

542 (VI). Communications concerning human rights

The General Assembly,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council has taken no action with respect to the resolution of the Commission on Human Rights⁸ on communications concerning human rights,

Decides to invite the Economic and Social Council to give the Commission on Human Rights instructions for its ninth session with regard to such communications and to request the Commission to formulate its recommendations on them.

*374th plenary meeting,
4 February 1952.*

543 (VI). Preparation of two Draft International Covenants on Human Rights

Whereas the Economic and Social Council, by resolution 303 I (XI) of 9 August 1950, requested the General Assembly to make a policy decision concerning the inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in the Covenant on Human Rights,

Whereas the General Assembly affirmed, in its resolution 421 E (V) of 4 December 1950, that "the enjoyment of civic and political freedoms and of economic, social and cultural rights are interconnected and interdependent" and that "when deprived of economic, social and cultural rights, man does not represent the human person whom the Universal Declaration regards as the ideal of the free man",

Whereas the General Assembly, after a thorough and all-round discussion, confirmed in the aforementioned resolution the principle that economic, social and cultural rights should be included in the Covenant on Human Rights,

Whereas the General Assembly, at the request of the Economic and Social Council in resolution 384 (XIII) of 29 August 1951, reconsidered this matter at its sixth session,

The General Assembly

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to draft two Covenants on Human Rights, to be submitted simultaneously for the consideration of the General Assembly at its seventh session, one to contain civil and political rights and the other to contain economic, social and cultural rights, in order that the General Assembly may approve the two Covenants simultaneously and open them at the same time for signature, the two Covenants to contain, in order to emphasize the unity of the aim in view and to ensure respect for and observance of human rights, as many similar provisions as possible, particularly in so far as the reports to be submitted by States on the implementation of those rights are concerned;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ask Member States and appropriate specialized agencies to submit drafts or memoranda containing their views on the form and contents of the proposed Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, together with their ob-

servations thereon, to reach the Secretary-General before 1 March 1952, for the information and guidance of the Commission on Human Rights at its forthcoming session.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

544 (VI). Preparation of articles on economic, social and cultural rights

The General Assembly,

Considering that the Commission on Human Rights has, by virtue of General Assembly resolution 421 E (V) of 4 December 1950, prepared various articles on economic, social and cultural rights,⁹

Considering that the wording of those articles, which have been examined during the present session of the General Assembly, should be improved in order to protect more effectively the rights to which they refer,

Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to take into consideration, when revising the relevant articles of the draft Covenant, the views expressed during the discussion of the draft Covenant, and also such views as the governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations may think fit to advance.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

545 (VI). Inclusion in the International Covenant or Covenants on Human Rights of an article relating to the right of peoples to self-determination

Whereas the General Assembly at its fifth session recognized the right of peoples and nations to self-determination as a fundamental human right (resolution 421 D (V) of 4 December 1950),

Whereas the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, owing to lack of time, were unable to carry out the request of the General Assembly to study ways and means which would ensure the above-mentioned right to peoples and nations,

Whereas the violation of this right has resulted in bloodshed and war in the past and is considered a continuous threat to peace,

The General Assembly

- (i) To save the present and succeeding generations from the scourge of war,
- (ii) To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, and
- (iii) To take due account of the political aspirations of all peoples and thus to further international peace and security, and to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

1. Decides to include in the International Covenant or Covenants on Human Rights an article on the right of all peoples and nations to self-determination in reaffirmation of the principle enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations. This article shall be drafted in the following terms: "All peoples shall have the

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 9, chapter IV.*

⁹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 9.

right of self-determination", and shall stipulate that all States, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories, should promote the realization of that right, in conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations, and that States having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories should promote the realization of that right in relation to the peoples of such Territories;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to prepare recommendations concerning international respect for the self-determination of peoples and to submit these recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventh session.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

546 (VI). Inclusion in the draft International Covenants on Human Rights of provisions regarding reservations

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is desirable that the two International Covenants on Human Rights should include provisions relating to the admissibility or non-admissibility of reservations and to the effect to be attributed to them, in particular with regard to the validity of the Covenants between the reserving State and other States ratifying the Covenant,

Considering that the General Assembly in its resolution 598 (VI) of 12 January 1952 has recommended that organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies and States should, in the course of preparing multilateral conventions, consider the insertion therein of provisions relating to the admissibility or non-admissibility of reservations and to the effect to be attributed to them,

Decides to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should instruct the Commission on Human Rights to prepare, for inclusion in the two draft International Covenants on Human Rights, one or more clauses relating to the admissibility or non-admissibility of reservations and to the effect to be attributed to them.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

547 (VI). Measures for the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights —procedural resolution

The General Assembly

Decides to request the Economic and Social Council to forward the following documents on measures for the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights: A/C.3/L.191/Rev.3 (Syria), A/C.3/L.193 (Israel), A/C.3/L.195 and A/C.3/L.195/Rev.2 (Guatemala, Haiti and Uruguay), A/C.3/L.196 and A/C.3/L.196/Rev.2 (Guatemala and Uruguay), A/C.3/L.198/Rev.2 (Lebanon) and document A/C.3/L.191/Rev.2, to the Commission on Human Rights as additional basic working papers on the subjects with which they deal, for its consideration in connexion with the drafting of provisions on implementation in the Covenants on Human Rights. The said Commission should

also take into consideration the discussion of the General Assembly concerning these documents and submit its recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventh session.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

548 (VI). Adoption in Spanish of the term "derechos humanos" instead of the term "derechos del hombre"

Whereas in the Spanish text of the United Nations Charter, Articles 1, 13, 55, 62, 68 and 76 refer to "derechos humanos" and not to "derechos del hombre",

Whereas the content and purpose of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the draft Covenant have a wide significance which is not covered in Spanish by the term "derechos del hombre",

Taking into account the fact that, in the general discussion on this matter in the Third Committee during the sixth session of the General Assembly, prominent representatives of Spanish-American countries expressed their preference for the term employed in the Charter,

The General Assembly

Decides that, in future, in all United Nations working documents and publications in Spanish, and in the Universal Declaration and draft Covenant, the words "derechos humanos" shall be used instead of the words "derechos del hombre", used at present.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

549 (VI). Special session of the Economic and Social Council to precede the eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the resolutions¹⁰ adopted at its present session which relate to the draft International Covenants on Human Rights and measures of implementation,

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to instruct the Commission on Human Rights to give priority to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination which the Commission was forced to defer at its seventh session¹¹ owing to lack of time;

2. *Requests* the Council, in accordance with its rules of procedure, to hold a special session, to precede the eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, at which it shall take the necessary action to enable the Commission to complete the work entrusted to it in connexion with the said draft International Covenants on Human Rights and measures of implementation before the end of the Council's fourteenth session, so that the Council may submit the drafts to the General Assembly at its seventh regular session together with its recommendations.

*375th plenary meeting,
5 February 1952.*

¹⁰ See resolutions 543 (VI), 544 (VI), 545 (VI), 546 (VI), 547 (VI) and 548 (VI).

¹¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 10, Chapter V.*