

HRC  
Reports



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**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**REPORT ON THE TWENTIETH SESSION**

17 February–18 March 1964

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8**

**UNITED NATIONS**  
New York, 1964

VI. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

343. At its nineteenth session the Commission decided to postpone to its twentieth session, due to lack of time, the consideration of the agenda item on freedom of information.

344. At its twentieth session the Commission had before it:

(a) A report on developments in the field of freedom of information since 1954 (E/3443), together with the comments of Governments and specialized agencies thereon (E/3443/Add.1 and 2);

(b) Annual reports on freedom of information for 1960-1961, 1961-1962 and 1962-1963 (E/CN.4/822 and Add.1-3, E/CN.4/838 and Add.1-3, and E/CN.4/862 and Add.1-2).

345. Due to lack of time the Commission was again unable to discuss this item and decided to postpone its consideration to the twenty-first session (see para. 8 above).

346. However, in connexion with item 5 of its agenda "Periodic reports on human rights", the Commission decided to establish a Committee which, *inter alia*, was requested "to examine the reports on freedom of information which are at present before the Commission and, in their light, make recommendations to the Commission at its twenty-first session concerning steps which should be taken with respect to problems of freedom of information by the United Nations in co-operation with the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO" (see para. 328, resolution 3 B (XX)).

VII. DESIGNATION OF 1968 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

347. At the request of the Government of Jamaica, an item entitled "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights" had been included in the agenda of the General Assembly's eighteenth session.

348. At that session, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the Assembly had adopted resolution 1961 (XVIII) on that subject. In the operative part of that resolution the General Assembly, in particular, designated the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights, and requested the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Human Rights at its forthcoming session: (a) to prepare a programme of measures and activities representing a lasting contribution to the cause of human rights, to be undertaken by the United Nations, by Member States and by the specialized agencies during the year 1968, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (b) to prepare, for consideration by the General Assembly, suggestions for a list of goals in the field of human rights to be achieved by the United Nations not later than the end of 1968; and (c) to submit the programme of measures and activities and the suggestions for the list of goals in time for their consideration by the General Assembly at its twentieth session.

349. The Economic and Social Council, at its resumed thirty-sixth session, had decided to transmit that resolution of the General Assembly to the Commission on Human Rights. (see Res 1961 (XVII), CP-pam 2)

350. At its twentieth session, the Commission accordingly had that resolution before it, as also a note by the Secretary-General on that agenda item (E/CN.4/867). On 10 March 1964 the representative of Costa Rica submitted a draft resolution on that subject, reading as follows (E/CN.4/L.717):

"The Commission on Human Rights,

Noting General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Sharing the view of the General Assembly that, in spite of the substantial measure of progress which has been achieved in giving effect to human rights and fundamental freedoms since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the effective realization of these rights and freedoms remains unsatisfactory in some parts of the world,

Bearing in mind the broad objectives of achieving a set of goals in the field of human rights not later than 1968, and the preparation of a programme of measures and activities in the field of human rights to be undertaken by Member Governments and the specialized agencies during the year 1968,

Decides that a Committee consisting of five of its members appointed by the Chairman of the Commission shall meet two weeks before the 1965 session of the Commission on Human Rights to prepare a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States during 1968 in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the furtherance of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms;

Requests the Economic and Social Council to recommend the following draft resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth session;

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Recognizing the need for effective measures to be taken at both the international and the national levels to encourage the further development of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the belief that the cause of human rights will be well served by an increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made, and the conviction that the year 1968 should be devoted to intensified national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of the achievements in this field,

Convinced that an intensification of efforts in the intervening years will heighten the progress that can be made by 1968,

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1. Recommends that all Member States be invited to ratify before or during 1968 the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights, and in particular the following:

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery;

ILO Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour;

ILO Convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation;

UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education.

2. Recommends the conclusion of the following draft Conventions before 1968 so that they may be open for ratification and accession before or during 1968:

Draft Covenant on civil and political rights;

Draft Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance;

Draft Convention on Freedom of information.

3. Decides to complete the consideration of the Declarations and Recommendations outstanding in the field of Human Rights now before the General Assembly by 1968;

B

4. Recommends in principle the convening, in 1968, of an International Conference to (i) review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of human rights and (iii) formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ascertain from Member States their attitude to such a conference and the place and date of meeting of the Conference, and to report on his consultations to the General Assembly at its twentieth session."

351. A statement of the financial implications of the Costa Rican draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717) was transmitted to the Commission by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/L.717/Add.1).

352. On 13 March 1964, the Costa Rican representative submitted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1), which was corrected and revised orally by its sponsor when the latter introduced it at the 812th meeting on 14 March 1964. The Costa Rican draft resolution, as introduced at that meeting with these corrections and revisions, read as follows:

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Noting General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

"Sharing the view of the General Assembly that, in spite of the substantial measure of progress which has been achieved in giving effect to human rights and fundamental freedoms since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the effective realization of these rights and freedoms remains unsatisfactory in some parts of the world,

"Bearing in mind the broad objectives of achieving a set of goals in the field of human rights not later than 1968, and the preparation of a programme of measures and activities in the field of human rights to be undertaken by Member Governments and the specialized agencies during the year 1968,

"Decides that a Committee consisting of thirty-three members appointed from Permanent Delegations shall meet prior to the 1965 session after consultation with the Secretary-General to recommend a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies in celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"Decides that, as a part of its terms of reference, the Committee should give special thought to the considerations relative to the holding of an International Conference in 1968 to (a) review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (b) evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of human rights; and (c) formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year. The Committee should further consider the convenience of inviting all Member States to sign, ratify and apply the conventions already approved in the field of human rights."

353. On 14 March 1964, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.721), which, after certain oral corrections had been made, read as follows:

"The Commission on Human Rights,

Noting General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Sharing the view of the General Assembly that, in spite of the substantial measure of progress which has been achieved in giving effect to human rights and fundamental freedoms since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the effective realization of these rights and freedoms remains unsatisfactory in some parts of the world,

Bearing in mind the broad objectives of achieving a set of goals in the field of human rights not later than 1968, and the preparation of a programme of measures and activities in the field of human rights to be undertaken by Member Governments and the specialized agencies during the year 1968,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to recommend the following draft resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth session:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Recognizing the need for effective measures to be taken at both the international and the national levels to encourage the further development of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the belief that the cause of human rights will be well served by an increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made, and the conviction that the year 1968 should be devoted to intensified national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of the achievements in this field,

Convinced that an intensification of efforts in the intervening years will heighten the progress that can be made by 1968,

1. Recommends that all Member States be invited to ratify before 1968 the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights, and inter alia the following:

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery;

ILO Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour;

ILO Convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation;

ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value;

UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education;

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

2. Recommends the conclusion of the following draft Conventions before 1968 so that they may be open for ratification and accession before 1968:

Draft Covenant on civil and political rights;

Draft Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance;

Draft Convention on freedom of information.

3. Decides to complete by 1968 the consideration and preparation of the following draft declarations:

Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the matter of political rights;

Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in relation to women."

354. The Commission considered this agenda item, including the drafts before it, at its 812th meeting on 14 March 1964.

355. There was agreement in praising the initiative taken by Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, which had led to the adoption of resolution 1961 (XVIII) by the General Assembly, and in recognizing that the Commission on Human Rights should, in accordance with that resolution, give its full attention to the preparation of programmes and lists of goals with a view to intensifying national and international efforts in the field of human rights in connexion with the celebration in 1968 of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration.

356. None of the representatives expressed any objection to the proposal for a meeting of a Committee whose general terms of reference, under both the original and the revised Costa Rican draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717 and E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1), would call for it to recommend a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies.

357. A discussion took place on the question of whether consideration should be given to the convening, in 1968, of an international conference to review progress, make an evaluation and formulate programmes, as provided in the Costa Rican draft resolutions.

358. One representative questioned whether such a conference could carry out the proposed evaluation and said that it would be preferable for that difficult task to be entrusted to a study group. Several representatives expressed reservations concerning the convening of the conference, emphasizing the extent of the financial implications indicated by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/L.717/Add.1, para. 6). The Costa Rican representative revised his draft in the light of those various reservations; whereas under the original draft (E/CN.4/L.717, part B) the General Assembly would, at its nineteenth session, recommend "in principle the convening, in 1968, of such a conference, the revised text (E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1, operative paragraph 2) called for the Committee, which would meet in 1965, to "give special thought to the considerations relevant to the holding" of the conference in 1968. Since several representatives had objected that, even in its revised version, the resolution could be interpreted as implying approval in principle of the plan for an international conference, the Costa Rican representative finally decided on a formula under which "as a part of its terms of reference, the Committee should give special thought to the possibility of holding an International Conference in 1968". The sponsor of the draft resolution contended that the new wording in no way prejudged the advisability of holding the conference and would leave the Committee all the freedom it wished to study the various aspects of the matter. After that oral amendment and those explanations had been made, the above-mentioned objections to the Costa Rican draft resolution were withdrawn.

359. Under the original Costa Rican draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717, part A), the General Assembly would have recommended that all Member States should be invited to ratify, before or during 1968, the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights, and in particular certain specified Conventions; it would also have recommended the conclusion before 1968 of a number of specified draft conventions, including the draft Covenants, so that they might be open for ratification and accession before or during 1968; and it would, finally, have decided to complete by 1968 the consideration of the Declarations and Recommendations outstanding in the field of human rights now before the Assembly. In the revised Costa Rican draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717, operative paragraph 2), these specific recommendations to the Assembly were omitted and there was no longer any reference to the draft Declarations now before the Assembly, but the Committee was called upon further to "consider the convenience of inviting all Member States to sign, ratify and apply the conventions already approved in the field of human rights".

360. The Ukrainian draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.721) was designed to reintroduce part A of the original Costa Rican draft (E/CN.4/L.717). Under the Ukrainian draft, the General Assembly would invite all Member States to ratify before 1968 the Conventions already concluded, inter alia, certain specified conventions;

number of specified draft Conventions would be concluded so that they might be open for ratification and accession before 1968, and the Assembly would decide to complete by 1968 the preparation of draft declarations. The only differences between the two texts were the following:

- in the Ukrainian draft resolution (operative paragraph 1), as orally amended, Member States were invited to ratify "before 1968" the Conventions already concluded, rather than "before or during 1968", as provided in the original Costa Rican draft, the same point applied to ratification of, and accession to, conventions which were to be drafted and concluded in the meantime (operative paragraph 2);
- in the Ukrainian draft, the list of Conventions already concluded which were to be given special attention included, in addition to the four referred to in the Costa Rican draft, the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women;
- whereas the original Costa Rican draft (E/CN.4/L.717, part A) called in general terms for the Assembly to complete by 1968 the preparation of the draft Declarations and Recommendations before it, the corresponding Ukrainian proposal (E/CN.4/L.721) related specifically to the draft Declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the matter of political rights and the draft Declaration on the elimination of discrimination in relation to women.

361. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR stressed that his draft (E/CN.4/L.721) should in no way be considered as at variance or in competition with the revised draft submitted by Costa Rica (E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1); on the contrary, the two texts were in his view complementary, and his sole purpose in submitting his own draft had been to reintroduce the corresponding provisions of the original Costa Rican draft (E/CN.4/L.717, part A), which he considered essential.

362. The Costa Rican representative said that he supported the Ukrainian draft resolution in its main lines; while he had modified his own draft in order to obtain greater agreement within the Commission, he felt that the draft recommendations relating to the conventions and recommendations on human rights contained in his original text and reintroduced in the Ukrainian draft were of great importance for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII).

363. A number of representatives also supported the Ukrainian draft resolution, emphasizing that maximum participation in United Nations legislative activity by States Members and the acceleration of the Organization's work in connexion with the conventions and declarations relating to human rights should clearly be regarded as the most important of the measures and activities mentioned in General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII). In particular, it was most desirable that emphasis should be placed on the need for expediting work on the draft Covenants, in view of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration.

364. In support of the Ukrainian draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.721), a representative also pointed out that if, as that draft resolution proposed, the General Assembly adopted as early as 1964, at its nineteenth session, recommendations concerning

the conventions relating to human rights, States Members would have the time to initiate their constitutional ratification procedures so as to accede to the conventions before 1968 - whereas the procedure proposed in the revised Costa Rican draft (E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1) might well result in delay.

365. On the other hand, a number of representatives expressed the view that the Ukrainian draft (E/CN.4/L.721) and the original Costa Rican draft (E/CN.4/L.717) had the defect of ignoring certain important conventions and draft recommendations which deserved mention. Examples cited were the convention on the nationality of married women and the convention and recommendation on consent to marriage, minimum age for marriage and registration of marriages. The representative of the ILO suggested - and this suggestion was repeated by a representative - that the list contained in the Ukrainian draft should be supplemented by reference to the ILO conventions relating to the right of association and combination of agricultural workers, freedom to form trade unions and the protection of trade union rights, and the application of the principles of the right of organization and collective bargaining. Certain representatives argued that any attempt at enumeration raised difficulties: to compile such lists of conventions and recommendations was a highly complex task for which the Commission had not enough time, and study of the question would best be left to the Committee. The representatives who supported the Ukrainian draft replied that they saw no need to add references to other instruments to it, since the list of examples mentioned in the draft was in no way to be regarded as exhaustive. In order to dispel misgivings on this point, the Ukrainian representative drew attention to the words "in particular" in operative paragraph 1 of his draft. In addition, he accepted the oral proposal of the United States representative to add references to the draft declaration on the right of asylum and the draft declaration on freedom of information to operative paragraph 3 of his draft (E/CN.4/L.721).

366. A representative criticized the text of the Ukrainian draft reintroduced from the original Costa Rican draft on the ground that, in operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly would be appearing to address recommendations concerning the conclusion of draft conventions to itself. That, he held, was as unusual a procedure, as it was pointless, since - at least so far as concerned the draft Covenants - the Assembly had never failed to give priority to the consideration of the drafts. In order to improve the text, the representative of the Ukrainian SSR accepted a suggestion by the Ecuadorian representative that the words "Recommends the conclusion of the following draft Conventions before 1968" should be replaced by the words "Decides to hasten the conclusion of the following draft Conventions". The reference to the need to hasten the work, it was stressed by the sponsor of the draft, was an essential aspect of his proposal.

367. In agreement with the Costa Rican representative, the Ukrainian representative submitted the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council contained in his own text (E/CN.4/L.721, orally revised) as an amendment to be added as a second part to the revised Costa Rican draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1, orally revised); and the Costa Rican representative declared that if that amendment was adopted by the Commission, he would delete the second sentence of operative paragraph 2 of his resolution, providing that the Committee should consider the convenience of inviting Member States to sign, ratify and apply the conventions already approved in the field of human rights.

368. The orally revised Ukrainian amendment to the revised Costa Rican draft resolution was adopted by the Commission by 13 votes to 8, with no abstentions. At the request of the USSR representative, the vote was taken by roll-call and the voting was as follows:

In favour: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Dahomey, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Against: Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

369. The Costa Rican draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.717/Rev.1), as orally revised and amended, was unanimously adopted by roll-call vote requested by the USSR representative, all members of the Commission being present and voting.

370. The resolution adopted by the Commission at its 812th meeting on 14 March 1964 reads as follows:

6 (XX) DESIGNATION OF 1968 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS <sup>15/</sup>

The Commission on Human Rights,

Noting General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Sharing the view of the General Assembly that, in spite of the substantial measure of progress which has been achieved in giving effect to human rights and fundamental freedoms since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the effective realization of these rights and freedoms remains unsatisfactory in some parts of the world,

Bearing in mind the broad objectives of achieving a set of goals in the field of human rights not later than 1968, and the preparation of a programme of measures and activities in the field of human rights to be undertaken by Member Governments and the specialized agencies during the year 1968,

1. Decides that a Committee consisting of thirty-four members <sup>16/</sup> appointed from Permanent Delegations shall meet prior to the 1965 session after consultation with the Secretary-General to recommend a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies in celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

<sup>15/</sup> For the financial implications relating to the resolution see annex III.

<sup>16/</sup> For the membership, see paragraph 371 below.

(f) Access to any place or service intended for use by the general public such as transport, hotels, restaurants, cafes, theatres, parks.

#### Article VI

States Parties shall assure to everyone within their jurisdiction effective protection and remedies through the competent national tribunals against any acts of racial discrimination which violate his human rights and fundamental freedoms contrary to this Convention, as well as the right to seek from such tribunals just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such discrimination.

#### Article VII

States Parties undertake to adopt immediate and effective measures, particularly in the fields of teaching, education and information, with a view to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination and to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and racial or ethnical groups, as well as to propagating the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

### II

Study of discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country 21/

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered resolution 4 (XX) adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its twentieth session,

Requests the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, Mr. José D. Ingles, to attend the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights when it undertakes the consideration of his report.

### III

Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights 22/

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered chapter VII of the report of the Commission on Human Rights at its twentieth session,

21/ See paragraph 333 and annex III.

22/ See paragraph 370.

Recommends the following draft resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth session:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Recognizing the need for effective measures to be taken at both the international and the national levels to encourage the further development of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the belief that the cause of human rights will be well served by an increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made, and the conviction that the year 1968 should be devoted to intensified national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of the achievements in this field,

Convinced that an intensification of efforts in the intervening years will heighten the progress that can be made by 1968,

1. Recommends that all Member States be invited to ratify before 1968 the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights, and in particular the following:

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and practices similar to Slavery;

ILO Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour;

ILO Convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation;

ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value;

UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education;

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

2. Decides to hasten the conclusion of the following draft Conventions so that they may be open for ratification and accession before 1968:

Draft Covenant on civil and political rights;

Draft Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance;

Draft Convention on freedom of information.

3. Decides to complete by 1968 the consideration and preparation of the following draft declarations:

Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the matter of political rights;

Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in relation to women;

Draft declaration on the right of asylum;

Draft declaration on freedom of information.