

Considering that the recommendations it has adopted at its seventh session do not represent the only steps that can be taken to promote respect for such right,

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to continue preparing recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination, and particularly recommendations relating to the steps which might be taken, within the limits of their resources and competence, by the various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to develop international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination;

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to submit through the Economic and Social Council its recommendations to the General Assembly.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

638 (VII). Integration of refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the observations and information contained in the report⁸ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the problem of assimilation of refugees in the countries of their residence,

Considering that the voluntary repatriation or the resettlement in countries of immigration of refugees under the mandate⁹ of the High Commissioner, while constituting valuable elements for the solution of the refugee problem, are not sufficient in themselves under the present conditions to offer within a reasonable time a permanent solution of that problem,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the governments of the countries of present residence of refugees towards their assimilation, as well as the studies and plans of the High Commissioner directed towards the same objective,

Considering that, in view of the heavy financial burdens involved in the execution of integration programmes, international funds may play a useful role in the successful execution of long-term projects for the assimilation of refugees,

Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to examine the situation with a view to exploring, with the governments directly concerned, what sources of funds might be available and the most effective means by which such funds might be utilized.

408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

⁸ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 16.

⁹ See resolution 428 (V).

639 (VII). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Concerned with the persistence of a serious refugee problem which is the direct responsibility of the United Nations,

1. Notes with appreciation the second annual report¹⁰ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. Takes note of the fact that contributions thus far received by the High Commissioner for assistance to refugees under the authority given to him by General Assembly resolution 538 B (VI) of 2 February 1952 will not be sufficient to provide in 1953 for emergency aid to the most needy groups of refugees under his mandate in Europe, the Near East and the Far East, particularly in Shanghai;

3. Notes with appreciation the contributions already made by governments, organizations and private individuals to the fund for emergency aid to refugees;

4. Expresses the hope that further contributions will be forthcoming to that fund so as to enable the High Commissioner to carry out his plans of assistance to the most needy groups of refugees;

5. Reiterates its appeal to all governments, specialized agencies and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in migration to give to refugees under the mandate of the High Commissioner every possible opportunity in and benefit from projects to promote migration, including such measures as will facilitate the transit, resettlement and employment of refugees in occupations suitable to their training and skills.

408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

640 (VII). Convention on the Political Rights of Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that the peoples of the United Nations are determined to promote equality of rights of men and women, in conformity with the principles embodied in the Charter,

Believing that an international convention on the political rights of women will constitute an important step towards the universal attainment of equal rights of men and women,

Reaffirming its resolution 56 (I) of 11 December 1946,

Decides to open the attached Convention for signature and ratification at the end of the present session.

409th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

¹⁰ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 16.

ANNEX

Convention on the Political Rights of Women*The Contracting Parties,*

Desiring to implement the principle of equality of rights for men and women contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognising that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country directly or through freely chosen representatives, and has the right to equal access to public service in his country, and desiring to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Having resolved to conclude a Convention for this purpose,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

ARTICLE I

Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

ARTICLE II

Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

ARTICLE III

Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

ARTICLE IV

1. This Convention shall be open for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and also on behalf of any other State to which an invitation has been addressed by the General Assembly.

2. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE V

1. This Convention shall be open for accession to all States referred to in paragraph 1 of article IV.

2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE VI

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification of accession.

2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

ARTICLE VII

In the event that any State submits a reservation to any of the articles of this Convention at the time of signature, ratification or accession, the Secretary-General shall communicate the text of the reservation to all States which are or may become parties to this Convention. Any State which objects to the reservation may, within a period of ninety days from the date of the said communication (or upon the date of its becoming a party to the Convention), notify the Secretary-General that it does not accept it. In such case, the Convention shall not enter into force as between such State and the State making the reservation.

ARTICLE VIII

1. Any State may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

2. This Convention shall cease to be in force as from the date when the denunciation which reduces the number of parties to less than six becomes effective.

ARTICLE IX

Any dispute which may arise between any two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, which is not settled by negotiation, shall at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision, unless they agree to another mode of settlement.

ARTICLE X

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Members of the United Nations and the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article IV of this Convention of the following:

(a) Signatures and instruments of ratifications received in accordance with article IV;

(b) Instruments of accession received in accordance with article V;

(c) The date upon which this Convention enters into force in accordance with article VI;

(d) Communications and notifications received in accordance with article VII;

(e) Notifications of denunciation received in accordance with paragraph 1 of article VIII;

(f) Abrogation in accordance with paragraph 2 of article VIII.

ARTICLE XI

1. This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to all Members of the United Nations and to the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article IV.