension in their activities;

7. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General¹⁴⁸ on the successful training course on human rights teaching held at Bangkok from 12 to 23 October 1987 under the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

8. Draws attention to the summary of discussions and conclusions in the report, in particular to the need to advance both formal and informal teaching of human rights in the region, with emphasis on the identification of target groups, particularly in rural areas;

9. Notes the general consensus among participants in the training course that it would be useful for the better identification of existing measures and the dissemination of materials to establish a resource library that would collect and disseminate laws, documents and other publications throughout the region;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, incorporating information on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its forty-fifth session.

75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988

43/141. Situation of refugees in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/129 of 7 December 1987 and its other previous resolutions on the situation of refugees in the Sudan,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹⁴⁹ on the implementation of resolution 42/129 and the action taken by the concerned organizations, and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,⁸⁷

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made by the Government of the Sudan for the reception of the refugees and the provision of protection, shelter, food, health, education and other humanitarian services to the ever increasing number of refugees who have been crossing the borders into the Sudan since the early 1960s,

Recognizing the heavy burden shouldered by the people and the Government of the Sudan and the sacrifices they are making in acting as host to more than one million refugees, who constitute approximately 7.5 per cent of the total population of the country,

Concerned that the great majority of the refugees have spontaneously settled in various urban and rural communities throughout the country and are thus sharing the already meagre resources and services allocated to the indigenous population,

Expressing grave concern at the devastating and far-reaching effects of the successive calamities, ranging from the 1984 drought to the heavy rains and floods and the locust infestations, that have afflicted the country, thus exacerbating the already deteriorating situation resulting from the presence of this great number of refugees,

Gravely concerned also that the Government of the Sudan, besides dealing with the difficult prevailing economic and social problems, has the additional task of taking care

¹⁴⁵ A/37/422, annex.

¹⁴⁶ See A/39/174-E/1984/38 and Add.1 and E/CN.4/1986/19.

¹⁴⁷ A/43/170-E/1988/25.

¹⁴⁸ E/CN.4/1988/39/Add.1.

¹⁴⁹ A/43/534.