

importance of achieving full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

1834th plenary meeting,
15 December 1969.

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The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution VIII of the International Conference on Human Rights of 11 May 1968, entitled "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",³⁷ in which the Conference, *inter alia*, condemned the racist régimes in southern Africa for their policies and defiance of the resolutions of the United Nations,

Further recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and its resolutions relating to decolonization, especially in southern Africa,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes and principles, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and particularly the right to self-determination,

Considering that the subjugation of peoples is a serious violation of the main objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly relating to the occupation of territory, the granting of independence and the right to self-determination,

Concerned at the increasing conflict arising from the non-implementation of these resolutions,

Concerned also at the continued violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their peoples,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all peoples under colonial and foreign rule to liberation and self-determination;

2. *Confirms* the principles contained in resolution VIII of the International Conference on Human Rights, which supports the liberation movements in southern Africa and elsewhere in their legitimate struggle for freedom and independence;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments concerned to abide by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations relating to decolonization, territorial integrity and the right to self-determination;

4. *Notes* the efforts of the Security Council to implement these resolutions;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Special Committee on the Policies of *Apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and other organs of the United Nations to secure the implementation of these resolutions;

³⁷ *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 9.

6. *Appeals* to all States and organizations to provide appropriate assistance to peoples struggling for their freedom and independence;

7. *Decides* to review at its twenty-fifth session the progress in the implementation of resolution VIII of the International Conference on Human Rights and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject.

1834th plenary meeting,
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2594 (XXIV). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees³⁸ and having heard his statement,³⁹

Noting with appreciation the results obtained by the High Commissioner in the accomplishment of his humanitarian task of international protection of refugees within his mandate,

Noting further the progress achieved in the search for permanent solutions to the problems of refugees who are the High Commissioner's concern, and the constant efforts being made by the High Commissioner, in co-operation with United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote the voluntary repatriation, the integration in countries of asylum or the resettlement in other countries of those refugees,

Recognizing the importance of the intermediary role of the High Commissioner in his relations with Governments and the constructive character of his humanitarian action,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing role of government financing of the High Commissioner's assistance programme owing to the growing number of contributing countries and to the substantial increase in certain contributions,

Expressing its appreciation of the adoption, under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity, of the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, on 10 September 1969, as well as of the accession of an increasing number of countries to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951⁴⁰ and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967,⁴¹ and expressing the hope that the present trend of increasing accessions to the Convention and the Protocol will continue,

1. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who are his concern, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular those relating to the new groups of refugees in Africa, and with the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to achieve, by closer co-operation with the

³⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/7612) and Supplement No. 12A (A/7612/Add.1).*

³⁹ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Third Committee, 1728th meeting.

⁴⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189 (1954), No. 2545.

⁴¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 11A (A/6311/Rev.1/Add.1)*, part one, para. 2.

specialized agencies and other members of the United Nations system, a speedy and satisfactory solution to the refugee problems;

3. *Urges* Governments to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian task, particularly by providing the necessary means to enable the financial targets, established with the approval of the Executive Committee, to be reached.

*1835th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

2595 (XXIV). Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2062 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2333 (XXII) of 18 December 1967 and 2437 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 relating to the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1237 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 on the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights and the amendments submitted thereto by the United Republic of Tanzania,⁴² and Council resolution 1238 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 on the question concerning the implementation of human rights through a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or some other appropriate international machinery,

Noting also the views expressed in the current general debate on that question,

Considering that there has not been sufficient time at its twenty-fourth session to complete the consideration of this matter,

1. *Decides* to give the highest priority to the consideration of this item with a view to the possibility of concluding such consideration at its twenty-fifth session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session with an analytical study relating to Economic and Social Council resolution 1237 (XLII) and the amendments thereto, and Council resolution 1238 (XLII) on this subject.

*1835th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

2596 (XXIV). Freedom of information

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling further its resolution 2448 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 by which it decided, 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,

Regretting that, despite this decision, it has not been possible to do so owing to the heavy programme of work at the twenty-fourth session,

⁴² *Ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 61, document A/6699, annex III.

1. *Decides* to give priority to the consideration of this item at its twenty-fifth session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session with all the relevant information available concerning the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information.

*1835th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

2597 (XXIV). Respect for human rights in armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 by which it recognized, *inter alia*, the necessity of applying the basic humanitarian principles in all armed conflicts,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,⁴³

Noting also the relevant resolutions concerning human rights in armed conflicts adopted at the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that there has not been time at its twenty-fourth session for consideration of the item entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts",

Recognizing that the study requested in resolution 2444 (XXIII) should be continued with a view to including further data and developments, thus facilitating the presentation of concrete recommendations for the full protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts and for the prohibition and limitation of the use of certain methods and means of warfare,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the study initiated under General Assembly resolution 2444 (XXIII), giving special attention to the need for protection of the rights of civilians and combatants in conflicts which arise from the struggles of peoples under colonial and foreign rule for liberation and self-determination and to the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules to such conflicts;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult and co-operate closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross in regard to the studies being undertaken by the Committee on this question;

3. *Requests* Member States to extend all possible assistance to the Secretary-General in the continuation of the study requested in paragraph 1 above;

4. *Decides* to transmit the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Economic and Social Council for their comments to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

5. *Decides* to give the highest priority to this question at its twenty-fifth session;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit a further report on this subject to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

*1835th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

⁴³ A/7720.