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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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IV. INTERNATIONAL YEAR

409. At its eighteenth session, on 12 December 1963, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1961 (XVIII) entitled "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights". By the operative part of that resolution, the General Assembly, among other things, 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, for consideration by the Assembly, 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.

410. On 17 December 1963, the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed thirty-sixth session, decided to transmit the resolution of the General Assembly to the Commission on Human Rights.

411. At its twentieth session, the Commission, by resolution 6 (XX), decided, *inter alia*, to establish a Committee of thirty-four members, appointed from permanent delegations. All the States members of the Commission together with the other co-sponsors of General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) would be invited to appoint representatives to this Committee which would meet prior to the 1965 session of the Commission 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. As part of its terms of reference, the Committee was asked to give special thought to the possibility of holding an international conference in 1968 to (i) review the progress 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 in 1968. The Commission also requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly, for consideration at its nineteenth session, a draft resolution listing goals to be achieved by the United Nations not later than the end of 1968. By resolution 1015 E (XXXVII), the Council forwarded the Commission's draft resolution to the General Assembly.

412. At its twenty-first session, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (E/CN.4/886) containing a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights.

413. The Commission considered this item of its agenda at its 844th to 846th and 848th meetings, held on 9, 12 and 13 April 1965.

414. The representative of Jamaica, who was Chairman of the Committee, stated in his introductory remarks on the report that it was the outcome of a long series of discussions and exchanges of views which had taken place over a period of nearly ten months, during which the Committee had held four series of meetings. He said that with a view to making the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year as representative as possible, the Committee had provided an opportunity to Member States, States members of specialized agencies, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status to express their views. He pointed out that written observations had been received from twenty-seven States, five specialized agencies and nineteen non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

415. It was stated that some of the Committee's recommendations concerned undertakings on which action was required before 1968, and that those recommendations would become meaningless unless they were considered by the Commission at its current session. It was with this consideration in mind that the representatives of Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Philippines proposed two draft resolutions (E/CN.4/L.769), one of which was a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. These draft resolutions read:

Draft resolution I

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,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the report of the Commission on Human Rights on International Year for Human Rights,

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

The General Assembly,

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

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,

Convinced further that the proposed international review of progress in the field of human rights can advantageously be carried out by means of an international conference,

Noting the interim programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, recommended by the Commission on Human Rights, and which is set out in the interim programme annexed to the present resolution,

Noting further that the Commission on Human Rights is continuing the preparation of a programme of observances, measures and activities to be undertaken in 1968,

1. Calls upon Member States, States members of the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies, and the national and international organizations concerned, to devote the year 1968 to intensified efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights, including an international review of achievements in this field;

2. Approves the interim programme of measures and activities envisaged for the United Nations, annexed to this resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the arrangements for the measures to be undertaken by the United Nations set out in the annex;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution and the interim programme annexed to the resolution to Member States, States members of the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies and the interested international organizations;

4. Commends to these States, agencies and organizations the programme of measures and activities set out in that annex and invites their co-operation and participation in this programme with a view to making the celebrations successful and meaningful;

5. Decides that an international conference on human rights should be convened during 1968 in order:

(i) to review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

(ii) to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, and

of having the General Assembly constitute the committee were that the committee would then really be a co-ordinating committee and its membership would be widely representative of the membership of the United Nations. In such a case, it would not be necessary for the Commission to set up a working party as suggested in draft resolution II.

446. Many members of the Commission, however, favoured the establishment of a working party by the Commission because they feared that political questions would be introduced if the preparatory work for the conference was done by a Committee set up by the General Assembly. Besides, they thought that the agenda of the Assembly was already overloaded, and hence it might not be able to give the matter the consideration that it needed. It was also observed that since the matter concerned human rights, it was for the Commission to deal with it in a preparatory way. The Secretary-General was considered to be the appropriate official to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations and those of the specialized agencies for the International Year for Human Rights.

447. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that his amendments (see para. 418 above) were prompted by the fact that the General Assembly would expect the Commission to submit proposals dealing with the substance of the arrangements to be made for the International Year for Human Rights. In his view, the terms of the draft resolution before the Commission seemed to be procedural, rather than substantive, in character.

448. It was pointed out by the representative of Chile that a number of regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of American States, the Arab League and the Organization for African Unity were already making a valuable contribution, in their respective regions, to the promotion of human rights. He felt that they should be associated with the activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights both at the preparatory stage as well as in connexion with the activities to be undertaken. It was said that when dealing with matters as important as the International Year for Human Rights, which would have far-reaching results, suitable tasks should be entrusted to bodies which played an important part in the protection of human rights. The Charter specifically mentioned regional agencies, and it was appropriate that draft resolution I should do so as well. These were said to be, the considerations on the basis of which the representative of Chile had proposed his amendments to draft resolution I (see paragraph 419 above).

449. Many representatives felt that there was a need for greater emphasis to be placed on educational measures to be undertaken as part of the activities of the International Year for Human Rights (E/CN.4/886, para. 130). It was pointed out that educational measures could play a very important part in changing human attitudes and in uprooting prejudices, the elimination of which was an important aspect of the activities of the International Year for Human Rights.

450. It was observed that operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II was not specific enough. Doubts were expressed as to whether it empowered the proposed working party to deal with items which were listed in the annex to draft resolution I or as to what duties it was expected to perform in connexion with the international conference. On behalf of the co-sponsors it was said that it would be the duty of the working party to examine the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights which

could not be dealt with by the Commission at the current session, and to submit a report on them for the Commission's consideration at its twenty-second session. The working party would be free to propose other measures concerning the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, apart from those contained in the report of the Committee, for the Commission's consideration. In connexion with the conference, the function of the working party, it was said, would be to make recommendations on the terms of reference, and structure of and the nature of participation in the conference, on its agenda, duration and venue, and on the preparation of the necessary studies and documentation and to prepare estimates of the costs.

451. A number of representatives thought that the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, appearing in the Report of the Committee, did not include specific recommendations on matters concerning the status of women. It was hoped that the proposed working party would solicit the views of the Commission on the status of women in the course of its deliberations on the further observances of measures and activities to be undertaken and on matters relating to the international conference on human rights.

452. The representative of the Commission on the Status of Women said that that Commission was keenly interested in the preparation of, and activities connected with, the International Year for Human Rights. As the work of the Commission on the Status of Women dealt with an important area of human rights, it was of the utmost importance to make it possible for her Commission to participate in the preparations for the International Year. This could be done by inviting a representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to attend the meetings of any committee or working party which might be established in this respect. As it was recommended that commemorative ceremonies be organized on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during the International Year, special attention could be drawn to the desirability of organizing such ceremonies on the day when women were first granted suffrage in the respective countries.

453. In order to make full use of the impact of the International Year for Human Rights on matters concerning the status of women and with a view to setting up a goal for intensification of national efforts on those questions, the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women felt that it would be desirable to devote a part of the year - possibly a week - to matters concerning the status of women. She thought that the setting up of a target date for the ratification of, or accession to, United Nations conventions relating to the status of women would help in drawing the attention of Governments to the urgency of making efforts on the national level in matters concerning the status of women.

Adoption of the resolutions

454. At its 848th meeting, the Commission voted on the two draft resolutions submitted by Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Philippines (see para. 415 above), as revised by the co-sponsors and on amendments thereto. At the request of the USSR, a separate vote was taken on each of the paragraphs of the draft resolutions and amendments thereto.

Voting on draft resolution I

455. The first three paragraphs of the preamble of the draft resolution for the Commission were each adopted unanimously. The operative paragraph of the draft resolution recommending to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution, including the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council, was also adopted unanimously.

456. A Ukrainian SSR amendment (see para. 417 (a) above), accepted by the co-sponsors of the draft resolution as the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution for the Council, was adopted unanimously.

Adoption of the draft resolution to be recommended by the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly

457. The paragraph of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council recommending a draft resolution to the General Assembly beginning with the word "Recommends" was adopted unanimously.

458. The voting on the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution for the General Assembly was as follows:

(a) The first preambular paragraph beginning with the word "Recalling" was adopted unanimously.

(b) A Ukrainian SSR amendment (see para. 417 (b) above), accepted by the co-sponsors, to insert a new preambular paragraph after the first preambular paragraph, was adopted unanimously.

(c) The second preambular paragraph (new third preambular paragraph) beginning with the word "Reaffirming" was adopted unanimously.

(d) A USSR amendment (see para. 418 (a) above), accepted by the co-sponsors, to add a new preambular paragraph, was adopted by 20 votes to none, with one abstention.

(e) The next two preambular paragraphs, beginning with the word "Convinced" and the words "Convinced further" were each adopted unanimously.

(f) The next preambular paragraph, beginning with the words "Noting the interim program" was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

(g) The last paragraph of the preamble, beginning with the words "Noting further" was adopted by 20 votes to none, with one abstention.

459. The voting on the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution for the General Assembly was as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 1, including the Chilean amendment (see para. 419 above) accepted by the co-sponsors of draft resolution I, was adopted by 20 votes to none, with one abstention.

(b) A Ukrainian SSR amendment (see para. 417 (c) above), beginning with the words "Confirms the necessity to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 1015 E (XXXVII)", was adopted by 11 votes to one, with 9 abstentions, as new operative paragraph 2.

(c) Operative paragraph 2 (new paragraph 3) beginning with the word "Approves" was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

(d) Proposals for two additional operative paragraphs (new paragraphs 4 and 5) submitted by Chile, Denmark and Ecuador (see para. 420 above) were each adopted by 18 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

(e) A proposal by Iraq (see para. 422 above) for an additional operative paragraph (new paragraph 6) was adopted unanimously.

(f) Operative paragraph 3 (new paragraph 7) beginning with the word "Requests" and including the Chilean amendment (see para. 419 above) accepted by the co-sponsors of draft resolution I, was adopted by 19 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

(g) Operative paragraph 4 (new paragraph 8) beginning with the word "Commends" and including the Chilean amendment (see para. 419 above) accepted by the co-sponsors, was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

(h) A Ukrainian SSR amendment (see para. 417 (d) above), proposing the insertion of a new operative paragraph between paragraphs 4 and 5 (new paragraphs 8 and 9), was rejected by 12 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions.

(i) Operative paragraph 5 (i) (new paragraph 9 (i)), beginning with the word "Decides", was adopted unanimously. A USSR amendment (see para. 418 (b) above) proposing the insertion of a new sub-paragraph after sub-paragraph (i) in operative paragraph 5 was adopted by 14 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions. Thereupon, the representative of the United Kingdom withdrew his amendment (see para. 421 above) to operative paragraph 5 (iii). Operative paragraph 5 (ii) (new paragraph 5 (iii)) and operative paragraph 5 (iii) (new paragraph 5 (iv)) were each adopted unanimously. Operative paragraph 5 (new paragraph 9), as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

(j) Operative paragraph 6 (new paragraph 10) was adopted by 19 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

460. The voting on the annex to draft resolution I and the amendments thereto was as follows:

(a) The proposal of the Netherlands (see para. 423 above) to delete the inclusion of recommendation IV of the Committee in section A.1 of the annex was adopted by 11 votes to 4, with 6 abstentions.

(b) The inclusion of recommendation V of the Committee, as revised (see paras. 424 and 425 above) in section A.2 of the annex, was approved by 12 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

(c) The proposal of the USSR (see para. 426 above) to delete the inclusion of the recommendation on the "History of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", in section A.3 of the annex, was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

(d) The French amendment, accepted by the co-sponsors (see para. 427 above), to include recommendation IV of the Committee in section A of the annex, was adopted by 20 votes to none, with one abstention.

(e) The inclusion of recommendation XI of the Committee, as revised (see para. 428 above) in section B.4 (new section B.3) of the annex, was adopted by 19 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

(f) The inclusion of recommendation XII of the Committee, as revised (see para. 428 above) in section B.5 (new section B.4) of the annex, was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

(g) The inclusion of recommendation XIII of the Committee, in section B.6 (new section B.5) of the annex was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

(h) The proposal of Jamaica (see para. 431 above) to include recommendations I and II of the Committee in the annex was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

Adoption of draft resolution I as a whole

461. Draft resolution I proposed by Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Philippines, as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously. (For the text of the resolution as adopted see para. 465 below, resolution 5 A (XXI)).

Voting on draft resolution II

462. The first preambular paragraph of draft resolution II submitted by the representatives of Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Philippines (see para. 415 above) was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. The second preambular paragraph was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

463. Operative paragraph 1, as revised by the co-sponsors (see para. 433 above), was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 3 abstentions; and operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

464. Draft resolution II proposed by Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Philippines, as a whole, as revised, was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution as adopted, see para. 465 below, resolution 5 B (XXI)).

465. The text of the two resolutions as adopted at the 848th meeting, on 13 April 1965, 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,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (E/CN.4/886),

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

For the text of the draft resolution, see Chapter XII, draft resolution IV/

P15/

The Commission on Human Rights,

Having given preliminary consideration to the Report of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (E/CN.4/886), and

Having submitted an interim programme with measures and activities for the consideration of the General Assembly,

1. Decides to appoint a working party to meet at Headquarters consisting of all States represented on the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the further observances, measures and activities which the Commission should recommend to the General Assembly to be undertaken by the United Nations in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including the proposed international conference on Human Rights;

2. Requests the working party, in preparing its report, to take into account the recommendations in the Report of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (E/CN.4/886) as well as the discussions on the subject of the International Year at the twenty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/SR.844-846 and 848);

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the working party with adequate secretarial and other assistance for the discharge of its task; and

4. Decides to consider the report of the working party at its twenty-second session.

5/ See the statement of financial implications, annex II.