



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/902
1 December 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL I FRENCH

Forty-third session
Agenda item 7 9

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean-Michel VERANNEMAN do WATERVLIET (Belgium)

I' INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Questions relating to information" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 42/162 A of 8 December 1987,
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 14th to 20th, 24th and 33rd meetings, held between 31 October and 7 November and on 10 and 23 November 1988 (see A/SPC/43/SR.14-20, 24 and 33).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Information; 1/
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/43/639);
 - (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/43/670).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/43/21).

5. The Committee also had before it two letters dated 22 March and 25 March 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/235-S/19674 and A/43/254), as well as a letter dated 27 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/370) and a letter dated 6 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/709).

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group on questions relating to information, chaired by Mr. Orobolor Fasahun (Nigeria), Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

7. At its 14th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Information. At its 15th meeting, on 1 November and its 17th meeting, on 3 November, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information of the Secretariat and by the Acting Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Liaison Office, respectively.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.12

8. At the 33rd meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Tunisia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/43/L.12) on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

9. Subsequently, the representative of China withdrew the amendments to draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.12 that had been circulated in document A/SPC/43/L.24. Those amendments read as follows:

"1. Replace paragraph (11) with the following

The Secretary-General is requested to make further efforts to
● expedite the elimination of the backlog of The United Nations Yearbook or to suggest an alternative to make the publication on schedule. The improvement in format and printing of the UN Chronicle is welcome. The Department of Public Information is encouraged to continue to combine its editorial policies with the interests of the specific target audience.

"2. Replace paragraph (17) with the following

In view of the importance of radio programming in developing countries, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure full programme delivery by the Caribbean Unit, including implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B. The functions of the Middle East/Arabic Unit and the Asian Unit should also be strengthened.

"3. Delete paragraph (18) and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly, "

10. At the same meeting, the Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the statement by the Secretary-General (A/SPC/43/L.25) concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.12.

11. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.12 by a recorded vote of 100 to 5, with 15 abstentions (see para. 19, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Ryloruaaian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Against: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America,

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

B. Draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.13

12. At the 33rd meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Tunisia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/43/L.13) on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77,

2/ The representative of Cameroon subsequently stated that his delegation had intended to vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.12.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.13 by a recorded vote of 111 to 1, with 11 abstentions (see para. 19, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 1/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaïre, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. Before the voting on the two draft resolutions, the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia and Cuba made statements in connection with the draft resolutions,

15. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Canada, the Democratic Republic, the Netherlands, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Czechoslovakia,

16. Following the voting on the draft resolutions, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Denmark, Austria, Australia, Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Japan, the United States of America and Belgium.

1/ The representative of Cameroon subsequently stated that it had intended to vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.13.

17. Subsequently, the representative of Tunisia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, made a statement in connection with the resolutions just adopted.

C. Candidacies for membership in the Committee on Information

18. At the 33rd meeting, on 23 November, the Chairman drew attention to paragraph 18 of the report of the Committee on Information, 1/ in which that Committee, supporting the requests of Hungary, Zimbabwe and Ireland for membership in the Committee on Information, decided to submit the candidacies to the General Assembly for approval. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Assembly the candidacies of Hungary, Zimbabwe and Ireland for membership in the Committee on Information (see para. 20).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

19. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Questions relating to information

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on questions relating to information,

Reaffirming the mandate given to the Committee on Information by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 4/

Encouraging the Secretary-General to continue necessary action in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with particular emphasis on securing a co-ordinated approach to priority issues before the Organisation,

Taking note of the comprehensive report of the Committee on Information, 5/ which served as an important basis and stimulated further deliberations,

4/ A/43/639.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/43/21).

1. Urges the full implementation of the following recommendations:

(1) All countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should co-operate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, and based, inter alia, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information guaranteeing diversity of sources of information and free access to information and, in particular, the urgent need to change the dependent status of the developing countries in the field of information and communication, and the principle of sovereign equality among nations extending also to this field, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding, enabling all persons to participate effectively in political, economic, social and cultural life and promoting human rights, understanding and friendship among all nations. The ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which retains the central role in this field, to eliminate gradually the existing imbalances in the field of information and communication and to encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information in accordance with the relevant resolutions of that organisation, adopted by consensus, should be reaffirmed;

(2) Considering the important role that the media worldwide can freely play, particularly under the present situation, it is recommended that:

(a) The mass media should be encouraged to give wider coverage to the efforts of the international community towards global development and, in particular, the efforts of the developing countries to achieve economic, social and cultural progress;

(b) The United Nations system as a whole should co-operate in a concerted manner, through its information services, in promoting a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system in all its endeavours, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions, with particular emphasis on the right to self-determination and the elimination of all forms of racism, aggression, foreign domination and occupation, in order to create a climate of confidence, the strengthening of multilateralism and the promotion of the development activities in the United Nations system;

(c) All countries should be urged to extend assistance to journalists for the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and to ensure respect for their physical integrity!

(3) Considering the existing imbalances in the international distribution of news, particularly that affecting the developing countries, it is recommended that urgent attention should be given to the elimination of existing imbalances by, inter alia, diversifying the sources of information and respecting the interests, aspirations and socio-cultural values of all peoples;

(4) The United Nations system as a whole, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and the developed countries should be urged to co-operate in a concerted manner with the developing countries towards strengthening the information and communication infrastructures in the latter countries and promoting their access to advanced communication technology, in accordance with the priorities attached to much areas by the developing countries, with a view to enabling them to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and in the light of their social and cultural values, taking into account the principle of freedom of the press and information. In this regard, support should be provided for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries;

(5) Note should be taken with appreciation of regional efforts, especially among the developing countries, as well as co-operation between developed and developing countries to develop further the media infrastructure in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information, with a view to encouraging a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(6) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, should be recalled;

(7) The relevant paragraph of General Assembly resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946, in which the Assembly stated, inter alia, that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, must be reiterated;

(8) The primary role that the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonising United Nations policies and activities in the field of information having been reaffirmed, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the priority areas such as those stated in section III, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 35/201 of 16 December 1980 and other pertinent resolutions of the Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information, so as to ensure an objective and more coherent coverage of, as well as better knowledge about, the United Nations and its work. The Secretary-General is further requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information

(a) **Co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contributions of the Department to the efforts of that organisation in further promoting the attainment of a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;**

(b) **Strengthen its co-operation with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, with the Eas-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and with the Broadcasting Organisation of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with intergovernmental and regional organisations and with the news agencies of the developing countries. In this regard, the Department of Public Information should monitor, as appropriate, important meetings of the Movement, in particular its summit meetings, as well as those of intergovernmental and regional organisations, and take concrete steps towards the promotion of a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;**

(c) **Continue to disseminate information about the United Nations activities in the field of human rights, decolonisation and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and foreign occupation;**

(d) **Give the widest possible dissemination of information pertaining to the acute world economic problem in general and, in particular, to the severe economic difficulties of the least developed countries and the need for strengthening the international economic co-operation aimed at resolving the external debt problems of developing countries;**

(e) **Do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicise the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa)**

(f) **Continue adequate coverage of the World Disarmament Campaign;**

(g) **Disseminate adequately and accurately, in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, information relating to the struggle of the Palestinian people, particularly its current uprising, and of the Arab population in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, for the attainment and exercise of their inalienable national rights, and report thereon to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989;**

(h) Strengthen its activities and the dissemination of information on the policies and practices of apartheid, giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of this issue and report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989;

(i) Further intensify its efforts in order to alert world public opinion to the illegal occupation of Namibia and continue to disseminate adequately and accurately, with the full assistance of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the United Nations system as a whole, information relating to the struggle of the oppressed people of Namibia for self-determination, national independence and freedom as well as to the need for the full and speedy implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia;

(j) Continue to adequately cover the United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) Further cover adequately and with impartiality the activities of all United Nations peace-keeping operations, in view of the paramount importance of such operations for the maintenance of international peace and security;

(l) Continue to disseminate information concerning United Nations resolutions on terrorism in all its forms, including General Assembly resolutions 40/61 of 9 December 1985 and 42/159 of 7 December 1987;

(m) Strengthen its information programmes relating to women and their role in society;

(n) Strengthen its coverage of the efforts made by the United Nations system and Member States in their campaign against illicit trafficking of narcotics and drug abuse;

(9) In the light of the present international situation, the Department of Public Information should continue its efforts to promote an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the world and to strengthen the image of the United Nations system as a whole. In this connection, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information;

(a) Continue to maintain consistent editorial independence and accuracy in reporting for all material it produces, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains objective and equitable information about issues before the Organisation, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur;

(b) In the context of the review of its role, performance and method of work, continue to explore the feasibility of applying modern technologies for the collection, production, storage, dissemination and

distribution of information materials, including the use of satellite facilities, and report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 with regard to the effect of the application of such technologies on prevailing arrangements;

(c) Consider expanding the programme of telephone news bulletins that are paid for by its users;

(d) Continue its co-operation with those countries which have expressed readiness to assist the United Nations in resuming the short-wave broadcasts through their respective national networks free of charge and encourage expansion of this type of co-operation with those developed and developing countries with recognised capabilities in this field;

(e) Take the necessary measures to resume the taped radio programmes, which it temporarily curtailed, bearing in mind the objective of their effective utilisation and maximum audience impact and report on this matter to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

(f) Continue its annual training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries;

(g) Extend all assistance to educational institutions of Member States and continue to organise seminars for educators and education policymakers;

(h) Guarantee daily coverage of all United Nations meetings through issuance of daily press releases in the working languages, reflecting the views of all delegations with accuracy and objectivity. It should also continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to members of the United Nations Correspondents Association, taking into account their needs and requirements, especially in the area of press releases, which provide them with necessary raw material for adequate reporting, and through press conferences and briefings;

(i) Use the official languages of the United Nations adequately in its documents and audio-visual documentation and make balanced use of the two working languages of the Secretariat;

(j) Ensure timely distribution of its material to subscribers and to United Nations information centres;

(10) In view of the proposals of the Department of Public Information to eliminate certain programmes, the Secretary-General is requested to stop any action on the proposed elimination and to submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

(11) The Secretary-General is urged to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for the Department of Public Information

to produce its publications on time, particularly Development Forum, The United Nations Yearbook, the UN Chronicle, the Africa Recovery Report and the World Newspaper Supplement, and to ensure that they retain their editorial policy of intellectual independence and reflect adequately the United Nations activities, and to submit a report thereon to the Committee on Information at its 1989 substantive session;

(12) The unique function of the United Nations information centres, recognised as one of the most important means of disseminating information about the United Nations among the peoples of the world, should be enhanced. In this regard, United Nations information centres should intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media information and educational institutions and non-governmental organisations recognised by the Economic and Social Council in a mutually beneficial way and arrange for constant evaluation of their activities in this regard. Every effort should be made to establish close co-ordination with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme, in order to avoid duplication of work, taking into account the functional autonomy of the United Nations information centres. The Department of Public Information should ensure open and unhindered access by all people to all United Nations information centres and to all materials distributed through the centres. It is also urged that the process be accelerated of linking the remaining United Nations information centres that have not been linked with electronic mail;

(13) In recognition of the need for co-ordinating information activities of the United Nations system and of the important role that the Joint United Nations Information Committee plays in this regard, the Department of Public Information is encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of that Committee;

(14) It is recognised that the free distribution of materials is necessary in the public information activities of the United Nations. However, as demands increase and whenever it is desirable and possible, the Department of Public Information should actively encourage the sale of its materials;

(15) The Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the reorganisation and restructuring of the Department of Public Information strengthen and improve the output of the mandated programmes and activities of the Department, taking into account the need for equitable geographical distribution of posts in the Department;

(16) The Secretary-General is requested to take effective steps to increase in the Department of Public Information the representation of underrepresented developing countries and of other underrepresented groups of countries, especially at the senior levels, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989;

(17) The Secretary-General is requested to ensure full programme delivery by the Caribbean Unit, including implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 on the measures taken in implementation of the present recommendation;

(18) The Secretary-General is requested to maintain the function of the Middle East/Arabic Unit as the producer of Arab television and radio programmes, to strengthen and expand this Unit to enable it to function in an effective manner and to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 on the implementation of the present recommendation;

(19) The United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, should aim at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already taken within the United Nations system, including, in particular:

(a) Development of human resources as indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(b) Creation of conditions that will gradually enable the developing countries to produce, by using their own resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, specifically for radio and television broadcasting;

(c) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(20) In this regard, full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which constitutes an important step in the development of these infrastructures, should always be provided;

2. Requests that the provisions of the present resolution relating to the activities of the Department of Public Information be implemented within existing resources, taking into account the priorities set by the General Assembly;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination 8/ and requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report to the Committee on Information at its eleventh session on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, bearing in mind resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

6. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 A of 16 December 1981, 37/94 A and B of 10 December 1982, 38/82 A of 15 December 1983, 39/98 A and B of 14 December 1984, 40/164 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/68 A and B of 3 December 1986 and 42/162 A and B of 8 December 1987,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the final documents of the first Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984, 9/ and of the Second Conference, held at Harare from 10 to 12 June 1987, 10/ the Declarations of the Seventh and Eighth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983, 11/ and at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 12/ and the Final Political Declarations adopted by the

8/ See A/43/16 (Part II), paras. 82-88.

9/ A/39/139-8/16430, annex.

10/ A/42/431 and Corr.1, annex.

11/ See A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, root. I, para. 175,

12/ A/41/697-S/18392, annex, sect. I, paras. 294-312.

Conferences of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1986 ^{13/} and at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988, ^{14/}

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity ^{15/} its ^{16/} eightmonth ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 24 to 27 June 1981, ^{15/} and the Conference of Ministers of Information of States members of the Organisation of African Unity at its third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 March 1985, and at its first extraordinary session, held at Cairo from 20 to 25 November 1985, especially those encouraging regional co-operation in the field of information,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ^{16/} which provides that ^{17/} everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and ^{18/} expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, ^{17/}

Conscious that, in order progressively to remedy existing imbalances, it is essential to strengthen and intensify the development of infrastructure, networks and resources in the communications field and thus ^{19/} encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information,

^{13/} See S/40/854-S/17610 and Corr.1, annex I, sect. XXXIV,

^{14/} See A/43/667-8/20212, annex, paras. 266-281.

^{15/} See A/36/534, annex II,

^{16/} Resolution 217 A (III).

^{17/} Resolution 33/73.

Emphasising its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which constitutes a central instrument for the development of human and material resources and communication infrastructures in the developing countries,

Recognising the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in the field of information and communication within its mandate, as well as the progress accomplished by that organization in that field,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; 18/

2. Recalls the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War, 19/ adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation;

3. Considers that the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation represents a significant step towards the gradual elimination of existing imbalances in the field of information and communication, and welcomes the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme at its ninth session, held in Paris from 2 to 8 February 1988;

4. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;

5. Again calls upon Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as other international governmental and non-governmental organizations and concerned public and private enterprises to respond to the appeals of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to contribute to the International Programme for the Development of Communication by making financial resources available as well as staff, equipment, technologies and training resources;

6. **Recalls** resolution 4/22 of 27 October 1980 **20/** concerning the rrduation of telecommunication tariffs for now8 ● xahango8, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific *rnd* Cultural Organisation, and taker notr of the efforts made by Member States in thir rrspect;

7. **Reaffirms** it8 support for the United Nations Cduaational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, it8 Constitution and thr ideals reflected in it;

8. **Invites** the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to continue his rffortr in thr informrtion and communication field and to rubmit to th8 General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, a detailed report on thr application of the International Programme for th8 Development of Communication 88 well a8 on the social, ● CONOmIC and cultural effects Of the accelerated development Of communication technologies;

9. **Reaffirms** the ongoing rffortr of the United Nation8 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which retains th8 contral role in the field of information, gradually to ● liminato ● xi8ting imbalances, particularly with respect to the development of infrastructures and production capacities, and to encourage a free flow *and* wider *and* better balanced dissemination of information with a view to the ● 8tabli8hm8nt of a now world information and aonunication order, seen a8 an ● VOIVing and continuous process, in accordance with the relevant consensus resolutions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

★ ★ ★

20. The Special Political Committee recommend8 to the General Assembly the candidacies of Hungary, Zimbabwe and Ireland for membership in th8 Committee on Information,
