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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Twentieth session
Agenda item 12

DESIGNATION OF 1968 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

Costa Rica: draft resolution

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 resembling slavery

ILO Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour

ILO Convention concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

UNESCO Convention concerning 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:

the draft International Covenant on civil and political rights

the draft International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights

the draft Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

the draft Convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

the 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;

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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 on 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.