

progress on the elaboration of a Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to considering, completing and adopting, if possible, the Declaration, provided a single draft is completed by the Commission on Human Rights.

2311th plenary meeting  
10 December 1974

### 3268 (XXIX). Human rights and scientific and technological developments

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling that, in its resolution 2450 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, it stated that it shared the concern expressed in the Proclamation of Teheran<sup>35</sup> and in resolution XI concerning human rights and scientific and technological developments<sup>36</sup> adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights on 12 May 1968, and recalling in particular the idea expressed in that resolution that studies should be carried out in that field which might serve as a basis for drawing up appropriate standards to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting that, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 2450 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2721 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3026 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, and 3149 (XXVIII) and 3150 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, the United Nations and the specialized agencies have already undertaken research and studies concerning the consideration in United Nations organs of the entire problem of the effect of scientific and technological developments on human rights,

Noting with satisfaction that there is an increasingly clear awareness not only of the vast prospects opened up by scientific and technological developments for the realization of human rights and economic, social and cultural development but also of the threats to fundamental rights represented by the abuse of certain scientific discoveries and their applications,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in resolutions 2721 (XXV) and 3150 (XXVIII) whereby it is important to ensure a balance between scientific and technological developments, the intellectual, spiritual and moral advancement of humanity and the improvement of the living conditions of individuals, groups and peoples,

Emphasizing that the establishment of a new international economic order entails, *inter alia*, a fundamental contribution on the part of science and technology to economic and social progress and to the promotion and safeguarding of human rights,

Recognizing that, as stated in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,<sup>37</sup> concerted efforts should be made by the developing countries, with appropriate assistance from the rest of the world community, to expand their capability to apply science and technology for development in accordance with their national development plans and their priorities, so as to enable the technological gap to be significantly reduced,

Noting that, in accordance with the International Development Strategy, developed and developing countries and competent international organizations should draw up and implement a programme for promoting the transfer of technology to developing countries,

Aware that when modern technology is introduced into the developing countries it may pose problems comparable to those which affect the developed countries and also poses specific problems of adaptation which the organizations in the United Nations system have begun to analyse,

Convinced that the implications of scientific and technological developments, which cannot always be clearly foreseen, are international in character and call for both national and international solutions,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2 (XXX) of 12 February 1974,<sup>38</sup>

Having studied the reports of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>39</sup>

1. *Considers*, while acknowledging the indispensable role of science and technology for development, that it is necessary, on the one hand, to ensure that scientific and technological developments are not used in a manner contrary to the principles of international law and, on the other hand, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in situations of scientific and technological development, taking into account the political, economic and social context of the different countries considered;

2. *Draws the attention* of States to the advantages which may be derived from the elaboration and adoption, by the competent national authorities, of measures designed to adapt national legislation and practices, where appropriate, not only to take account of new technology but also to safeguard the fundamental rights of the individual and of groups or organizations in all sectors of social life, and invites Governments which already have experience in this field to transmit to the Secretary-General the information available to them;

3. *Draws the attention* of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to the importance of collecting qualified opinions in the study of such problems, particularly with regard to a code of ethics, and requests them to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution in liaison, in particular, with the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, which are invited to follow these problems as a whole at regular intervals;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, to go into greater detail in the studies which they are pursuing and to consider the preparation of recommendations concerning international standards in the areas within their competence which fall within the purview of the present resolution,

<sup>35</sup> Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 3.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12.

<sup>37</sup> Resolution 2626 (XXV).

<sup>38</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5464), chap. XIX.

<sup>39</sup> See A/9645.

with a view to facilitating the Secretary-General's task in the elaboration of the report on the subject which he is to submit to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a programme of work taking into account the reports of the Secretary-General, the replies of Governments and other relevant sources, with a view to undertaking in particular the formulation of standards in the areas which would appear to be sufficiently analysed, without prejudice to other activities carried out pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions, and to transmit that programme to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session;

6. *Invites* the organs referred to in paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1897 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, in the event that it is decided to convene a further United Nations conference on science and technology, to take into consideration, in their preparatory work, the question of promoting human rights.

*2311th plenary meeting  
10 December 1974*

**3269 (XXIX). Draft declaration on the use of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the draft declaration on the use of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind,<sup>40</sup>

1. *Decides* to defer further consideration of the draft declaration until its thirtieth session and to take it up at that session as a matter of priority;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the draft declaration and the amendments thereto<sup>41</sup> to the attention of Member States for any comments or suggestions they may wish to make on them.

*2311th plenary meeting  
10 December 1974*

**3270 (XXIX). Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>42</sup>**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having noted* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>43</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 and 3142 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, and in particular its belief that the coming into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol will greatly enhance the ability of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and will contribute to the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Noting with appreciation* that following its appeal several Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

*Recalling also* its resolution 3060 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973 relating to the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which the General Assembly invited States which had not yet done so to ratify, *inter alia*, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

*Desiring* to assist in hastening the process of ratification and bringing into force those instruments,

1. *Recommends* that Member States should give special attention to the possibilities of accelerating as far as possible the internal procedures that would lead to the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights will come into force in the near future, if possible by the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, and thus promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant, to General Assembly resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, 2788 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 and 3142 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, to prepare, on the basis of communications from Governments, and submit to the Assembly at its thirtieth session a report on the progress of the ratification of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. *Invites* all States to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights.

*2311th plenary meeting  
10 December 1974*

**3271 (XXIX). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

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*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>44</sup> and having heard his statement,<sup>45</sup>

<sup>40</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 56, document A/9937, para. 11.*

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 13, 14 and 15.

<sup>42</sup> See also p. 95, item 58.

<sup>43</sup> A/9720 and Add.1.

<sup>44</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/9612 and Corr.1), Supplement No. 12A (A/9612/Add.1), Supplement No. 12B (A/9612/Add.2) and Supplement No. 12C (A/9612/Add.3).*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-ninth Session, Third Committee, 2098th meeting, paras. 1-12.