

Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To place chief emphasis in the next report on changes that have taken place throughout the world since the preliminary report⁵⁰ and to give special attention to the problems of peoples undergoing rapid transition especially through urbanization;

(b) To issue the report by December 1956 for consideration by the Social Commission at its eleventh session, and by the Council at its twenty-fourth session;

(c) To prepare for the use of the Council, at its twenty-second session, a report on the extent to which the priorities and programmes set forth in Council resolution 496 (XVI) on the programme of concerted practical action in the social field have been taken into account and implemented by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.

586 (XX). Report of the Commission on Human Rights (eleventh session)

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights (eleventh session).⁵¹

889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.

B

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE MATTER OF EMIGRATION AND TRAVEL

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the work programme established by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fifth session and approved by the Commission on Human Rights and the Council, it was provided that among the measures to combat discrimination which the Sub-Commission would study would be those in the field of immigration and travel,⁵²

Recalling that at its sixth session the Sub-Commission decided that the study should cover not only immigration and travel but also emigration,⁵³

Recalling that at its tenth session the Commission drew the attention of the Sub-Commission to the observations made on a proposal (subsequently withdrawn) under which, *inter alia*, the words "immigration and travel" in draft resolution D of the Sub-Commission would have been replaced by the words "the right to return to

one's country as provided in article 13, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,"⁵⁴

Recalling further that in its resolution 545 D (XVIII), the Council requested the Sub-Commission "to take as the objective of its study in this field paragraph 2 of article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights",

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights (eleventh session) and the draft resolution it proposed on this subject,⁵⁵

Reaffirms its decision set forth in resolution 545 D (XVIII), which, by requesting the Sub-Commission to limit its study to "the right of everyone to 'leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country'", implicitly excluded immigration from the scope of this study.

889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.

C

STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF DISCRIMINATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered chapter IV of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its eleventh session,⁵⁶ which relates to the report of the seventh session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,⁵⁷

Noting that at its seventh session the Sub-Commission completed the discussion of the preliminary reports on the procedure to be followed in carrying out studies of discrimination in 1955 in the matter of:

(a) Political rights mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵⁸

(b) Religious rights and practices,⁵⁹

(c) Emigration, immigration and travel,⁶⁰

Considering that both the Council and the Commission had taken no action to revise the plan of the Sub-Commission that a new study in one of the above-mentioned fields should be undertaken in 1955, whether or not the study of discrimination in education had been completed,

1. Expresses its regret that the necessary steps were not taken to make such a study possible in 1955;

2. Commends the Sub-Commission for its efforts and endorses the programme of work which it has adopted, subject to the revision of the study mentioned under sub-paragraph (c) above to read: "The right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return

⁵⁴ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/2573), paras. 486 to 495.

⁵⁵ Ibid., Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/2731 and Corr.1), Annex I, draft resolution A.

⁵⁶ Ibid., chapter IV.A.

⁵⁷ E/CN.4/711.

⁵⁸ E/CN.4/Sub.2/165.

⁵⁹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/162.

⁶⁰ E/CN.4/Sub.2/167.

⁵⁰ E/CN.5/267/Rev.1. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1952.IV.11.

⁵¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/2731 and Corr.1).

⁵² E/CN.4/670, para. 48, resolution A.

⁵³ E/CN.4/703, para. 143, resolution D.

to his country, as provided in article 13, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”;

3. *Authorizes* the Sub-Commission to undertake one further study in the field of discrimination in 1956 and another, if possible, in 1957;

4. *Expresses* the hope that the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned will continue to give the Sub-Commission all the co-operation and assistance it may require, and that the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to co-operate with the Sub-Commission;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the importance of the work of the Sub-Commission and its needs, to take adequate measures to provide the Sub-Commission with the financial and administrative assistance necessary to enable it to pursue its studies without delay.

889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.

D

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES AND NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 837 (IX) in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to complete its recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination,

Noting that the Commission, at its eleventh session, reaffirmed⁶¹ the recommendations contained in draft resolutions F I and II adopted by the Commission at its tenth session,⁶²

1. *Transmits* to the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolution 837 (IX), the following draft resolutions proposed by the Commission, for consideration, together with the records of the debate at the twentieth session of the Council: ⁶³

I

“ The General Assembly,

“ Noting that the right of peoples and nations to self-determination as affirmed in the two draft covenants completed by the Commission on Human Rights⁶⁴ includes ‘ permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources ’,

“ Believing it necessary to have full information at its disposal regarding the actual extent and character of this sovereignty,

“ 1. Decides to establish a commission consisting of . . . to conduct a full survey of the status of this

⁶¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/2731 and Corr.1), para. 122.*

⁶² *Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/2573), para. 335.*

⁶³ *E/AC.7/SR.319, 324 to 328 and Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, 889th and 890th meetings.*

⁶⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/2573), Annex I.*

basic constituent of the right to self-determination, with recommendations, where necessary, for its strengthening; and that, in the conduct of the full survey of the status of the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources, due regard shall be paid to the rights and duties of States under international law and to the importance of encouraging international co-operation in the economic development of under-developed countries;

“ 2. Invites the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies to co-operate with the Commission in its task;

“ 3. Requests the Commission to report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-second session;

“ 4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with the necessary staff and facilities.”

II

“ The General Assembly,

“ Recalling that it is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations to develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

“ Recalling further that under Article 14 of the United Nations Charter, the General Assembly may recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations,

“ Considering that inadequate realization of the right to self-determination not only undermines the basis of these friendly relations as defined in the Charter, but also creates conditions which may prevent further realization of the right itself,

“ Believing that such a situation is contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and that its peaceful rectification is therefore a matter of immediate concern,

“ 1. Decides to establish a commission consisting of the representatives of . . . with the following terms of reference:

“ (a) The Commission shall examine any situation resulting from alleged denial or inadequate realization of the right to self-determination which falls within the scope of Article 14 of the Charter and to which the Commission’s attention is drawn by any ten States Members of the United Nations;

“ (b) The Commission shall provide its good offices for the peaceful rectification of any situation it is required to examine;

“ (c) If within six months no adjustment of the situation can be effected to the satisfaction of the parties concerned, the Commission shall report the facts, with appropriate recommendations, to the General Assembly;

“ 2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with the necessary staff and facilities.”

2. *Transmits*, furthermore, to the General Assembly for its consideration the following draft resolution:

" The General Assembly,

" Recalling that under Article 1 of the Charter it is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations 'to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples',

" Recalling further that under Article 55 of the Charter the United Nations is to promote social and economic progress, international cultural and educational co-operation, and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

" Considering that there is a wide difference of views regarding the meaning and applicability of the principles of equal rights and of self-determination of peoples as mentioned in Article 1 of the Charter, which differences it would be desirable to remove in the interest of friendly relations between States,

" Believing that, for the most effective action in this field by States Members of the United Nations, it is essential that there be the widest possible measure of understanding and agreement as to the meaning and applicability of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and as to its relationship to other Charter principles,

" 1. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Commission on Self-Determination, consisting of five persons to be appointed by the Secretary-General, to conduct a thorough study of the concept of self-determination;

" 2. Considers that the terms of reference of this Commission should include examination of:

" (a) The concept of peoples and nations;

" (b) The essential attributes and applicability of the principle of equal rights and of self-determination, including the rights and duties of States under international law;

" (c) The relationship between the principle of self-determination and other Charter principles;

" (d) The economic, social and cultural conditions under which the application of the principle is facilitated;

" 3. Invites appropriate United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to co-operate with the Ad Hoc Commission in its task;

" 4. Requests the Ad Hoc Commission to transmit its report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-third session and to the General Assembly at its twelfth regular session, together with the comments of the Council on the economic, social and cultural aspects of the report;

" 5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with the necessary staff and facilities."

*889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.*

E

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

" The General Assembly,

" Considering that by Articles 55 and 56 of the United Nations Charter the States Members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

" Recognizing that technical assistance, by the international interchange of technical knowledge through international co-operation among countries, represents one of the means by which it is possible to promote the human rights objectives of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

" Taking note of resolution 729 (VIII) of the General Assembly authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist those States in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women,

" Taking note of resolution 730 (VIII) of the General Assembly authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of any Member State, technical advice and other services which do not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist the Government of that State within its territory in the eradication of discrimination or in the protection of minorities, or both,

" Taking note of resolution 839 (IX) of the General Assembly authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope and objectives of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist those States in promoting freedom of information, and resolution 574 A (XIX) of the Economic and Social Council requesting the Secretary-General to take steps to put into operation a programme to promote freedom of information by providing such services as experts, fellowships and seminars,

" Taking account of the arrangements previously established by the General Assembly concerning the regular technical assistance programme and the advisory services of the United Nations in its resolutions 200 (III), 246 (III), 305 (IV), 418 (V), 518 (VI) and 723 (VIII),

" Considering that the specialized agencies, within their competence and by virtue of their regular programmes of technical assistance, are already rendering important services to their members with a view to ensuring the effective observance of human rights:

" 1. Decides to consolidate the technical assistance programmes already approved by the General Assembly (relating to the promotion and safeguarding of the rights of women, the eradication of discrimination and protection of minorities, and the promotion of freedom of

information) with the broad programme of assistance in the field of human rights proposed in this resolution, the entire programme to be known as 'Advisory services in the field of human rights';

"2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General:

"(a) Subject to the directions of the Economic and Social Council, to make provision at the request of Governments, and with the co-operation of the specialized agencies where appropriate and without duplication of their existing activities, for the following forms of assistance with respect to the field of human rights:

- (i) Advisory services of experts;
- (ii) Fellowships and scholarships;
- (iii) Seminars;

"(b) To take the programme authorized by this resolution into account in preparing the budgetary estimates of the United Nations;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake the performance of the assistance provided for in paragraph 2 (a) above, in agreement with the Governments concerned, on the basis of requests received from Governments and in accordance with the following policies:

"(a) The kind of service to be rendered to each country under paragraph 2 (a) (i) shall be determined by the Government concerned;

"(b) The selection of the persons under paragraph 2 (a) (ii) shall be made by the Secretary-General on the basis of proposals received from Governments, which shall indicate their preferences with regard to host countries, and those persons shall be acceptable to the host countries;

"(c) The amount of assistance and the conditions under which it is to be rendered shall be decided by the Secretary-General with due regard to the greater needs of the under-developed areas and in conformity with the principle that each requesting Government shall be expected to assume responsibility, as far as possible, for all or a considerable part of the expenses connected with the assistance furnished to it, either by making a contribution in cash, or in the form of services for the purpose of carrying out the programme;

"(d) The assistance shall be applicable to any subject in the field of human rights, in addition to the subjects covered by the existing resolutions of the General Assembly, provided however that the subject shall be one for which adequate advisory assistance is not available through a specialized agency and which does not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Economic and Social Council, to the Commission on Human Rights and, as appropriate, to the Commission on the Status of Women, on the measures which he takes in compliance with the terms of this resolution;

"5. *Recommends* that the specialized agencies continue to develop their technical assistance activities with a view to aiding member States to further the effective observance of human rights;

"6. *Invites* the specialized agencies to communicate to the Economic and Social Council, for transmission to

the Commission on Human Rights, any observations which they may find appropriate on the above assistance and on any new measures of assistance which they may deem necessary with a view to assisting member States in furthering the effective observance of human rights;

"7. *Expresses* the hope that international and national non-governmental organizations, universities, philanthropic foundations and other private groups will supplement this United Nations programme with similar programmes designed to further research and studies, the exchange of information and assistance in the field of human rights."

*889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.*

587 (XX). Status of women

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (ninth session).⁶⁵

*890th plenary meeting,
3 August 1955.*

B

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on political rights of women, which this year appears as a complete document,⁶⁶

Believing that this annual report is of great value as a source of information on the constitutional provisions and laws in effect and also on the historical development of woman suffrage,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in this report all the States which are Members of the United Nations and/or the specialized agencies and/or are Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include in an annex to this report pertinent information available to him on States non-members of the aforementioned organizations or not parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice;

3. *Requests* also that in presenting information on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women in table IX, the Secretary-General include information on reservations and objections to reservations to this Convention.

*890th plenary meeting,
3 August 1955.*

⁶⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/2727).*

⁶⁶ A/2692 and Corr.1.