

### 2333 (XXII). Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 2062 (XX) of 16 December 1965 relating to the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1237 (XLII) of 6 June 1967, in which the Council endorsed the recommendation to the General Assembly contained in the draft resolution proposed by the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>6</sup> and Economic and Social Council resolution 1238 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 on the same subject,

Regretting that, despite its decision at the 1498th plenary meeting, held on 19 December 1966, to approve the Third Committee's recommendation that the consideration of agenda item 61 should be postponed to the twenty-second session, the consideration of this question has not been possible at the present session owing to the heavy programme of work,

1. *Decides* to give high priority, in accordance with the aforementioned resolutions and decisions, to the consideration of this question at its twenty-third session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its twenty-third session with all the relevant information prepared in conformity with the resolutions of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights on this matter.

*1638th plenary meeting,  
18 December 1967.*

### 2334 (XXII). Capital punishment

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 1396 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 and 1918 (XVIII) of 5 December 1963 on the question of capital punishment,

Noting that the heavy agenda of the Commission on Human Rights at its recent sessions has not permitted it to study the report entitled *Capital Punishment*,<sup>7</sup> and that therefore the Secretary-General could not present to the General Assembly the report called for in paragraph 3 of resolution 1918 (XVIII),

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolution 1243 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 transmitting a draft resolution, submitted by the delegations of Sweden and Venezuela, for a decision by the General Assembly as to what further steps should be taken in the matter,

Regretting that the workload at its twenty-second session has not permitted the General Assembly to consider the substance of the item on capital punishment,

1. *Decides* to consider the question of capital punishment at its twenty-third session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at that session with pertinent information prepared in the light of Assembly resolution 1918 (XVIII);

<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/4322 and Corr.1)*, chapter XVIII, draft resolution IV.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.IV.2.

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To instruct the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of capital punishment, including the draft resolution submitted by the Council in resolution 1243 (XLII), and to transmit its recommendations on the matter through the Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session;

(b) To seek the views of the Consultative Group on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders concerning the draft resolution submitted by the Council in resolution 1243 (XLII), requesting the Secretary-General to transmit these views to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

*1638th plenary meeting,  
18 December 1967.*

### 2335 (XXII). United Nations Children's Fund

*The General Assembly,*

Having considered chapter XI, section IV, of the report of the Economic and Social Council,<sup>8</sup> dealing with the United Nations Children's Fund,

Welcoming the fact that the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund had reviewed the assistance policies of the Fund, which are focused not only on the immediate needs of children but also on preparing children to contribute to the social and economic development of their countries,

Noting with approval that the United Nations Children's Fund continues to provide emergency aid to children and mothers in situations of urgent need, while placing increasing emphasis on long-term programmes,

Noting that co-operation between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the relevant technical and other agencies in the United Nations family continues to be close,

1. *Endorses* the policies and programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund;

2. *Congratulates* the United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary;

3. *Commends* the United Nations Children's Fund for its very substantial and significant achievements during its twenty-one years of operation, particularly on behalf of the children of the developing countries;

4. *Expresses the hope* that the United Nations Children's Fund's goal of \$50 million income from voluntary contributions by Governments and private sources will be attained by the end of 1969, thus enabling the Fund to continue the constructive work which merited for it the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1965.

*1638th plenary meeting,  
18 December 1967.*

### 2336 (XXII). Freedom of information

*The General Assembly,*

Considering that because of its heavy agenda the Third Committee was unable to consider the draft Convention on Freedom of Information and the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information at the twenty-second session,

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/6703 and Corr.1)*.

*Reiterating* that freedom of information forms an important part of the human rights and fundamental freedoms to the promotion of which the United Nations is dedicated,

*Decides* to take up at its twenty-third session the consideration of the item on freedom of information.

*1638th plenary meeting,  
18 December 1967.*

**2337 (XXII). Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that in its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 it expressed the hope that the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights would be signed and ratified or acceded to without delay and come into force at an early date,

*Noting* that according to the report of the Secretary-General, submitted in pursuance of resolution 2200 A (XXI) on the status of ratifications of the Covenants and of the Optional Protocol,<sup>9</sup> there have been no ratifications of or accessions to any of these instruments and that there have been only nineteen signatures to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, eighteen to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and eleven to the Optional Protocol,

*Desiring* to accelerate the ratifications of and accessions to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol,

*Convinced* that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations would be greatly enhanced by the coming into force of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol,

1. *Invites* States which are eligible to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to hasten their ratifications of or accessions to these instruments;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol to the International Conference on Human Rights to be held at Teheran in 1968 and to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session;

3. *Decides* to include this item in the provisional agenda of its twenty-third session.

*1638th plenary meeting,  
18 December 1967.*

**2338 (XXII). Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 170 (II) of 31 October 1947 on the extradition and punishment of war criminals, resolution 95 (I) of 11 December 1946 affirming the principles of inter-

<sup>9</sup> A/6820 and Add.1. See also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Third Committee, 1553rd meeting, para. 53.*

national law recognized by the Charter of the Nürnberg Tribunal and the judgement of the Tribunal, and resolutions 2184 (XXI) of 12 December 1966 and 2202 (XXI) of 16 December 1966, which expressly condemned as crimes against humanity the violation of the economic and political rights of the indigenous population, on the one hand, and the policies of apartheid, on the other,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolutions 1074 D (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965 and 1158 (XLI) of 5 August 1966 on the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity,

*Noting* that none of the solemn declarations, instruments or conventions relating to prosecution and punishment for war crimes and crimes against humanity makes provision for a period of limitation,

*Considering* that war crimes and crimes against humanity are among the gravest crimes in international law,

*Convinced* that effective punishment for war crimes and crimes against humanity is an important element in the prevention of such crimes, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the encouragement of confidence, the furtherance of co-operation among peoples and the promotion of international peace and security,

*Noting* that the application to war crimes and crimes against humanity of the rules of municipal law relating to the period of limitation for ordinary crimes is a matter of serious concern to world public opinion, since it prevents the prosecution and punishment of persons responsible for those crimes,

*Recognizing* that it is necessary and timely to affirm in international law, through a convention, the principle that there is no period of limitation for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to secure its universal application,

*Having considered* the report of the joint working group of the Third and Sixth Committees on the draft convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitation to war crimes and crimes against humanity,<sup>10</sup>

*Expressing its regret* that owing to the lack of time it has not been possible to complete consideration of and to adopt the convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitation to war crimes and crimes against humanity,

1. *Expresses its thanks* to the joint working group of the Third and Sixth Committee for the work it has accomplished;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the joint working group;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to Member States the report of the joint working group containing the text of the draft convention adopted by the group and to invite them to submit comments on the draft convention;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to issue to Member States, before the twenty-third session of

<sup>10</sup> The joint working group was established, for the twenty-second session, following consultations between the Chairman of the Third Committee and the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, in accordance with the recommendation adopted by the General Assembly at its 1564th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1967. For the report of the joint working group, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 60, document A/C.3/L.1503.*