

838 (IX). Draft International Code of Ethics for the use of information personnel

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous decisions, in its resolutions 635 (VII) of 16 December 1952 and 736 B (VIII) of 28 November 1953, concerning the draft International Code⁸ of Ethics for the use of information personnel,

Noting the Secretary-General's report⁹ on the question of organizing an international professional conference to prepare the final text of such a Code,

Noting further that the information enterprises and national and international associations which favour the organization of a conference do not appear to constitute a sufficiently representative group,

Reaffirming its interest in the improvement of standards of conduct and performance for information personnel, through measures adopted by professional action,

Decides:

(a) To take no further action at the present time in regard to the organization of such a conference;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft International Code of Ethics for the use of information personnel, together with his report¹⁰ to the enterprises and associations with which he has been in communication regarding this matter, for their information and for such action as they may deem proper.

*514th plenary meeting,
17 December 1954.*

839 (IX). Technical assistance in freedom of information

The General Assembly,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 522 J (XVII) of 29 April 1954 concerning technical assistance in freedom of information,

Authorizes the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope and objectives of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist these States in promoting freedom of information.

*514th plenary meeting,
17 December 1954.*

840 (IX). Draft Convention on Freedom of Information

The General Assembly,

Considering that it has not studied the draft Convention¹¹ on Freedom of Information during its sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth sessions,

Recalling its decision, in resolution 631 (VII) of 16 December 1952, that it would consider, *inter alia*, the draft Convention on Freedom of Information in the

⁸ *Ibid.*, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 4 A.

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 29, documents A/2691 and Add. 1 and 2.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7 and Corr.1, annex.

light of the report¹² of the Rapporteur on Freedom of Information to the Economic and Social Council and after the Council had had an opportunity to examine that report,

Noting that the Rapporteur on Freedom of Information has made recommendations for further consideration of the draft Convention,

Considering the reasons why the Convention has been delayed, as pointed out by the Rapporteur,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council has not made any recommendations for further action on the draft Convention,

Considering the importance of freedom of information as a fundamental human right and the necessity for giving the conclusion of a convention on this right high priority in the work of the United Nations,

Noting that the draft International Covenants on Human Rights are to be discussed during the tenth session of the General Assembly,

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts on the technical level to promote freedom of information;

2. Further requests the Economic and Social Council to discuss, at its nineteenth session, the draft Convention on Freedom of Information and to formulate recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly, taking into account the views expressed and the proposals made on this subject at the ninth and previous sessions of the General Assembly;

3. Decides to discuss the draft Convention on Freedom of Information not later than at its eleventh session, including such recommendations as the Economic and Social Council may make.

*514th plenary meeting,
17 December 1954.*

841 (IX). International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace (Geneva, 1936)

The General Assembly,

Considering that the International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace (Geneva, 1936)¹³ constitutes an important element in the field of freedom of information,

Considering that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 24 (I) of 12 February 1946, the custodial functions mentioned in the Convention have already been assumed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and that the Convention is still in force,

Considering further that by taking over, by agreement between the Parties to the Convention, the powers and functions established by certain provisions of the Convention, the United Nations can give full effect to all the provisions of the Convention in question,

Decides:

1. To request States which are Parties to the International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace (Geneva, 1936) to state whether they wish to transfer to the United Nations

¹² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 12.*

¹³ See League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CLXXXVI, 1938, p. 301.