

# ARTICLE 55

## Table of Contents

|   | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Text of Article 55  |                   |
| Introductory Note . . . . .   | 1 - 2             |
| I. Economic and Social Fields . . . . .   | 3 - 64            |
| A. General Survey . . . . .   | 3 - 55            |
| 1. Decisions with regard to standards of living . . . . .                               | 5 - 7             |
| 2. Decisions with regard to full employment and economic stability . . . . .            | 8 - 9             |
| 3. Decisions with regard to economic development . . . . .                              | 10 - 21           |
| a. Technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries . . . . . | 12 - 13           |
| b. Financing of economic development of under-developed countries . . . . .             | 14 - 16           |
| c. Other aspects of economic development . . . . .                                      | 17 - 20           |
| d. Regional economic development . . . . .  | 21                |
| 4. Decisions with regard to natural resources . . . . .                                 | 22 - 26           |
| 5. Decisions with regard to the world supply of food . . . . .                          | 27 - 28           |
| 6. Decisions with regard to international trade and finance . . . . .                   | 29 - 33           |
| 7. Decisions with regard to fiscal matters . . . . .                                    | 34                |
| 8. Decisions with regard to transport and communication . . . . .                       | 35 - 36           |
| 9. Decisions with regard to statistics . . . . .  | 37                |
| 10. Decisions with regard to social policy and development in general . . . . .         | 38 - 40           |
| 11. Decisions with regard to technical assistance in the social field . . . . .         | 41                |
| 12. Decisions with regard to population matters . . . . .                               | 42 - 43           |
| 13. Decisions with regard to migration . . . . .  | 44                |
| 14. Decisions with regard to social welfare . . . . .                                   | 45 - 50           |
| a. Social welfare administration and training of social welfare personnel . . . . .     | 45                |
| b. Community organization and development . . . . .                                     | 46 - 47           |
| c. Housing and town and country planning . . . . .                                      | 48                |
| d. United Nations Children's Fund . . . . .   | 49                |
| e. Family, youth and child welfare . . . . .  | 50                |
| ** f. Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped                                      |                   |
| ** g. Prevention of crime and treatment of offenders                                    |                   |
| ** h. Traffic in persons, traffic in obscene publications and prostitution              |                   |
| ** i. Declaration of death of missing persons   |                   |
| 15. Decisions with regard to narcotics . . . . .  | 51 - 52           |
| 16. Decisions with regard to cartography . . . . .                                      | 53                |
| 17. Decisions with regard to post-war and other economic and social problems . . . . .  | 54 - 55           |

**Table of Contents  
(continued)**

|   | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| B. Analytical Summary of Practice . . . . .   | 56 - 64           |
| The scope of activity of the United Nations in the economic and social fields . . . . .   | 56 - 57           |
| 1. Standards of living . . . . .  | 58                |
| ** 2. Full employment   |                   |
| ** 3. Economic stability  |                   |
| 4. Economic development . . . . .   | 59                |
| a. General economic development . . . . .   | 59                |
| ** b. Financing of economic development   |                   |
| c. Technical assistance for economic development . . . . .  | 59                |
| 5. Energy and natural resources . . . . .   | 60                |
| 6. World supply of food . . . . .   | 60                |
| 7. International trade and finance . . . . .  | 60                |
| a. International trade . . . . .  | 60                |
| ** b. International financial transactions  |                   |
| ** c. International commodity problems  |                   |
| 8. Fiscal matters (public finance) . . . . .  | 60                |
| 9. Transport and communications . . . . .   | 60                |
| 10. Statistics . . . . .  | 60                |
| 11. Social development . . . . .  | 61 - 62           |
| a. Consideration of the question of social development in general . . . . .   | 61                |
| ** b. Relationship between social development and economic development  |                   |
| c. Social development of under-developed areas . . . . .  | 62                |
| ** 12. Social problems of particular groups   |                   |
| 13. Population . . . . .  | 63                |
| ** 14. Migration and related problems   |                   |
| ** 15. Social welfare   |                   |
| 16. Narcotics . . . . .   | 64                |
| ** 17. Special economic and social questions  |                   |
| ** a. Post-war questions  |                   |
| ** b. Other emergency questions   |                   |
| ** c. Economic and social development of special areas  |                   |
| ** d. Other special questions   |                   |
| II. Human Rights . . . . .  | 65 - 94           |
| A. General Survey . . . . .   | 66 - 82           |
| 1. Decisions mainly of a preparatory, procedural or co-ordinating nature . . . . .  | 66 - 68           |
| ** 2. Creation of new specialized agencies  |                   |
| 3. Recommendations and other decisions designed generally to influence States, organized or unorganized groups, or world opinion at large . . . . . | 69                |
| 4. Conventions and other international instruments . . . . .  | 70 - 72           |
| 5. International conferences . . . . .  | 73 - 74           |
| 6. Services relating to human rights . . . . .  | 75                |
| 7. Decisions dealing individually with allegations regarding violations of human rights in specific States or territories                           | 76 - 79           |
| 8. Miscellaneous actions . . . . .  | 80 - 82           |

**Table of Contents  
(continued)**

|   | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| B. Analytical Summary of Practice . . . . .   | 83 - 94           |
| ** 1. The question of the meaning of the phrase "respect for and observance of"   |                   |
| 2. The question of the meaning of the term "human rights and fundamental freedoms" . . . . .  | 83 - 92           |
| ** a. General remarks   |                   |
| b. Rights and freedoms proclaimed as human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights . . . . .   | 83 - 90           |
| ** i. General provisions  |                   |
| ii. Civil and political rights . . . . .  | 83 - 88           |
| (a) Rights relating to the freedom and integrity of the person . . . . .  | 83                |
| ** (b) Rights relating to recognition before the law and the protection of the law  |                   |
| ** (c) Rights relating to remedies in connexion with violation of rights and to civil procedure   |                   |
| ** (d) Rights relating to criminal offences   |                   |
| ** (e) Rights relating to privacy and to honour and reputation  |                   |
| ** (f) Freedom of movement and residence  |                   |
| ** (g) Right of asylum and related rights   |                   |
| (h) The right to a nationality . . . . .  | 84                |
| (i) Rights relating to marriage and the family . . . . .  | 85 - 87           |
| ** (j) The right to own property  |                   |
| ** (k) Freedom of thought, conscience and religion  |                   |
| (l) Freedom of opinion and expression . . . . .   | 88                |
| ** (m) Freedom of peaceful assembly and association   |                   |
| ** (n) The right to take part in the government, the right to access to public service, and rights relating to the will of the people   |                   |
| iii. Economic, social and cultural rights . . . . .   | 89 - 90           |
| ** (a) Economic, social and cultural rights in general  |                   |
| (b) Rights relating to work . . . . .   | 89 - 90           |
| ** (c) Rights relating to the standard of living and social security  |                   |
| ** (d) Rights relating to motherhood and childhood  |                   |
| ** (e) The right to education   |                   |
| ** (f) Rights relating to cultural life, the arts and scientific advancement  |                   |
| ** (g) Rights to protection of scientific, literary or artistic production  |                   |
| c. The question of the relation of rights and freedoms, other than those proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to the concept of "human rights and fundamental freedoms" . . . . . | 91 - 92           |
| ** i. The right of petition   |                   |
| ii. The right of peoples and nations to self-determination . . . . .  | 91 - 92           |
| ** iii. Rights of minorities  |                   |
| ** iv. Other rights   |                   |

Table of Contents  
(continued)

Paragraphs

- 3. The question of the meaning of the expression "for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion . . . 93 - 94
- \*\* 4. The question of the meaning of the term "universal"; the territorial scope of the provisions relating to human rights

TEXT OF ARTICLE 55

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, the United Nations shall promote:

- a. higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- c. universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The presentation and organization of the material in this section follows that established in the Repertory. The material is again divided into two main parts, dealing respectively with economic and social matters and with human rights. The brief account of the activities of the United Nations in the fields of economic and social activity and of human rights contained in the General Survey below should provide a broad view of the actions taken in carrying out the basic function of the United Nations in these fields set forth in the Article in the words "shall promote". The studies in this Supplement on those Articles which set forth the specific functions and powers of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council give an account of ways and means used by the United Nations for the achievement of its Purposes in the above-mentioned fields. 1/
2. As in the case of the Repertory the question of the scope given to the objectives of the United Nations in the fields of economic and social activity and of human rights set forth in paragraphs a, b and c of Article 55, in the Preamble of the Charter, and in certain other Articles, 2/ is dealt with in this Supplement under one Article only, namely, in this study on Article 55.

---

1/ In this connexion see in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, a table reproduced in para. 3 which lists the Articles in which these specific functions and powers are to be found.

2/ See in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, para. 4.

## I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

### A. General Survey

3. This survey gives a brief account of the promotion by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the economic and social objectives mentioned in Article 55 during the period covered by this Supplement. It concerns itself mainly with the major decisions taken by these organs pertaining to international action in the economic and social fields. It does not describe how those decisions were implemented nor the manner in which the Secretary-General has assisted the various organs of the United Nations in the performance of their functions. Nor does this Survey deal with action on organizational problems and with the co-ordinating activities of the United Nations with respect to the specialized agencies.

4. Only in a few instances have the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council referred to, or closely followed the wording of Article 55 in their decisions 3/ or discussions 4/. The great majority of the decisions concerning major problems in the economic and social fields contained no reference to Article 55 or to any other Article.

#### *1. Decisions with regard to standards of living*

5. The promotion of higher standards of living continued to be a major concern of the United Nations during the period under review; and many of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Council were taken with this purpose as one of the main objectives. Among such decisions can be mentioned those concerning economic opportunities for women 5/, measures designed to promote international flow of private capital for the economic development of under-developed countries 6/ and the question of new sources of energy. 7/

6. The Council considered at its twentieth session the question of the international definition and measurement of standards and levels of living. It requested 8/ the Secretary-General (1) to undertake various specified activities relating to family living studies and surveys, to measurement of under-employment and irregular employment, and to the achievement of the maximum participation of interested specialized agencies in the work on levels of living, (2) to present a progress report at future sessions of the Social Commission, the Statistical Commission and the Council and, (3) to utilize the various studies and reports of the United Nations, including the reports on the world social situation in disseminating information on levels of living. At the same session the Council authorized 9/ the Secretary-General to convene, in joint sponsorship with the ILO and in co-operation with the other specialized agencies concerned, a working group of experts to study technical problems involved in a co-ordinated policy regarding family levels of living, particularly in the application of broad programmes of social security, social assistance and related social services for family and child welfare.

3/ For example, E S C resolution 585 H, I (XX) and G A resolution 933 (X).

4/ For example, G A (IX), 2nd Com., 295th mtg., para. 36; 296th mtg., para. 10; 335th mtg., para. 45.

5/ E S C resolution 625 B (XXII).

6/ G A resolution 824 (IX).

7/ E S C resolution 598 (XXI).

8/ E S C resolution 585 B (XX).

9/ E S C resolution 585 F (XX). See also E S C resolution 627 (XXII).

7. The Council, at its twenty-second session, in considering the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of concerted activities in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, recommended 10/ that he prepare, as soon as possible, a preliminary study designed to assist in determining the feasibility and practical value of analysing the methods used and the nature of the problems encountered by countries in attempts to integrate social and economic action to raise the level of living of their people.

### *2. Decisions with regard to full employment and economic stability*

8. The Economic and Social Council continued its annual consideration of the world economic situation. In accordance with the decision taken at its eighteenth session, 11/ the consideration of this subject in 1955 and since has been introduced by the Secretary-General with the participation of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions. As the outcome of its considerations of the world economic situation the Council took several decisions relating primarily to foreign trade 12/ and to the economic development of under-developed countries, in connexion with which it dealt with questions of trade and production policies of developed countries, of expansion of foreign markets by under-developed countries and of resources and requirement surveys. 13/

9. As in the past, various global and regional reports dealing with various aspects of the economic situation were issued by the Secretary-General. At its twenty-second session the Council affirmed 14/ the desirability of focusing attention in future World Economic Surveys upon long-term problems of general interest and importance, such as the review of economic growth during the past ten years contained in the World Economic Survey, 1955. 15/ The Council also decided that the Secretary-General should indicate to it in advance at the spring session any aspects of the world economic situation which had been selected for particular attention in the World Economic Survey.

### *3. Decisions with regard to economic development*

10. Economic development in general and, more specifically, economic development of under-developed countries, continued to be one of the major problems with which the United Nations has been concerned in the economic and social fields. Both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council considered some aspects of this problem at each of their sessions during the period covered by this Supplement. The Council continued the practice recommended by the General Assembly of including in its annual report to the latter a special chapter on the measures taken to promote economic development. The Council also instructed its Commission on International Commodity Trade to take into account the importance of the economic development of under-developed countries. 16/

11. Technical assistance to under-developed countries, the financing of economic development in those countries and such problems as industrialization, productivity and community development as well as the need for integrating economic and social

10/ E S C resolution 627 (XXII).

11/ E S C resolution 557 B (XVIII).

12/ For example, E S C resolution 579 (XX).

13/ E S C resolution 614 (XXII).

14/ E S C resolution 614 D (XXII).

15/ United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.C.1.

16/ E S C resolution 620 (XXII).

development in the under-developed countries continued to be stressed in the decisions of the United Nations organs.

a. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

12. Since the establishment of technical assistance as an activity of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have periodically considered and taken action with respect to the policies and procedures under which the various technical assistance programmes operate. For example, the General Assembly, at its ninth session, approved the system of allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, recommended by the Council. This system stipulated that country programmes "shall be drawn up at the country level by the requesting Governments," thus reaffirming the principle that United Nations technical assistance should be drawn up by Governments at the country level in accordance with their needs and in relation to their economic development plans. 17/

13. The General Assembly and the Council have again specified various fields in which technical assistance was available for purposes of economic development. 18/ Availability of technical assistance in other areas such as that of narcotics control has also been emphasized. 19/ A new programme of advisory services in the field of human rights 20/ was set up during the period covered by this Supplement.

b. FINANCING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

14. The question of financing economic development continued to be one of the major problems of under-developed countries with which the General Assembly and the Council have been concerned. Some of the problems of financing of economic development already considered in the past received new attention from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. For example, recommendations were made again to Governments on appropriate measures to be taken by the capital-importing and the capital-exporting countries conducive to increase of the flow of private capital to under-developed countries; 21/ and further studies of the taxation by capital-exporting and capital-importing countries on the income from foreign investments were requested of the Secretary-General with a view to accelerating the rate of economic development of under-developed countries. 22/

15. With respect to the question of creating new sources of international financing with a view to accelerating economic development, the General Assembly at its ninth session requested 23/ the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to prepare draft statutes for an international finance corporation 24/ and to take steps designed to expedite its establishment; at the tenth session, the General Assembly expressed to the Bank appreciation of the work done by it in this direction, including

17/ E S C resolution 542 B, II (XVIII) and G A resolution 831 (IX).

18/ See for example, E S C resolution 599 (XXI).

19/ See para. 52 below and E S C resolution 626 D and E (XXII).

20/ See para. 10 of the study on Article 66 (2) in this Supplement, and G A resolution 926 (X). This programme was a result of the consolidation of activities relating to various aspects of human rights which had been established earlier.

21/ G A resolution 824 (IX).

22/ G A resolution 825 (IX).

23/ G A resolution 823 (IX).

24/ See in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, para. 30.

the achievement of agreement by a large number of the members of the Bank to join in the establishment of the International Finance Corporation. 25/ The Corporation was established in 1956 and in the summer of that year the Council noted with satisfaction that it had begun operations. 26/

16. Both the General Assembly and the Council continued to give their attention to the question of the establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED). 27/ Several of their decisions contained arrangements for further studies and for the examination of this question by Member Governments, by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, by a special inter-governmental committee established by the General Assembly and by Mr. Raymond Scheyven. 28/ At the twenty-second session of the Council frequent reference was made in the debate on financing of economic development 29/ to what was considered to be the most alarming long-term trend of the world economic situation, namely the increasing gap between the standards of living of the under-developed countries and of the industrialized countries. The Council gave particular attention to the role of the proposed Fund, the nature of contributions and the question when it should be established, and expressed the hope that the General Assembly would consider "what further steps may help to promote the early establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development". 30/

#### C. OTHER ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

17. The need of promoting integrated economic and social development in under-developed countries was emphasized again by the Economic and Social Council when, at its nineteenth session, it made further arrangements for studies relating to the question of accelerating industrialization and of raising productivity. 31/

18. At the twenty-first session the Council received several reports and proposals for a programme of work prepared by the Secretary-General at its request. The Council made further arrangements for reports and activities in the field of industrialization of under-developed countries stressing in this respect the needs of the Middle East and Africa. It requested the Secretary-General to submit his views on the question of machinery necessary in the field of industrialization of under-developed countries. It also proposed that an item "Industrialization of under-developed countries" be placed on the agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly. 32/ The Council requested the Secretary-General to present to it information on the possibility ofconcerting international action in connexion with problems of urbanization at its twenty-second session, which should complement the programme of industrialization. 33/

19. Further recommendations to Member States concerning land reform were made by the General Assembly. 34/ It also endorsed the recommendation of the Council on the formation and development of co-operatives and the recommendation that the Bank give sympathetic consideration to loan requests from under-developed countries, designed to achieve certain specified land reforms.

25/ G A resolution 922 (X).

26/ E S C resolution 619 B (XXII).

27/ See in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, para. 30.

28/ See G A resolution 822 (IX) and 923 (X) and E S C resolution 583 A (XX).

29/ E S C (XXII), 947th-951st mtgs.; E/AC.6/SR.214 and 215.

30/ E S C resolution 619 (XXII).

31/ E S C resolution 560 (XIX).

32/ E S C resolution 597 A (XXI); see also E S C resolution 618 (XXII), para. 5.

33/ E S C resolution 618 (XXII).

34/ G A resolution 826 (IX).

20. The decisions relating to such matters as natural resources and international trade which have frequently been considered in the context of the economic development of under-developed countries are described elsewhere in this study under those headings.

#### d. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

21. When considering the question of the expansion of world trade, the Economic and Social Council has expressed confidence in "the valuable services of the United Nations regional economic commissions in connexion with trade co-operation". 35/

#### *4. Decisions with regard to natural resources*

22. The question of the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes arose during the period covered by this Supplement in both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. When the General Assembly at its ninth session considered the question of international co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy, it recognized the importance and the urgency of such co-operation "to assist in lifting the burdens of hunger, poverty and disease", and decided inter alia to convene an international technical conference of Governments. 36/ At the tenth session the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the proceedings of that conference, and recommended holding a second conference in two to three years' time "for the exchange of technical information regarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy" and made certain arrangements to that effect. 37/ It also considered and took action concerning an International Atomic Energy Agency. The Economic and Social Council in its spring session of 1956 recognizing that actual and potential developments in the field of atomic energy might have profound implications in the economic sphere, particularly affecting the economic development of less developed countries, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on possible applications of atomic energy, especially in the fields of power, industry and agriculture. The Council also asked for a report on the possibility of devoting the second international conference as much as possible "to the practical application of nuclear energy in the interest of promoting the economic development of under-developed countries and the desirability of convening a separate conference on this subject." 38/ It decided to place the subject of atomic energy as a means of economic development on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Council.

23. Recognizing that the resources of energy must be constantly increased especially in the under-developed countries the Council also considered the question of such new sources of energy, other than the atom, as solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy, geothermic energy and the thermal energy of the seas. It asked the Secretary-General to prepared a report on the prospects of the practical utilization of such sources of energy and decided to consider this question again at the twenty-fourth session with a view to examining the conditions for convening an international conference. 39/

24. In connexion with the development of pulp and paper resources and international co-operation with respect to water resources, the Council arranged for further studies and made recommendations to Governments and to specialized agencies on measures designed to promote development in these fields. 40/ It stressed inter alia the

35/ E S C resolution 614 A (XXII); see also E S C resolution 579 A (XX).

36/ G A resolution 810 (IX).

37/ G A resolution 912 (X).

38/ E S C resolution 597 B (XXI).

39/ E S C resolution 598 (XXI).

40/ E S C resolutions 569 (XIX) and 599 (XXI).

importance of demineralization of saline water and utilization of subsoil water and arranged for an examination of the question of integrated river-basin development including the question of the convening of an international conference on that subject.

25. The General Assembly at its ninth session requested 41/ the Commission on Human Rights to complete its recommendations to the General Assembly concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination, "including recommendations concerning their permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources", having due regard 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. 42/

26. Finally, the Economic and Social Council made recommendations and arrangements including some for further action by the Council at a later date, designed to advance resources and requirement surveys as a means of promoting the economic development of under-developed countries. 43/

#### *5. Decisions with regard to the world supply of food*

27. The question of establishing a world food reserve within the framework of the United Nations was acted upon both by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council. 44/ The General Assembly in view of the need for continued national action and international co-operation in this field, called for a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to the Council, and for a report by the latter to itself with conclusions. 45/

28. In response to the decision of the General Assembly 46/ an international technical conference on the conservation of the living resources of the sea was convened by the Secretary-General during the period covered by this Supplement.

#### *6. Decisions with regard to international trade and finance*

29. Considerable attention was given by the Economic and Social Council to the question of international trade. Recommendations were made to Governments on the expansion of world trade; 47/ the decision was taken to enable regional economic commissions to hold inter-regional trade conferences. 48/ The report which the Secretary-General was requested to prepare for Member States on the question of international machinery for trade expansion 49/ was commended by the Council to Governments; 50/ they were invited to make comments concerning international machinery

---

41/ G A resolution 837 (IX).

42/ The recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights were transmitted to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 586 D (XX); see para. 91 below and also in this Supplement under Article 60.

43/ E S C resolution 614 C (XXII).

44/ G A resolution 827 (IX) and E S C resolution 621 (XXII).

45/ The General Assembly placed an item entitled "Establishment of a world food reserve: report of the Economic and Social Council" on the agenda of its eleventh session.

46/ G A resolution 900 (IX).

47/ E S C resolution 579 A (XX).

48/ E S C resolution 579 B (XX).

49/ E S C resolution 592 (XX).

50/ E S C resolution 614 A (XXII).

for trade co-operation. Arrangements were also made by the Council for further reports and for further consideration by it of this subject.

30. In its recommendations to Governments on trade and production policies 51/ the Council included a recommendation to the more developed countries on the importance of their policies for the economic development of under-developed countries which are heavily dependent on trade in primary products and on stable prices.

31. The General Assembly made several recommendations concerning the international flow of private capital for the economic development of under-developed countries 52/ and requested the Secretary-General to report regularly on the various aspects of this subject.

32. Other discussions on the question of international commodity trade were mainly of an organizational character. The Council concerned itself with the status and functions of the Commission on International Trade and of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements; the latter was requested 53/ inter alia to discharge for the time being the functions given to it under an earlier Council resolution. 54/ Except in the resolution on world pulp and paper resources 55/ the Council did not in its decisions single out any other commodity.

33. The Council also returned to the subject of restrictive business practices. Several reports on this problem were prepared on the Council's initiative. The Council reaffirmed 56/ "its continuing concern" with the existence in international trade of restrictive business practices harmful in their effect to the world economy and to social progress, made additional recommendations to Governments and requested the Secretary-General to undertake further work in this field and to suggest further consideration of the matter at a future session of the Council.

#### *7. Decisions with regard to fiscal matters*

34. The United Nations continued its work in the field of technical assistance in fiscal matters and in advising Governments on improving their tax and budget systems. Country studies concerning the taxation in capital-exporting and capital-importing countries of foreign private investments were continued by the Secretary-General in accordance with the request of the General Assembly 57/ which arranged for them with a view to accelerating the rate of economic development of under-developed countries. The several completed country studies and a memorandum on this subject received by the Council from the Secretary-General were transmitted by the former to the General Assembly. 58/

---

51/ E S C resolution 614 B (XXII).

52/ G A resolution 824 (IX).

53/ E S C resolution 620 (XXII).

54/ E S C resolution 557 F (XVIII).

55/ E S C resolution 569 (XIX).

56/ E S C resolution 568 (XIX).

57/ G A resolution 825 (IX).

58/ E S C resolution 619 C (XXII); the General Assembly placed on the agenda of its eleventh session an item entitled "Economic development of under-developed countries ... (b) International tax problems: report of the Economic and Social Council".

*8. Decisions with regard to transport and communication*

35. Both substantive problems and problems of co-ordination were again dealt with in the field of transport and communications. Among the former were the development of international travel on which the Council made several recommendations to States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, 59/ a uniform system of road signs and signals, and transport of dangerous goods. 60/

36. The General Assembly at its tenth session called upon all States to take the necessary measures to avoid incidents involving attacks on civilian aircraft innocently deviating from fixed plans in the vicinity of, or across, international frontiers. 61/

*9. Decisions with regard to statistics*

37. The Economic and Social Council emphasized the increasing importance of assisting Member Governments in the development and improvement of their statistical data, the need for further development of advisory statistical services and the need and importance of adequate statistical data at the regional level. 62/ It recommended to the eleventh session of the General Assembly that adequate funds be made available to strengthen statistical assistance to Member Governments by the United Nations along the lines indicated by the Council.

*10. Decisions with regard to social policy and development in general*

38. At its twentieth session the Council examined 63/ in connexion with the agenda item on the "World social situation", the "International Survey of Programmes of Social Development", prepared at the Council's request by the Secretary-General in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned. The Council considered that the Survey had important practical value for governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with social problems and programmes of social development and urged that it be distributed widely. The Secretary-General was requested to place chief emphasis in the next Survey on changes occurring since the first Survey and to include material on (a) international measures taken to improve social conditions; and (b) further use of community development as a technique for improving the levels of living, particularly in under-developed areas.

39. The Secretary-General was also asked to give special attention in the second "Report on the World Social Situation" to the problems of peoples undergoing rapid transition especially through urbanization. 64/ The Council expressed confidence that Governments would further increase their efforts for the improvement of social and economic conditions, in their own countries and elsewhere, particularly in the under-developed countries, when additional resources were freed by agreement on internationally supervised disarmament. At the same time, the Council expressed the hope for early achievement of these objectives in the interest of rapid improvement of economic and social conditions everywhere. The Council reiterated its position that social development should accompany economic development and continued to stress the importance of the social development of under-developed countries. 65/

59/ E S C resolution 563 (XIX).

60/ E S C resolution 567 (XIX).

61/ G A resolution 927 (X).

62/ E S C resolution 622 A (XXII).

63/ E S C resolution 585 H (XX).

64/ This request was reaffirmed in E S C resolution 627 (XXII).

65/ E S C resolutions 585 G and H (XX).

40. At its twenty-second session the Council considered a progress report of the Secretary-General on the programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The need for intensified and concerted international efforts in strengthening social programmes in independent countries, Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, and the need for attention to the social aspects of economic development in the interest of integrated development were stressed by the Council.<sup>66/</sup> The Council also made arrangements with regard to various reports and studies in this field including a recommendation to the Secretary-General for a preliminary survey relating to the attempts of countries to integrate social and economic action for raising the level of living of their people.

### *11. Decisions with regard to technical assistance in the social field 67/*

41. The General Assembly, at its tenth session, reaffirmed <sup>68/</sup> its confidence in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance "as a means of furthering economic and social progress and achieving higher standards of living". Noting that the existing allocation of resources in the United Nations budget for advisory social welfare services did not, in many cases, permit the Secretary-General to meet the requests of Governments, the Council recommended <sup>69/</sup> to the General Assembly a significant increase in allocations for the programme in question.

### *12. Decisions with regard to population matters*

42. In the matter of population, arrangements were made by the United Nations that a part of the programme of studies be carried out by universities and other outside scientific institutions in co-operation with the Secretariat. In this connexion, the Council emphasized the need to maintain an adequate programme of studies on population trends and their relation to economic and social factors, especially in the development of the less developed countries.<sup>70/</sup>

43. Following upon the World Population Conference, <sup>71/</sup> the Council invited interested Governments, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and non-governmental organizations to examine the proceedings of the Conference and the work of the Secretariat in the field of population and to give due consideration to demographic factors in programmes of action in the economic and social fields; it also made suggestions on the manner in which this could be done.<sup>72/</sup> The Council also made recommendations to Member Governments with respect to population censuses. It recommended that they be taken during the 1956-65 period, preferably around 1960 and that such censuses take into account as far as possible the wishes expressed in international and regional census recommendations.<sup>73/</sup>

### *13. Decisions with regard to migration*

44. On the basis of a consultation by Governments <sup>74/</sup> and a decision of the Council that a conference of Governments be called to complete the drafting of and to sign the

<sup>66/</sup> E S C resolution 627 (XXII).

<sup>67/</sup> See also para. 52 below.

<sup>68/</sup> G A resolution 921 (X).

<sup>69/</sup> E S C resolution 585 G (XX).

<sup>70/</sup> E S C resolution 571 B (XIX).

<sup>71/</sup> See in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, para. 64.

<sup>72/</sup> E S C resolution 571 C (XIX).

<sup>73/</sup> E S C resolution 622 B (XXII).

<sup>74/</sup> See in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, para. 66.

Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance, 75/ the conference was held and the Convention was adopted and opened for signature on 20 June 1956. 76/

#### *14. Decisions with regard to social welfare*

##### a. SOCIAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATION AND TRAINING OF SOCIAL WELFARE PERSONNEL

45. There have been no new decisions concerning social welfare administration. As regards social welfare personnel, the Council has made further recommendations 77/ to Member States, relating particularly to social work education, in-service training, personnel requirements, training facilities and programmes.

##### b. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

46. The Council, at its twentieth session, recommended for the consideration of Member States and for implementation as far as practicable, certain principles of community development which had been tentatively outlined in a report of the Secretary-General, and invited Member States to furnish their observations on these principles. 78/ The Council also arranged for further studies and for various forms of assistance by the Secretary-General to Governments especially of the under-developed countries in the field of community development. The Technical Assistance Board was requested to give sympathetic consideration to projects of regional co-operation in this field.

47. The Council returned to the question of community development at its twenty-second session when it requested the Secretary-General to expand a special study previously requested of him by the Council, 79/ to include recommendations for concerted international action on a long-range basis for the promotion of community development. 80/

##### c. HOUSING AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

48. The Council, at its twentieth session, called on the Secretary-General to take various steps relating to the problem of financing housing and community improvement programmes, particularly for low-income families. 81/

##### d. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND 82/

49. The Assembly, at its ninth session, invited 83/ all States to continue their efforts to expand the resources of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

75/ E S C resolution 572 (XIX).

76/ E/CONF.21/7.

77/ E S C resolution 585 D (XX).

78/ E S C resolution 585 C (XX).

79/ E S C resolution 496 (XVI).

80/ E S C resolution 627 (XXII).

81/ E S C resolution 585 E (XX).

82/ Name adopted by the General Assembly at its eighth session (resolution 802 (VIII)), instead of the previous name "United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund".

83/ G A resolution 835 (IX).

## e. FAMILY, YOUTH AND CHILD WELFARE

50. The Assembly, at its ninth session, recommended that beginning with 1956 a Universal Children's Day be instituted by all countries, to be observed "as a day of world-wide fraternity and understanding between children and of activity devoted to the promotion of the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world, and to the strengthening and broadening of the efforts made by the United Nations in favour and on behalf of all the children of the world." 84/

## \*\*f. REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

## \*\* g. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

## \*\* h. TRAFFIC IN PERSONS, TRAFFIC IN OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS AND PROSTITUTION

## \*\* i. DECLARATION OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSONS

*15. Decisions with regard to narcotics*

51. In the field of narcotics the United Nations continued to be concerned with the improvement of measures of implementation of the existing agreements relating to the international control of narcotics and with such other aspects of the problems of narcotics as the problem of cannabis, synthetic drugs, drug addiction, and opium research. 85/ The efforts undertaken to this effect resulted in two courses of action: (a) recommendations to Governments; (b) initiation of special studies and inquiries. In order to develop further the research by the Secretariat, the General Assembly decided 86/ to establish a United Nations Narcotics Laboratory in Geneva. The Council also made further arrangements for the preparation of a new Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. 87/

52. At its twenty-second session the Council invited 88/ Governments to consider the possibility of utilizing the already existing technical assistance facilities, both under the regular programmes and under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in the field of narcotics control. Governments were invited to consider applying for advisory services of experts, fellowships and scholarships and for seminars. Non-governmental organizations were also invited by the Council to give assistance for narcotics control in their fields of interest. The Council then specifically recommended to Iran that it request technical assistance to help it to achieve the aims it had undertaken in banning the cultivation of the opium poppy. 89/

*16. Decisions with regard to cartography*

53. At its twenty-first session the Council commended 90/ the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East for the results achieved and requested the Secretary-General to take steps towards convening a second regional conference in Tokyo in 1958. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to

84/ G A resolution 836 (IX). See also para. 80 below.

85/ E S C resolutions 588 B, C, D and E (XX) and 626 C, D, F and H (XXII).

86/ G A resolution 834 (IX).

87/ E S C resolution 626 F (XXII).

88/ E S C resolution 626 D (XXII). See also in this Supplement under Article 66 (2).

89/ E S C resolution 626 E (XXII).

90/ E S C resolution 600 (XXI).

undertake certain work relating to the question of international uniformity in the writing of geographic names and to the question of the International Map of the World on the millionth scale.

### *17. Decisions with regard to post-war and other economic and social problems*

54. The General Assembly and the Council continued to give attention to the question of refugees generally, 91/ to the question of Palestine refugees, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 92/ to the activities of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, 93/ to the problem of financial and technical assistance to Libya. 94/

55. At its twenty-first session, the Council made several decisions concerning teaching of the purposes and principles, the structure and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in schools and other educational institutions of Member States. 95/ The Council invited Governments of Member States to encourage teaching of these subjects in their educational institutions. It requested the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO to continue their co-operation, and to continue their assistance to non-governmental organizations for teaching in this field. It also called upon the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to provide materials relating to the activities of their respective organizations suitable for utilization at various age levels.

## B. Analytical Summary of Practice

### The scope of activity of the United Nations in the economic and social fields

56. The purpose of this section is to supplement the description of the matters with which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have dealt in their decisions related to the promotion of the economic and social objectives stated in Article 55 and described in the Repertory, rather than to describe the scope of all such activities within the period covered by this Supplement. Therefore only the new fields of activities and the new subject matter in the fields already dealt with have been included in this section. It will be found from an examination of the text that the scope of the activities has not changed much from that of the preceding period; however, as the General Survey of this study indicates, many of the subjects first dealt with in the preceding period have been dealt with again, at times on more than one occasion.

57. No attempt has been made to describe in detail the substance of the decisions taken nor of the topics which were simply mentioned in the routine activities of the Council. 96/ The material is presented again, as far as possible, in tabular form with the subject arranged in homogeneous groups.

91/ See for example, E S C resolution 565 (XIX) and G A resolution 832 (IX).

92/ See for example, G A resolutions 818 (IX) and 916 (X).

93/ See for example E S C resolution 576 (XIX) and G A resolutions 828 (IX) and 920 (X).

94/ G A resolution 924 (X).

95/ E S C resolution 609 (XXI). The Council had before it the report on this subject by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO. Similar reports had been submitted to and considered by the seventh, eighth and eleventh sessions of the Council in accordance with the following resolutions: G A resolution 137 (II); E S C resolutions 170 (VII), 203 (VIII), 314 (XI).

96/ See in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, paras. 83-86 which describe more fully the framework within which the corresponding section in that study had been presented and which is adhered to in this Supplement.

### *1. Standards of living*

58. As in the past, the importance of the raising of standards of living has been repeatedly stressed in the decisions of the United Nations organs relating to economic and social matters; and the various new aspects of the problem of standards of living specifically acted upon by the General Assembly and the Council have included:

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Economic opportunities for women          | E S C resolution 625 B (XXII) |
| Integration of social and economic action | E S C resolution 627 (XXII)   |
| Maintenance of family levels of living    | E S C resolution 585 F (XX)   |

### *\*\* 2. Full employment*

### *\*\* 3. Economic stability*

### *4. Economic development*

59. Economic development continued to be one of the major subjects of attention in both the General Assembly and the Council. The various new fields in which action concerning economic development has been taken are listed below. They are arranged into three subdivisions, as in the Repertory, namely, general economic development of under-developed countries, financing of economic development, and technical assistance for economic development.

#### a. GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Diversification of the markets for their products<br>by under-developed countries  | E S C resolution 614 B (XXII)                   |
| Industrialization and problems of urbanization   | E S C resolution 618 (XXII)                     |
| Industrialization and productivity   | E S C resolution 597 (XXI)                      |
| Industrialization and the question of<br>international organizational arrangements<br>needed to accelerate the industrialization<br>of under-developed countries | E S C resolutions 597 A (XXI)<br>and 618 (XXII) |
| Resources and requirement surveys in planning<br>developmental programmes  | E S C resolution 614 C (XXII)                   |
| Trade and production policies and their effect<br>on the economic development of under-developed<br>countries  | E S C resolution 614 B (XXII)                   |

#### *\*\* b. FINANCING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

#### c. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question of provision of technical assistance  
in specified fields, other than those already  
referred to in the Repertory:

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Demineralization of saline water and utilization<br>of subsoil water | E S C resolution 599 (XXI) |
|--|----------------------------|

Resources and requirement surveys

E S C resolution 614 C (XXII)

Transit facilities development and  
promotion of travel

E S C resolution 563 (XIX)

60. Some of the fields of activity included in the groups below, such as natural resources, international trade and finance, and population, concern activities related to economic development of under-developed countries. A certain amount of overlapping is unavoidable since many of these activities are closely related and have to be taken into account in the examination of each of the groups following.

### *5. Energy and natural resources*

Atomic energy for peaceful uses

G A resolutions 810 (IX), 912 (X);  
E S C resolution 597 B (XXI)

New sources of energy for economic development  
other than the atom

E S C resolution 598 (XXI)

Resources and requirement surveys

E S C resolution 614 C (XXII)

Wood pulp and paper resources

E S C resolution 569 (XIX)

### *6. World supply of food*

Question of establishing a world food  
reserve within the framework of the  
United Nations

G A resolution 827 (IX);  
E S C resolution 621 (XXII)

Conservation of the living resources of  
of the sea

G A resolution 900 (IX)

### *7. International trade and finance*

#### a. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Inter-regional trade consultations

E S C resolution 579 B (XX)

International machinery for trade co-operation

E S C resolutions 592 (XX) and  
614 A (XXII)

#### \*\* b. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

#### \*\* c. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PROBLEMS

### *8. Fiscal matters (public finance)*

Taxation of foreign investment

G A resolution 825 (IX);  
E S C resolution 619 C (XXII)

### *9. Transport and communications*

Safety of commercial aircraft flying in the  
vicinity of or inadvertently crossing  
international frontiers

G A resolution 927 (X)

***10. Statistics***

International definitions and measurements  
of standards and levels of living E S C resolution 585 B (XX)

Tourist travel statistics E S C resolution 563 (XIX)

***11. Social development*****a. CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL**

61. The problem of community development received further consideration by the Council during the period covered by this Supplement. 97/ In the course of this consideration the Council broadened the concept of community development. In resolution 585 H, II (XX) the Council requested the Secretary-General to include in the next Survey of Programmes for Social Development material on "further use of community development as a technique for improving the levels of living, particularly in under-developed areas, community development being interpreted as a process creating conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and the fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative".

**\*\* b. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****c. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-DEVELOPED AREAS**

62. The following new subject matter was dealt with by the Council:

Urbanization E S C resolutions 585 H, III (XX)  
and 618 (XXII)

***\*\* 12. Social problems of particular groups******13. Population***

63. The new subject matter dealt with in this field has included the following:

Co-operation between the Secretariat and scientific institutions in population studies E S C resolution 571 B (XIX)

***\*\* 14. Migration and related problems******\*\* 15. Social welfare******16. Narcotics***

64. The United Nations has dealt with the following new aspects of matters pertaining to narcotic drugs:

Technical assistance for narcotics control E S C resolutions 626 D, E (XXII)

United Nations narcotics laboratory G A resolution 834 (IX)

97/ E S C resolutions 585 C and H, II (XX).

***\*\* 17. Special economic and social questions*****\*\* a. POST-WAR QUESTIONS****\*\* b. OTHER EMERGENCY QUESTIONS****\*\* c. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL AREAS****\*\* d. OTHER SPECIAL QUESTIONS****II. HUMAN RIGHTS**

65. This part is organized on the same lines as part II of Article 55 in volume III of the Repertory of United Nations Practice. The material included herein is mainly of a supplementary character. Reference is also made to the studies of Articles 2 (7), 13 (1) b, 56 and 62 (2), (3) and (4).

**A. General Survey*****1. Decisions mainly of a preparatory, procedural or co-ordinating nature***

66. The Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities continued to assist the Council in the performance of its functions with respect to human rights. The Council also appointed an ad hoc committee to prepare a draft of a supplementary convention on slavery.<sup>98/</sup> The Ad Hoc Commission on Prisoners of War, appointed by the General Assembly at its fifth session, continues to function. A Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa, appointed by the General Assembly at its seventh session, was discontinued at the tenth session.<sup>99/</sup>

67. As before, the General Assembly and the Council have made requests to the Secretary-General, subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies for studies, reports and other preparatory work to serve as a basis for further action.<sup>100/</sup> The General Assembly and the Council have also taken decisions concerning working arrangements and procedural matters and co-ordination of the various activities in the field of human rights of the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies.<sup>101/</sup>

68. By resolution 624 B (XXII) the Economic and Social Council decided to invite States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to transmit to the Secretary-General every three years a report describing developments and the progress achieved during the preceding three years in the field of human rights, and measures taken to safeguard human liberty in their metropolitan area and Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories. The report was to deal with the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with the right of peoples to self-determination. It also invited the specialized agencies, in respect of rights coming within their purview, to transmit to the Secretary-General, every three years, a

---

<sup>98/</sup> For details, see in this Supplement under Article 68.

<sup>99/</sup> A proposal to continue the Commission was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority. See G A (X), Plen., 551st mtg., para. 43.

<sup>100/</sup> See, in this Supplement under Articles 13 (1) b, 62 (2), 68 and 98.

<sup>101/</sup> See, for example, G A resolutions 833 (IX), 837 (IX), 838 (IX), 840 (IX), 841 (IX), 842 (IX); E S C resolutions 574 A and B (XIX), 587 B and F, I (XX).

report on a topical basis summarizing information received from their Member States. The first reports under this procedure were to cover the years 1954, 1955 and 1956.

### **\*\* 2. Creation of new specialized agencies**

#### **3. Recommendations and other decisions designed generally to influence States, organized or unorganized groups, or world opinion at large**

69. Decisions designed to influence the actions of others have continued to be formally addressed to States, specialized agencies, and other organized bodies and have mainly been concerned with the question of implementation. 102/ Some of these decisions have included, particularly in their preambular paragraphs, statements of opinion and principles relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the question of their implementation. 103/

#### **4. Conventions and other international instruments 104/**

70. A Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery was opened for signature on 7 September 1956 by a conference of plenipotentiaries called by the Council.

71. The General Assembly is considering a draft covenant on civil and political rights, a draft covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, and a draft convention on the nationality of married women. It has deferred consideration of a draft convention on freedom of information. It has initiated consultations with States which are Parties to the International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace (Geneva, 1936), concerning the transfer to the United Nations of the functions which were performed under the terms of that Convention by the League of Nations and certain modifications to that Convention. 105/

72. The General Assembly has also expressed the earnest hope that Governments will take prompt action for the early ratification or accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and requested the Secretary-General to invite, on its behalf, to accede to the Convention any non-member State which was not invited to attend the United Nations Conference on the Status of Stateless Persons, but which is, or hereafter becomes, a member of any specialized agency or is, or hereafter becomes, a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice. 106/

#### **5. International conferences 107/**

73. The international conference to complete the drafting of a Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery mentioned in paragraph 70 above was called by the Council. 108/

74. The General Assembly, at its ninth session, expressed its desire that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to conclude a convention for

102/ See in this Supplement under Articles 13 (1) b and 62 (2).

103/ See, for example, G A resolutions 820 (IX), 840 (IX), 841 (IX), 842 (IX), 843 (IX), 916 (X); E S C resolutions 564 (XIX), 587 C, D and E (XX).

104/ See in this Supplement under Articles 13 (1) b and 62 (3).

105/ G A resolution 841 (IX).

106/ G A resolution 928 (X).

107/ See in this Supplement under Articles 13 (1) b and 62 (4).

108/ E S C resolution 608 (XXI).

the reduction or elimination of future statelessness as soon as at least twenty States had communicated to the Secretary-General their willingness to co-operate in such a conference. 109/

#### *6. Services relating to human rights 110/*

75. During the period under review, both the Council and the General Assembly took steps to consolidate services relating to human rights, 111/ apart from services provided by ad hoc bodies or by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. Thus, in resolution 926 (X), the General Assembly provided for a comprehensive programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

#### *7. Decisions dealing individually with allegations regarding violations of human rights in specific States or territories*

76. The General Assembly has continued to concern itself with the question of the treatment of peoples of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa and with the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa.

77. In resolution 816 (IX) dealing with the question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa, the General Assembly suggested to the Governments of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa that they should seek a solution of the question by direct negotiation, designating a Government, agency or person to facilitate contacts between them and to assist them in settling the dispute. If within six months following the adoption of the resolution, the parties had not reached agreement on these suggestions, the Secretary-General was to designate a person for the purposes suggested. In resolution 919 (X), the General Assembly, after noting that the negotiations envisaged in resolution 816 (IX) had not been pursued, urged the parties to pursue negotiations with a view to bringing about a settlement of the question, and invited the parties to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, to the General Assembly at its eleventh session in 1956.

78. By resolution 820 (IX), the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa to keep under review the problem of race conflict in the Union of South Africa and to report to the General Assembly at its tenth session. At the tenth session a proposal to continue the Commission was not adopted. In resolution 917 (X), the Assembly reiterated its previous recommendations on the subject and noted with regret that the Government of the Union of South Africa had again refused to co-operate with the Commission and recommended the Government of the Union of South Africa to take note of the Commission's report. It expressed concern at the fact that the Government of the Union of South Africa continued to give effect to the policies of apartheid, notwithstanding the requests made to it by the General Assembly to reconsider its position in the light of the high principles contained in the Charter and taking into account the pledge of all Member States to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race. It reminded the Government of the Union of South Africa of the faith it had reaffirmed, in signing the Charter, in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and called on the Government to observe the obligations contained in Article 56 of the Charter.

---

109/ G A resolution 896 (IX).

110/ For further observations and details, see in this Supplement under Article 66 (2).

111/ See G A resolutions 729 (VIII), 730 (VIII) and 839 (IX).

79. Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights have continued to be dealt with under the procedures established by the Council and the ILO. 112/

### 8. Miscellaneous actions

80. In resolution 836 (IX), the General Assembly, inter alia, considering the increasing attention given by States and peoples to a better observance of the rights of mothers and children as well as the action of civic, social, professional and cultural institutions, national, international and regional, on behalf of children, made certain recommendations to States, to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and to UNESCO for the observance of a Universal Children's Day.

81. In resolution 624 C (XXII), the Council invited UNESCO, other specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to co-operate in the planning of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 113/

82. Starting with the Yearbook on Human Rights for 1955, a special section has been added to the Yearbook containing statements furnished by Governments on the evolution of one of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 114/ The Yearbook is also to include in future, under Council resolution 630 D (XXII), a list of significant current publications in the human rights field, titles of which have been furnished by Member States, correspondents of the Yearbook, as well as the specialized agencies.

## B. Analytical Summary of Practice

- \*\* 1. *The question of the meaning of the phrase "respect for, and observance of"*
- 2. *The question of the meaning of the term "human rights and fundamental freedoms"*

### \*\* a. GENERAL REMARKS

#### b. RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS PROCLAIMED AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

##### \*\* i. General provisions

##### ii. Civil and political rights

##### (a) Rights relating to the freedom and integrity of the person

83. The Economic and Social Council convened a conference of plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery and to open it for signature. 115/ The Convention, which was opened for signature on 7 September 1956,

---

112/ See in this Supplement under Article 62 (2).

113/ See also in the Repertory, vol. III, under Article 55, paras. 140 and 141.

114/ See E S C resolution 503 H (XI) and G A (X), Suppl. No. 3 (A/2943), paras. 661-664.

115/ E S C resolution 608 (XXI). For the text of the Convention, see E/CONF.24/23, United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1957.XIV.2.

outlaws certain institutions and practices "where they still exist and whether or not they are covered by the definition of slavery contained in article I of the Slavery Convention signed in Geneva on 25 September 1926", such as debt bondage, serfdom, bride price, and exploitation of child labour (article 1). It also contains provisions concerning the prescription of suitable minimum ages of marriage and the registration of marriages (article 2). It contains provisions relating to the slave trade (article 3), and it provides penal sanctions for some other related practices (articles 5 and 6).

\*\* (b) Rights relating to recognition before the law and the protection of the law

\*\* (c) Rights relating to remedies in connexion with violation of rights and to civil procedure

\*\* (d) Rights relating to criminal offences

\*\* (e) Rights relating to privacy and to honour and reputation

\*\* (f) Freedom of movement and residence

\*\* (g) Right of asylum and related rights

(h) The right to a nationality

84. At its tenth session, the General Assembly took note of the preamble and the first three articles of a draft convention on the nationality of married women <sup>116/</sup> and decided to include the item in the provisional agenda of its eleventh session.

(i) Rights relating to marriage and the family

85. In resolution 587 D, II (XX) the Council recommended that Member States take all necessary measures to ensure equality as between parents in the exercise of rights and duties with respect to their children, and expressed the belief that the denial of this equality was incompatible with the principles proclaimed in articles 16 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

86. In resolution 587 D, III (XX) the Council recommended that Governments take all necessary measures to ensure the right of a married woman to an independent domicile. In this resolution the Council expressed the belief that legal systems of countries where the domicile of the wife followed that of her husband and where the wife upon marriage lost her original domicile and acquired the domicile of her husband which she retained until the dissolution of the marriage, even if residing separately, were incompatible with the principle of equality of spouses during marriage proclaimed in article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Council also noted that the application of such legal systems resulted in particular hardships for married women in countries where domicile determined the jurisdictions of courts in matrimonial matters and where the law of the place of domicile governed the personal status of the individual.

87. Under article 1 of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery of 7 September 1956, the States Parties undertake to abolish progressively and as soon as possible, inter alia,

---

<sup>116/</sup> See G A (X), annexes, a.i. 63, p. 7, A/3059; G A (X), Plen., 55<sup>th</sup> mtg., paras. 33-49.

any institution or practice whereby: (i) a woman is promised or given in marriage without the right to refuse, on payment of a consideration in money or in kind to her parents, guardian, family or any other person or group; or (ii) the husband of a woman, his family, or his clan, has the right to transfer her to another person for value received or otherwise; or (iii) a woman on the death of her husband is liable to be inherited by another person. It is further provided in article 2 that, with a view to bringing to an end these institutions and practices, the States Parties "undertake to prescribe, where appropriate, suitable minimum ages of marriage, to encourage the use of facilities whereby the consent of both parties to a marriage may be freely expressed in the presence of a competent civil or religious authority, and to encourage the registration of marriages".

\*\* (j) The right to own property

\*\* (k) Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

(l) Freedom of opinion and expression

88. In resolution 574 B (XIX) the Council urged all States to cease the practice of censoring outgoing news dispatches during peacetime "in order to provide a free flow of information throughout the world", and it urged all States to facilitate "the unrestricted transmission of news by telecommunication services as recommended at the Buenos Aires Plenipotentiary Telecommunication Conference" in 1952.

\*\* (m) Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

\*\* (n) The right to take part in the government, the right to access to public service, and rights relating to the will of the people

iii. Economic, social and cultural rights

\*\* (a) Economic, social and cultural rights in general

(b) Rights relating to work

89. In resolution 842 (IX) the General Assembly endorsed the condemnation by the Economic and Social Council of the existence of systems of forced labour "which are employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views, and which are on such a scale as to constitute an important element in the economy of a given country". The Assembly also supported the Council's appeal to all Governments "to re-examine their laws and administrative practices in the light of present conditions and the increasing desire of the peoples of the world to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person". Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 607 (XXI), which, inter alia, contained the following paragraphs:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"...

"1. Condemns all forms of forced labour, wherever they exist, which are contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, all systems of forced labour which are employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views, and which are on such a scale as to constitute an important element in the economy of a given country;

"2. Urges that action be taken towards the elimination of forced labour wherever it may exist;

"... "

90. The Council in resolution 587 C (XX) once again urged Governments of all States to take "legislative or other measures for the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women". It recommended that Governments include in their plans for technical assistance "projects for utilization of technical advisory services designed to develop appropriate methods, where such methods do not now exist, for giving practical effect to the principle of equal pay, and that high priority be given to such projects". The Council also encouraged the non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts "to create and inform public opinion in favour of the principle of equal pay".

**\*\* (c) Rights relating to the standard of living and social security**

**\*\* (d) Rights relating to motherhood and childhood**

**\*\* (e) The right to education**

**\*\* (f) Rights relating to cultural life, the arts and scientific advancement**

**\*\* (g) Rights to protection of scientific, literary or artistic production**

**c. THE QUESTION OF THE RELATION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, OTHER THAN THOSE PROCLAIMED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, TO THE CONCEPT OF "HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS"**

**\*\* i. The right of petition**

**ii. The right of peoples and nations to self-determination**

91. By resolutions 637 C (VII) and 837 (IX), the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to submit through the Economic and Social Council recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination. In resolution 837 (IX) the Assembly further requested the Commission that these recommendations should include recommendations concerning the right of peoples and nations to "permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources, having due regard 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". The Economic and Social Council by resolution 586 D (XX) transmitted to the General Assembly two draft resolutions prepared by the Commission on Human Rights, together with a draft resolution of its own. 117/ The consideration of these draft resolutions was deferred at the tenth and eleventh sessions of the General Assembly. 118/

---

117/ See also in this Supplement, under Articles 13 (1)(b), 14, 55 a, and 60.

118/ See G A (X), Plen., 554th mtg., para. 35 and G A (XI), Plen., 656th mtg., provisional record, p. 36.

92. The General Assembly has not yet completed its consideration of the articles relating to the right of self-determination in the draft covenant on civil and political rights and the draft covenant on economic, social and cultural rights. 119/

\*\* iii. Right of minorities

\*\* iv. Other rights

3. *The question of the meaning of the expression "for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion"*

93. A number of decisions have been taken dealing with equality of rights particularly with respect to sex. 120/ Thus, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 587 F, III (XX) on economic rights of women, which reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering that the principle of equal rights for men and women has not yet received universal recognition and that equal rights with men have not yet been granted to women in many countries,

"Recognizing the importance of granting women equal rights with men in all branches of economic life,

"Recommends that all States Members and non-members of the United Nations should:

"1. Adopt legislative and other measures which will help to remove economic discrimination against women, including measures to provide women with suitable economic opportunities by granting them equal rights with men to employment, pay, education, rest and material security in case of old age, illness or loss of capacity to work;

"2. Encourage such action as will secure for women, in the economic field, equal rights with men in all countries, including the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories."

119/ However, the Third Committee, at the tenth session of the Assembly, adopted the following text of an article on self-determination for inclusion in both draft covenants:

"1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of the right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

"2. The peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

"3. All the States Parties to the Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter." (See G A (X), annexes, a.i. 28 (Part I), p. 30, A/3077, para. 77.)

120/ See, for example, E S C resolutions 587 C and D, II (XX).

94. In connexion with decisions relating to the making of distinctions, the General Assembly in resolutions 820 (IX) and 917 (X) referred to "the pledge of all Member States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race".

*\*\* 4. The question of the meaning of the term "universal"; the territorial scope of the provisions relating to human rights*