

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist to the fullest possible extent in the rapid dissemination of all such resolutions of principal organs of the United Nations, particular attention being given to resolutions communicated to governments at the special request of the organ adopting those resolutions;

3. *Appeals* to information media to co-operate in disseminating information concerning such resolutions of organs of the United Nations, drawing on the appropriate services of the United Nations for the presentation of those resolutions.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

637 (VII). The right of peoples and nations to self-determination

A

Whereas the right of peoples and nations to self-determination is a prerequisite to the full enjoyment of all fundamental human rights,

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations, under Articles 1 and 55, aims to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples in order to strengthen universal peace,

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations recognizes that certain Members of the United Nations are responsible for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government, and affirms the principles which should guide them,

Whereas every Member of the United Nations, in conformity with the Charter, should respect the maintenance of the right of self-determination in other States,

The General Assembly recommends that:

1. The States Members of the United Nations shall uphold the principle of self-determination of all peoples and nations;

2. The States Members of the United Nations shall recognize and promote the realization of the right of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories who are under their administration and shall facilitate the exercise of this right by the peoples of such Territories according to the principles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations in regard to each Territory and to the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, the wishes of the people being ascertained through plebiscites or other recognized democratic means, preferably under the auspices of the United Nations;

3. The States Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories shall take practical steps, pending the realization of the right of self-determina-

tion and in preparation thereof, to ensure the direct participation of the indigenous populations in the legislative and executive organs of government of those Territories, and to prepare them for complete self-government or independence.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

B

The General Assembly,

Considering that one of the conditions necessary to facilitate United Nations action to promote respect for the right of self-determination of peoples and nations, in particular with regard to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, is that the competent organs of the United Nations should be in possession of official information on the government of these Territories,

Recalling its resolution 144 (II) of 3 November 1947 in which it declared that the voluntary transmission of such information was entirely in conformity with the spirit of Article 73 of the Charter, and should therefore be encouraged,

Recalling its resolution 327 (IV) of 2 December 1949 in which it expressed the hope that such of the Members of the United Nations as had not done so might voluntarily include details on the government of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the information transmitted by them under Article 73 e of the Charter,

Considering that at the present time such information has not yet been furnished in respect of a large number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

1. *Recommends* States Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories voluntarily to include in the information transmitted by them under Article 73 e of the Charter details regarding the extent to which the right of peoples and nations to self-determination is exercised by the peoples of those Territories, and in particular regarding their political progress and the measures taken to develop their capacity for self-administration, to satisfy their political aspirations and to promote the progressive development of their free political institutions;

2. *Decides* to place the present resolution on the agenda of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories for its next session in 1953.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

C

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is necessary to continue the study of ways and means of ensuring international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination,

Considering that the recommendations it has adopted at its seventh session do not represent the only steps that can be taken to promote respect for such right,

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to continue preparing recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination, and particularly recommendations relating to the steps which might be taken, within the limits of their resources and competence, by the various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to develop international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination;

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to submit through the Economic and Social Council its recommendations to the General Assembly.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

638 (VII). Integration of refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the observations and information contained in the report⁸ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the problem of assimilation of refugees in the countries of their residence,

Considering that the voluntary repatriation or the resettlement in countries of immigration of refugees under the mandate⁹ of the High Commissioner, while constituting valuable elements for the solution of the refugee problem, are not sufficient in themselves under the present conditions to offer within a reasonable time a permanent solution of that problem,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the governments of the countries of present residence of refugees towards their assimilation, as well as the studies and plans of the High Commissioner directed towards the same objective,

Considering that, in view of the heavy financial burdens involved in the execution of integration programmes, international funds may play a useful role in the successful execution of long-term projects for the assimilation of refugees,

Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to examine the situation with a view to exploring, with the governments directly concerned, what sources of funds might be available and the most effective means by which such funds might be utilized.

408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

⁸ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 16.

⁹ See resolution 428 (V).

639 (VII). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Concerned with the persistence of a serious refugee problem which is the direct responsibility of the United Nations,

1. Notes with appreciation the second annual report¹⁰ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. Takes note of the fact that contributions thus far received by the High Commissioner for assistance to refugees under the authority given to him by General Assembly resolution 538 B (VI) of 2 February 1952 will not be sufficient to provide in 1953 for emergency aid to the most needy groups of refugees under his mandate in Europe, the Near East and the Far East, particularly in Shanghai;

3. Notes with appreciation the contributions already made by governments, organizations and private individuals to the fund for emergency aid to refugees;

4. Expresses the hope that further contributions will be forthcoming to that fund so as to enable the High Commissioner to carry out his plans of assistance to the most needy groups of refugees;

5. Reiterates its appeal to all governments, specialized agencies and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in migration to give to refugees under the mandate of the High Commissioner every possible opportunity in and benefit from projects to promote migration, including such measures as will facilitate the transit, resettlement and employment of refugees in occupations suitable to their training and skills.

408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

640 (VII). Convention on the Political Rights of Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that the peoples of the United Nations are determined to promote equality of rights of men and women, in conformity with the principles embodied in the Charter,

Believing that an international convention on the political rights of women will constitute an important step towards the universal attainment of equal rights of men and women,

Reaffirming its resolution 56 (I) of 11 December 1946,

Decides to open the attached Convention for signature and ratification at the end of the present session.

409th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

¹⁰ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 16.