



## Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 7. Social development questions

## REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE

Addendum

1. The Second (Social) Committee continued its consideration of the item at its 19th and 21st meetings on 1 and 2 May 1979.

- A. Recommendations contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-sixth session 1/

Draft resolution IV

2. The Committee considered the fourth draft resolution submitted by the Commission, entitled "Adoption and foster placement of children", at its 17th to 19th and 21st meetings, on 27 and 30 April and 1 and 2 May 1979.
3. At the 17th meeting, on 27 April, the representative of Argentina proposed the following draft decision in connexion with the draft resolution:

"Adoption and foster placement of children

"The Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind General Assembly decision 33/406 of 29 November 1978:

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 4 (E/1979/24).

"(a) Takes note of draft resolution IV, entitled 'Adoption and foster placement of children', recommended for adoption by the Commission on Social Development; 1/

"(b) Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally 2/ to all Member States, seeking their views on this subject and on the possibility of examining at the regional level principles and measures concerning adoption and foster placement of children;

"(c) Further requests the Secretary-General to report on this subject to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-eighth session.

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"1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 4 (E/1979/24), chap. I.

"2/ E/CN.5/574, chap. IV."

4. At the same meeting, after a number of oral amendments and subamendments had been proposed to the draft decision proposed by Argentina and to the draft resolution, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the matter to a later meeting to allow for informal consultations.

5. At the 18th meeting, on 30 April, after the representative of France had orally suggested amendments, based on informal consultation, to the draft resolution, the Committee deferred further consideration of the matter until the amendments had been circulated in writing.

6. At the 19th meeting, on 1 May, the Committee had before it an informal paper containing amendments proposed by the representative of France to the draft resolution:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "and submits it to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fourth session" would be deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 2 would be replaced by the following:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft declaration to all Member States with a view to obtaining their comments on the matter and submitting the results of the inquiry to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session"; and

(c) Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 would be replaced by the following:

"3. Draws the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that, at its twenty-sixth session, the Commission for Social Development has expressed the wish that, in the event that the General Assembly adopted the declaration on

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social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds for that purpose, the Secretary-General should be authorized to convene a group of experts, with relevant experience in family and child welfare, representative of all geographical regions, to draft guidelines for the use of Governments in the implementation of those principles".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee deferred consideration of the draft resolution and the amendments thereto to allow for further informal consultations.

8. At the 21st meeting, on 2 May, the representative of France orally revised his amendment (see subpara. 6 (a) above) by revising operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution to read:

"1. Takes note of paragraphs 150 to 154 of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-sixth session concerning the draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally and submits the draft declaration (E/CN.5/574, chap. IV) to the General Assembly for preliminary consideration at its thirty-fourth session".

9. The draft decision proposed by the representative of Argentina was consequently withdrawn.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the French amendments, as orally revised, and adopted the draft resolution as amended. (For the text, see para. 16 below, draft resolution XV.)

#### B. Draft decision E/1979/C.2/L.4

11. At the 17th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft decision (E/1979/C.2/L.4) entitled "Draft declaration on the rights of deaf-blind persons".

12. At the same meeting, the Committee deferred consideration of the draft decision to allow for informal consultations.

13. At the 18th meeting, after a number of amendments had been suggested to the draft decision, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the draft decision to allow for further informal consultations.

14. At the 21st meeting, the Observer for Belgium\* orally proposed amendments to the draft decision, which were accepted by the sponsor. The amendments would replace the words "The Economic and Social Council decides to bring to the

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\* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

attention of the General Assembly the following draft of a declaration on the rights of deaf-blind persons:" by the words:

"The Economic and Social Council decides to take note of a Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons 1/ and to bring it to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session as part of the documentation submitted under item 79 of its preliminary agenda (A/34/50).

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"1/ Adopted by the Helen Keller World Conference on Services to Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults on 16 September 1977."

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised. (For the text, see para. 16 below, draft decision III.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE

16. The Second (Social) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution and draft decision:

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION XV

##### Adoption and foster placement of children

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally contained in document E/CN.5/574,

Convinced that appropriate measures should be undertaken to educate the public in order to increase community awareness of the existence of children with special needs,

Fully aware of the urgent need for more active involvement of Governments in matters of family and child welfare,

Recognizing that it is the responsibility of Governments to determine the adequacy of their national services for children and to recognize those children whose needs are not being met by existing services,

Recalling resolution 1925 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, in which it decided that the Expert Group, in addition to preparing a draft declaration, should also draft guidelines for the use of Governments in the implementation of the principles,

1. Takes note of paragraphs 150 to 154 of the report of the Commission for

social Development on its twenty-sixth session 2/ concerning the draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally and submits the draft declaration 3/ to the General Assembly for preliminary consideration at its thirty-fourth session;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft declaration to all Member States with a view to obtaining their comments on the matter and submitting the results of the inquiry to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

3. Draws the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that, at its twenty-sixth session, the Commission for Social Development had expressed the wish that, in the event that the General Assembly adopted the declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds for that purpose, the Secretary-General should be authorized to convene a group of experts, with relevant experience in family and child welfare, representative of all geographical regions, to draft guidelines for the use of Governments in the implementation of those principles.

#### DRAFT DECISION III

##### Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons

The Economic and Social Council decides to take note of a Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons 4/ (see annex) and to bring it to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session as part of the documentation submitted under item 79 of its preliminary agenda (A/34/50).

#### Annex

#### TEXT OF THE DECLARATION

##### "Article 1

"Every deaf-blind person is entitled to enjoy the universal rights that are guaranteed to all people by the United Nations Declaration of Human

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2/ Ibid., chap. VII.

3/ E/CN.5/574, chap. IV.

4/ Adopted by the Helen Keller World Conference on Services to Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults on 16 September 1977.

Rights and the rights provided for all disabled persons by the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons.

"Article 2

"Deaf-blind persons have the right to expect that their capabilities and their aspirations to lead a normal life within the community and their ability to do so shall be recognized and respected by all Governments, administrators, educational and rehabilitation personnel and the general public.

"Article 3

"Deaf-blind persons have the right to receive the best possible medical treatment and care for the restoration of sight and hearing and the services required to utilize remaining sight and hearing, including the provision of the most effective optical and hearing aids, speech training, when appropriate, and other forms of rehabilitation intended to secure maximum independence.

"Article 4

"Deaf-blind persons have the right to economic security to ensure a satisfactory standard of living and the right to secure work commensurate with their capabilities and abilities or to engage in other meaningful tasks, for which the requisite education and training shall be provided.

"Article 5

"Deaf-blind persons shall have the right to lead independent lives as integrated members of the family and community, including the right to live on their own or to marry and raise a family. Where a deaf-blind person lives within a family, the greatest possible support shall be provided to the whole family unit by the appropriate authorities. If institutional care is advisable, it shall be provided in such surroundings and under such conditions that it resembles normal life as closely as possible.

"Article 6

"Deaf-blind persons shall have the right, and at no cost, to the services of an interpreter with whom they can communicate effectively to maintain contact with others and with the environment.

"Article 7

"Deaf-blind persons shall have the right to current news, information, reading matter and educational material in a medium and form which they can assimilate. Technical devices that could serve to this end shall be provided and research in this area shall be encouraged.

"Article 8

"Deaf-blind persons shall have the right to engage in leisure-time recreational activities, which shall be provided for their benefit, and the right and opportunity to organize their own clubs or associations for self-improvement and social betterment.

"Article 9

"Deaf-blind persons shall have the right to be consulted on all matters of direct concern to them and to legal advice and protection against improper abridgement of their rights due to their disabilities.

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"For purposes of implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons, the definition of deaf-blind persons is as follows:

"Persons who have substantial visual and hearing losses such that the combination of the two causes extreme difficulty in pursuit of educational, vocational, avocational, or social skills."

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