

4. *Confirms* the views of the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran, which recognized and vigorously supported the legitimacy of the struggle of the peoples and patriotic liberation movements in southern Africa and in colonial Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Further confirms* the decision taken by the International Conference on Human Rights to recognize the right of freedom fighters in southern Africa and in colonial Territories to be treated, when captured, as prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions of 1949;<sup>40</sup>

6. *Appeals* to all States and organizations dedicated to the ideals of freedom, independence and peace to continue to give political, moral and material assistance to peoples struggling against all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism;

7. *Calls upon* all States to sever all relations with South Africa, Portugal and the illegal minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and to refrain scrupulously from giving any military or economic assistance to these régimes;

8. *Requests* the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned to continue to give all appropriate assistance to the patriotic freedom movements in colonial Territories and in southern Africa and to keep this matter under constant review;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a programme for the celebration in 1971 of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

#### **2447 (XXIII). Education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms**

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting* resolution XX on education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopted on 12 May 1968 by the International Conference on Human Rights,<sup>41</sup> as well as paragraph 17 of the Proclamation of Teheran,<sup>42</sup>

*Noting also* Economic and Social Council resolutions 1353 (XLV) and 1354 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 on youth participation in international co-operation and on programmes of international action relating to youth,

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples proclaimed by the General Assembly on 7 December 1965,

*Aware* of the aspirations expressed by large sectors of the young generation for a more effective protection of human dignity in this age of great scientific, technological and cultural achievements and of the desire of youth to have its full share in the accomplishment of the major humanitarian demands of this century,

*Conscious* of the importance of extending to young people an education in the spirit of the most noble humanitarian ideals of mankind and therefore convinced

<sup>40</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

<sup>41</sup> See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 15.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

that States, the United Nations and other international organizations, youth organizations and society in general should undertake continuous and permanent efforts to that effect,

*Convinced* that the enthusiasm, energy and creative ability of the young could be a major factor in the spiritual and material advancement of all peoples, the universal promotion of human rights and worldwide economic and social development,

*Considering* that the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, within their spheres of competence, could provide useful channels through which the deeply felt concerns of youth could be better understood and studied and constructive confrontations between spokesmen of the various generations could be harmoniously conducted,

*Taking note* of the appeal made by the International Conference on Human Rights to States to take all appropriate measures to prepare youth for, and stimulate its interest in, the creation of a better society,

1. *Endorses* the appeal made by the International Conference on Human Rights to States to ensure that all means of education should be employed so that youth may grow up and develop in a spirit of respect for human dignity and equal rights of man without discrimination as to race, colour, language, sex or faith;

2. *Further endorses* the recommendations made by the International Conference on Human Rights, in its resolution XX, to States, international organizations and youth organizations;

3. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Human Rights, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to study the question of the education of youth all over the world with a view to the development of its personality and the strengthening of its respect for the rights of man and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange from time to time for an exchange of information on action taken by States in their efforts to ensure that young people are educated and brought up in a spirit of respect for human rights everywhere and given the opportunity of playing their part in the implementation and protection of human rights;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize, within the framework of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and in co-operation with interested Governments, seminars with the participation of persons specially qualified in subjects of particular concern to youth, including youth leaders;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on action taken in implementation of the present resolution.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

#### **2448 (XXIII). Freedom of information**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having regard* to article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which ensures to everyone the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,

Recalling further its resolution 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 by which it, *inter alia*, decided to hasten the conclusion, among other instruments, of a convention on freedom of information,

Recognizing that freedom of information is indispensable to the enjoyment, promotion and protection of all the other rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolutions concerning racism, nazism, racial discrimination and other similar ideologies,

Recalling also its resolutions and the decisions of other United Nations bodies regarding the dissemination of information on the evils of *apartheid*, racial discrimination and colonialism,

Recalling the deep interest which the United Nations has shown since 1947 in problems of freedom of information and the various measures, thus far inadequate, which it has taken to promote and safeguard this freedom,

Mindful that recent technological advances in the field of telecommunications have, by enormously extending the reach and scope of words, images and ideas, greatly magnified the potentialities, for good or evil, of the media of information,

Recognizing that the existence of monopolies in the media of information is an obstacle to economic and social progress and prevents the full achievement of freedom of information,

Believing that the time has come for the international community to take a renewed interest in measures calculated to promote freedom of information and to encourage the responsible exercise of this freedom,

1. Affirms the principle that the primary function of media of information anywhere in the world is to gather and impart freely and responsibly objective and accurate information;

2. Emphasizes that the objectives of freedom of information could best be attained if everyone had access to diverse sources of news and opinions;

3. Recommends to all States and international organizations concerned that freedom of information should be particularly promoted in the case of dissemination of information on the evils of *apartheid*, racism, nazism, colonialism and racial discrimination;

4. Appeals to the media of information everywhere to co-operate in the strengthening of democratic institutions, the promotion of economic and social progress and friendly relations among nations, and combating propaganda for war or for national, racial or religious hatred, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations;

5. Draws the attention of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned to the continuing need for assistance in the development and improvement of information media in the developing countries in order to enable the latter to share in the benefits flowing from the modern technological revolution and to redress the inequality in this field between the developed and the developing countries;

6. Commends the existing practice of triennial reporting on freedom of information under the system of periodic reports on human rights and recommends the consideration of the possibility of appointing, as may be necessary, a special rapporteur on freedom of information to conduct an independent and objective study of the actual situation and developments in this field;

7. Decides, pending completion of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, to give priority at its twenty-fourth session to the consideration and adoption of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information so that it may serve as an inspiration and set a standard for information media as well as Governments anywhere in the world.

1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.

#### 2449 (XXIII). Legal aid

The General Assembly,

Noting with appreciation resolution XIX on legal aid adopted on 12 May 1968 by the International Conference on Human Rights<sup>48</sup> held at Teheran from 22 April to 13 May 1968,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law,

Recalling further that article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides in part that everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be entitled to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing and to be informed, if he does not have legal assistance, of this right and to have legal assistance assigned to him in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him in any such case if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it,

Believing that there are cases where the individual's recourse to competent tribunals to which he has a right of access is denied or hindered because of the lack of financial resources to bear the expenses involved,

Convinced that the provision of legal aid to those who need it would strengthen the observance and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. Recommends Member States:

(a) To guarantee the progressive development of comprehensive systems of legal aid to those who need it in order to protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) To devise standards for granting, in appropriate cases, legal or professional assistance;

(c) To consider ways and means of defraying the expenses involved in providing such comprehensive legal aid systems;

(d) To consider taking all possible steps to simplify legal procedures so as to reduce the burdens on the financial and other resources of individuals who seek legal redress;

(e) To encourage co-operation among appropriate bodies making available competent legal assistance to those who need it;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organs concerned, to provide the necessary resources, within the limits of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to facilitate expert and other technical assistance to Member States seeking to extend the availability of competent legal aid.

1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.