



Fifth session  
Agenda item 63

DRAFT FIRST INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Amendments to draft resolution I  
proposed by the Third Committee (A/1559)

1. Insert the following paragraph between the third and fourth paragraphs of the preamble to the draft resolution:

"Recognizing that the implementation of the provisions of the Covenant on Human Rights falls entirely within the domestic jurisdiction of States",

2. Delete sub-paragraph (a) of part B of the draft resolution from the words "that the list of rights, ..." to the words "the most elementary rights" inclusive, and substitute for it a new sub-paragraph (a) worded as follows:

"(a) That the general character of the first eighteen articles of the draft International Covenant does not correspond with the aims envisaged either in regard to the rights enumerated in those articles or in regard to the guaranteeing of the rights to which they refer; and that the above-mentioned articles omit a number of essential provisions concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms; in particular, the right to participate in the administration of the State, the right of peoples and nations to national self-determination, and the right to employment, social security, leisure and education and other rights in the social, economic and cultural fields".

3. Delete part C from the words "Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission..." to the words "constitutional problems of federal States" inclusive, and substitute the following:

"C

"Considers that all the provisions of the Covenant on Human Rights must be extended without any exceptions or restrictions to the peoples of federal States".

4. Add the following to sub-paragraph (a) of part E after the words "the Charter of the United Nations": "and, in particular, to include in the Covenant the following principles":

1. Every citizen, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, social position, property status, social origin, language, religion or sex, shall be guaranteed by the State an opportunity to take part in the government of the State, to elect and be elected to all organs of authority on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage with secret ballot, and to occupy any State or public office. Property, educational or other qualifications restricting the participation of citizens in voting at elections to representative organs shall be abolished.

2. Every people and every nation shall have the right to national self-determination. States which have responsibilities for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories shall promote the fulfilment of this right, guided by the aims and principles of the United Nations in relation to the peoples of such territories.

The State shall ensure to national minorities the right to use their native tongue and to possess their national schools, libraries, museums and other cultural and educational institutions.

3. The State shall ensure the development of science and education in the interests of progress and democracy and in the interests of ensuring international peace and co-operation.

4. Access to education shall be open to all without distinction of race, sex, language, economic situation or social origin and this right shall be ensured by the State by the provision of free elementary education, a system of scholarships and the requisite system of schools.

5. It is the duty of the State to guarantee to everyone the right to work and to choose his occupation in such a manner as to create conditions which will exclude the threat of death from hunger and from exhaustion.

6. The right to rest and leisure shall be guaranteed by the State to everyone employed in enterprises and institutions, either by law or on the basis of collective agreements providing, in particular, for a reasonable limitation of working hours and for periodic holidays with pay.

7. Social security and social insurance for workers and employees shall be effected at the expense of the State or at the expense of the employers in accordance with the laws of each country.

8. The State shall take all necessary measures, legislative measures in particular, to ensure decent living accommodation to every person.

9. In the interests of democracy, everyone must be guaranteed by law the right to the free expression of opinion; in particular, to freedom of speech, of the press and of artistic representation, under conditions ensuring that freedom of speech and of the press are not exploited for war propaganda, for the incitement of hatred among the peoples, for racial discrimination and for the dissemination of slanderous rumours.

10. Any form of propaganda on behalf of Fascist or Nazi views, or of racial and national exclusiveness, hatred and contempt, must be prohibited by law.

11. Women shall enjoy in their work rights and privileges which shall not be less than those enjoyed by men and they shall receive equal pay with men for equal work.

12. In the interests of democracy, the right to organize assemblies, meetings, street processions and demonstrations and to organize voluntary societies and unions must be guaranteed by law. All societies, unions and organizations of a Fascist or anti-democratic nature, and any form of activity by such societies, must be prohibited by law, subject to penalty.

13. Trade union rights:

(a) The implementation of trade union rights, which are inviolable and essential for improving the life and economic welfare of workers, shall be guaranteed to all hired workers

/without distinction

without distinction as to nationality, race, religion, sex, occupation, political or philosophical views.

(b) All regulations of whatever kind directed against trade union organizations by hired workers and employees shall be prohibited.

(c) Trade union organizations shall have the right freely to elect all their representatives, to make their own administrative arrangements and democratically to fulfil their functions and tasks in the interests of their members, and shall be protected against any interference on the part of public authorities or officials. Public authorities or officials may not attempt to exert pressure of any kind whatsoever, whether directly or indirectly, upon trade unions and their members. Public authorities or officials shall be required to abstain from founding, financing or interfering in the direction of trade union organizations.

(d) The right to strike shall be guaranteed.

(e) Legislative measures shall be adopted to enable trade union organizations to participate in the determination of economic and social policy in undertakings and on the local, regional and national levels.

(f) Trade union organizations shall have the right to amalgamate on a trade, inter-union, local, regional and national basis and to affiliate to international trade union organizations.

(g) No one may prevent an international trade union organization from fulfilling its functions and communicating with the organizations affiliated to it.

5. In sub-paragraph (b) of part E, after the words "to be proclaimed in the Covenant" add "and also to include in the Covenant the rights enumerated in detail in the preceding sub-paragraph".

6. Delete part F from the words "Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to request..." to the words "in documents A/C.3/L.81, A/C.3/L.78, A/C.3/L.91/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.91/Rev.1/Corr.1 and A/C.3/L.93" inclusive, and substitute the following:

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"Considers that articles 19-41 of the draft Covenant should be deleted, since their inclusion would constitute an attempt at intervention in the domestic affairs of States and an encroachment on their sovereignty."