

ern Rhodesia have failed owing mainly to the obstinate non-compliance of South Africa, Portugal and other States, contrary to their obligations under the Charter,

Aware that many States, in flagrant disregard of previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, continue to maintain political, commercial, military, economic, social and other relations with the Government of South Africa and with the illegal white racist minority régimes in southern Africa,

Noting that the year 1970, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, marks a significant milestone in the life of the United Nations and that the year 1971 has been proclaimed the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,³ submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Reiterating its firm determination to bring about the complete elimination of racial discrimination and racism, which are abhorrent to the conscience and sense of justice of mankind,

1. *Reaffirms* the legitimacy of the struggle of all oppressed peoples everywhere, and in particular those of South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and Territories under Portuguese colonial domination, to obtain racial equality by all possible means;

2. *Calls* for increased and continued moral, and in particular material, support to all peoples under colonial and alien domination, struggling for the realization of their right to self-determination and for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

3. *Condemns* the unholy alliance between South Africa, Portugal and the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia, designed to suppress the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against racism, *apartheid*, economic exploitation and colonial domination;

4. *Declares* that any State whose official policy or practice is based on racial discrimination, such as *apartheid*, contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and should therefore have no place in the United Nations;

5. *Condemns* the activities of those States which, by political, economic and military collaboration with the racist régimes of southern Africa, enable and encourage those régimes in the enforcement and perpetuation of their policy of *apartheid* and other forms of racial discrimination;

6. *Calls upon* all those Governments which still maintain diplomatic, consular, commercial, military, social and other relations with the Government of South Africa and other racist régimes in southern Africa to terminate such relations immediately in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

7. *Condemns* the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its reluctance to bring down the illegal white minority régime in Southern Rhodesia, and calls upon that Government to take all the necessary steps to bring to an end the usurpation of the lawful rights of the people

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/8027).

of Southern Rhodesia by the illegal régime at present in Salisbury and to restore to them their political, social and economic rights in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law and of the Charter;

8. *Welcomes* the observance of 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and urges all Governments, the specialized agencies and all other organizations concerned to make renewed efforts to take effective and practical measures to this end;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to continue to undertake programmes and projects designed to combat *apartheid* and all forms of racial discrimination and to publicize the evils of these policies;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to print and disseminate as widely as possible, for use during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the *Special Study of Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres*⁴ prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

11. *Urges* all those States which are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take steps to accede to or ratify it, as the case may be;

12. *Urges* all progressive forces within southern Africa, especially the youth, to intensify their struggle against the policy of *apartheid* and all other forms of racial discrimination;

13. *Urges* the mass media of information, particularly during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to publicize, independently and in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the evils of *apartheid* and all other forms of racial discrimination, thus contributing to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14. *Decides* to consider this item at its twenty-sixth session and invites the Secretary-General to submit a further progress report, based on information received from Governments, the specialized agencies and other international organizations, on the observance of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and on the activities of United Nations organs to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.

2647 (XXV). Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

The General Assembly,

Recalling that Member States pledged themselves solemnly under Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Gravely concerned at the persistence of *apartheid* and other forms of racial discrimination, which are an intolerable affront to the dignity of the individual,

Noting that disregard for fundamental human rights and manifestations of hostility or intolerance towards any race or distinct group of persons may create lasting

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.XIV.2.

antagonisms and deep unrest in society, aggravated by the existence of conditions of economic and social inequality,

Aware that discriminatory prejudices must be combated and eliminated by means of education and information as well as by the adoption of positive legislative or other measures designed to bring about a climate of understanding and co-operation among the various ethnic and cultural groups of society,

Convinced that the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which the General Assembly has proclaimed for the year 1971, will not achieve its objective unless effective measures are taken in all fields to combat attitudes and laws contrary to the principles of the Charter and the norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and noting with satisfaction the first report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,⁵

1. *Solemnly reiterates* its condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination wherever they may occur, and particularly of *apartheid*, as a flagrant contradiction of the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and deplores the persistence of such practices;

2. *Appeals* to the Governments of countries where forms of racial discrimination still persist and to the Governments which officially apply such policies as *apartheid* to take without delay all the legislative, educational and social measures necessary to end them and to ensure respect for human rights in accordance with the Charter;

3. *Vehemently affirms* the need for all men to be given an equal chance and to be enabled to live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and tolerance, without discrimination and with full respect for the national and cultural identity of peoples or distinct ethnic groups;

4. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to eliminate all racial discrimination in education, employment, housing and other fields of community life, and to encourage the development of multiracial activities with a view to removing obstacles to understanding among the various racial groups;

5. *Invites* all peoples of the world and all men of goodwill to condemn unrelentingly the evils of racial policies and to disseminate all information calculated to combat such policies;

6. *Invites* countries which are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take any steps necessary to ratify it or accede to it if possible in 1971, on the occasion of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work being done by the United Nations, in particular the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and by the specialized agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, and the non-governmental organizations asso-

ciated with their efforts towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

8. *Reaffirms* its intention to take the opportunity of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to promote throughout the world social justice based on absolute respect for the dignity of the individual.

*1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.*

2648 (XXV). Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Noting that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination entered into force on 4 January 1969 and that, as at 22 October 1970, forty-four States had deposited their instruments of ratification or accession to the Convention,

Noting also the meetings of the States parties to the Convention in 1969 and the election by them of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Convention,

Having received the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,⁶

1. *Stresses* the significance, for the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations in the field of human rights, of the coming into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the bringing into being of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was created by that Convention and which should play an effective role in the achievement of its purposes;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, on the first year of its activities;

3. *Requests* all States parties to the Convention to give full co-operation to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in order that it may fulfil its mandate under the Convention.

*1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.*

2649 (XXV). The importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights,

Concerned that many peoples are still denied the right to self-determination and are still subject to colonial and alien domination,

⁵ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/8027).

⁶ *Ibid.*