

(c) The development of national institutions for training in regional and physical planning, housing and building;

(d) The acceleration of domestic savings through the establishment of appropriate financial practices and specialized institutions, including co-operatives, for financing the housing and construction sector;

(e) Measures for environmental improvement, particularly those that shape the future structure of human settlements;

(f) The expansion of low-cost housing, through both public and private programmes and on a self-help basis, including co-operatives, and the advancement of pilot and demonstration projects on such housing;

3. *Invites* developed countries and the international organizations concerned, especially the financial institutions, to provide during the 1970s increased assistance—technical as well as financial—to the developing countries for the purposes enumerated in paragraph 2 above, in accordance with the priorities they have determined for their development;

4. *Further invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to consider additional innovative approaches for the improvement of housing and human settlements;

5. *Recommends* that, in the elaboration of the work programmes in the field of housing, building and planning within the United Nations and its specialized agencies, particular attention should be paid to programmes and projects of interest to the developing countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General also to make available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment his report on the problems and priorities in human settlements;

7. *Considers* that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should play a major role in the formulation and co-ordination of the United Nations programmes and projects relating to the problems of housing and human settlements as well as a catalytic role in their implementation and that, as such, it should be strengthened as a matter of high priority both by a greater allocation of resources and by additional personnel;

8. *Further considers* that it is desirable to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of housing, building and planning;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit as soon as possible to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, an analytical review and progress report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking full advantage of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2719 (XXV). Technical assistance in the field of drug abuse control

The General Assembly,

Noting with grave concern the spread of drug abuse in many parts of the world and its disastrous impact on individuals and nations,

1. *Strongly endorses* the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1532

(XLIX) of 24 July 1970 and 1559 (XLIX) of 11 November 1970, which provide, *inter alia*, for the establishment of a programme of action aiming at the implementation of short-term and long-term policy recommendations to deal with drug abuse, as proposed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment, as an initial measure and as a matter of urgency, of a United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to be made up of voluntary contributions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to proceed immediately towards the implementation of the above decisions;

4. *Appeals* to Governments, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, and to foundations as well as to the public in general, to lend their full support to the above-mentioned efforts.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2720 (XXV). Technical assistance in the field of narcotic drugs

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1559 (XLIX) of 11 November 1970,

Considering that addiction to narcotic drugs is becoming an alarming problem in many countries of the world,

Considering that the measures that have been taken against illicit trade and traffic in narcotic drugs have not been successful in arresting widespread addiction,

Noting that the term "drug abuse" has been defined in paragraph 20 of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its second special session,⁴⁹

Taking into account that on the whole addicts in all countries constitute a danger to society at large,

Calls upon Member States and appeals to non-member States to consider seriously the possibility of enacting adequate legislation providing severe penalties for those engaged in illicit trade and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2721 (XXV). Human rights and scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly,

Believing that a proper balance should be established between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity, as well as improvement in the general conditions of life,

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

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 14 (XXVI) of 26 March 1970,⁵⁰

⁴⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (E/4931).*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/4816), chapter XXIII.*

Having received the preliminary report on human rights and scientific and technological developments⁵¹ prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2450 (XXIII),

Noting also the preliminary memorandum of the World Health Organization,⁵²

Noting with regret that it has been unable to examine this question at the present session,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to study the problems relating to human rights as they arise from developments in science and technology, as provided in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2450 (XXIII);

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-seventh session to give priority to the examination of the preliminary report on human rights and scientific and technological developments, as supplemented by such further information as may be made available to it, including the preliminary memorandum submitted by the World Health Organization, and to transmit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, its suggestions and recommendations for the attainment of the objectives of resolution 2450 (XXIII);

3. Decides to give priority to the consideration of this item at its twenty-sixth session.

1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.

⁵¹ E/CN.4/1028 and Add.1 and 2, Add.3 and Corr.1, Add.4 and 5.

⁵² A/8055/Add.1.

2722 (XXV). 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 the 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 current session,

Decides to give priority to the consideration of this item at its twenty-sixth session, taking into account that the consideration of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information, which was submitted by the Economic and Social Council, has been deferred for the last decade, that the preamble and articles 1 to 4 of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information⁵³ have been adopted by the Third Committee and that the draft Convention has been before the General Assembly for eighteen years.

1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.

⁵³ A/8036, annex III.

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Other decisions

Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(Item 46)

At its 1929th plenary meeting, on 14 December 1970, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁵⁴ decided to defer until its twenty-sixth session consideration of the item entitled "Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

Question of the elderly and the aged

(Item 52)

At its 1930th plenary meeting, on 15 December 1970, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁵⁵ decided to defer until its twenty-sixth session consideration of the item entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged" and to give it priority so as to ensure adequate time for its consideration at that session.

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

(Item 54)

At its 1930th plenary meeting, on 15 December 1970, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁵⁶ decided to defer until its twenty-sixth session consideration of the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance".

⁵⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 46, document A/8231, para. 24.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, agenda item 52, document A/8254, para. 4.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, agenda item 54, document A/8255, para. 3.