

3149 (XXVIII). Human rights and scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Proclamation of Teheran⁶⁷ and resolution XI adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights on 12 May 1968,⁶⁸

Recalling further its resolution 2450 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and subsequent resolutions on human rights and scientific and technological developments,

Regretting that the Commission on Human Rights was unable to consider this item at its twenty-ninth session,

Requests the Commission on Human Rights, through the Economic and Social Council, to give high priority to the consideration of the item in conformity with its decision of 3 April 1973.⁶⁹

2201st plenary meeting
14 December 1973

3150 (XXVIII). Use of scientific and technological developments in the interests of peace and social development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 3026 B (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and recalling its previous resolutions on this subject,

Noting the reports of the Secretary-General on this subject,⁷⁰

Noting the positive role of scientific and technological achievements in the development of human society and the unprecedented acceleration of the rate of scientific and technological developments,

Convinced that scientific and technological developments effect important changes in many areas of the life of society and should be used to exert a beneficial influence on human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind that, while scientific and technological developments provide ever increasing opportunities to better the human condition, in a number of instances they can give rise to social problems and may be accompanied by an increase in social and material inequality and a deterioration of the social situation of broad sectors of the population,

Noting the urgent need to make full use of scientific and technological developments for the welfare of man and to neutralize their present and possible future harmful consequences,

Noting with concern that scientific and technological developments are used by the forces of imperialism and colonialism to intensify the arms race, suppress national liberation movements and deprive the peoples of their fundamental rights,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination and the need to respect human rights and funda-

⁶⁷ *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 3.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

⁶⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5265)*, chap. XII.

⁷⁰ See A/9075.

mental freedoms and the dignity of the human personality in the light of scientific and technological developments,

1. *Calls upon* all States to develop further international co-operation to ensure that the results of scientific and technological developments are used in the interests of strengthening international peace and security, the realization of the peoples' right to self-determination and respect for national sovereignty, freedom and independence and for the purpose of economic and social development and improving the quality of life for the entire population;

2. *Believes* that the effects of scientific and technological developments have been generally beneficial and hold out great potential for the future;

3. *Recommends* all States to pursue a policy of utilizing all scientific and technological achievements to satisfy the material and spiritual needs of all sectors of the population;

4. *Recognizes* that, where it exists, the use of scientific and technological achievements for the purpose of violating the sovereignty of States, interfering in their internal affairs, waging aggressive wars, suppressing national liberation movements or pursuing a policy of racial discrimination not only is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and other principles of international law, but constitutes an inadmissible distortion of the purposes that should guide scientific and technological developments for the benefit of mankind;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and other specialized agencies concerned to pay particular attention to the problem of the protection of broad sectors of the population against social and material inequalities, as well as other harmful effects which might arise from the use of scientific and technological developments, and requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the above-mentioned agencies, to submit a report on this subject to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

6. *Urges* all States to take action whenever necessary to develop legislation guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms in the light of scientific and technological developments.

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3152 (XXVIII). Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations

The General Assembly,

Recalling previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to disaster relief, in particular Assembly resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator⁷¹ and his report on preventive measures, disaster contingency planning and preparedness,⁷²

⁷¹ A/9063.

⁷² A/9221.

Having heard with satisfaction the introductory statement made in the Third Committee by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,⁷³ in particular his reference to the need for concerted global action to combat natural disasters,

Noting with satisfaction the action taken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator during the past year,

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, as an interim measure, to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$45,000 for 1974 and \$60,000 for 1975 for assistance to Governments, at their request, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies, where appropriate, in the elaboration of national preparations to meet natural disasters;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore various means, including support from the United Nations Development Programme, of making adequate provision for this purpose in the future;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States and all organizations concerned with disaster-related matters to continue to give the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator their full co-operation and support.

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14 December 1973

3153 (XXVIII). Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972 and 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 and 1797 (LV) of 11 July 1973,

Welcoming the spirit of solidarity shown both by countries and regional agencies as well as by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of

⁷³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Third Committee, 2040th meeting, paras. 29-36.*

the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator⁷⁴ and of the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council,⁷⁵

Noting with concern the observation by the representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations drawing attention to the fact that the state of emergency resulting from the drought will continue in 1974 and that donors should therefore give serious consideration to renewed requests for outside assistance and to the timely dispatch of relief aid,

Taking note also of the joint appeal made on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for aid to the countries affected by the drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

1. *Expresses its deep sympathy* to the peoples and Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to take all necessary steps to provide the most effective possible material and financial assistance, in co-operation with the organs and agencies concerned, to those countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region which request such assistance;

3. *Appeals once again* to the Governments of Member States, to United Nations organs and programmes and to the specialized agencies, calling upon them, *inter alia*, to continue and consider increasing their assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian countries within the framework of the emergency relief operations, with specific reference to the joint appeal for emergency assistance made on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the development of the situation.

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⁷⁴ A/9063.

⁷⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003 and Corr.1), chap. XXIV, sect. D.*

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Other decisions

Freedom of information

(Item 64)

At its 2201st plenary meeting, on 14 December 1973, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁷⁶ decided to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session the item entitled "Freedom of information".

⁷⁶ *Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda item 64, document A/9395, para. 6.*