

the functions which were performed, under the terms of that Convention, by the League of Nations;

2. To instruct the Secretary-General:

(a) To prepare for this purpose a draft protocol concerning the transfer to the United Nations of the functions assigned to the League of Nations under the International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace;

(b) To provide in the draft protocol for the accession of Members and non-members of the United Nations which are not Parties or signatories to the Convention, and also for such legal or other adjustments as may be necessitated by current conditions; including new articles, based on General Assembly resolution 424 (V) of 14 December 1950, to provide that each High Contracting Party shall refrain from radio broadcasts that would mean unfair attacks or slanders against other peoples anywhere and in so doing conform strictly to an ethical conduct in the interest of world peace by reporting facts truly and objectively, and to provide that each High Contracting Party shall not interfere with the reception, within its territory, of foreign radio broadcasts;

(c) To circulate the draft protocol to the International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace to the States Parties to that Convention.

*514th plenary meeting,
17 December 1954.*

842 (IX). Forced labour

The General Assembly,

Having noted Economic and Social Council resolution 524 (XVII) of 27 April 1954 concerning the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Forced Labour,

1. *Endorses* the condemnation by the Economic and Social Council of the existence of systems of forced labour which are employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views, and which are on such a scale as to constitute an important element in the economy of a given country;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the International Labour Organisation to continue their efforts towards the abolition of such systems of forced labour;

3. *Supports* the Council's appeal to all Governments to re-examine their laws and administrative practices in the light of present conditions and the increasing desire of the peoples of the world to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person;

4. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the action taken by the Economic and Social Council in requesting the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Office to prepare a further report on this subject for consideration by the Council at its nineteenth session, setting out:

(a) Whatever replies are received from Governments in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 740 (VIII) of 7 December 1953;

(b) Any new information on systems of forced labour which might be submitted by Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, together with any comments submitted by the Governments concerned.

*514th plenary meeting,
17 December 1954.*

843 (IX). Status of women in private law: customs, ancient laws and practices affecting the human dignity of women

The General Assembly,

Recalling the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Considering that, in certain areas of the world, women are subject to customs, ancient laws and practices relating to marriage and the family which are inconsistent with these principles,

Believing that the elimination of such customs, ancient laws and practices would tend to the recognition of the human dignity of women and contribute to the benefit of the family as an institution,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 547 H (XVIII) of 12 July 1954,

1. *Urges* all States, including States which have or assume responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, to take all appropriate measures in the countries and Territories under their jurisdiction with a view to abolishing such customs, ancient laws and practices by ensuring complete freedom in the choice of a spouse; abolishing the practice of the bride-price; guaranteeing the right of widows to the custody of their children and their freedom as to remarriage; eliminating completely child marriages and the betrothal of young girls before the age of puberty and establishing appropriate penalties where necessary; establishing a civil or other register in which all marriages and divorces will be recorded; ensuring that all cases involving personal rights be tried before a competent judicial body; ensuring also that family allowances, where these are provided, be administered in such a way as to benefit directly the mother and child;

2. *Recommends* that special efforts be made through fundamental education, in both private and public schools, and through various media of communication, to inform public opinion in all areas mentioned in the second paragraph of the preamble above concerning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and existing decrees and legislation which affect the status of women.

*514th plenary meeting,
17 December 1954.*