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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa and Sri Lanka: draft resolution

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolution 41/153 of 4 December 1986, on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing that regional arrangements make a major contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and that non-governmental organizations may have a valuable role to play in this process,

Bearing in mind that intergovernmental arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights have been established in other regions,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region, held at Colombo from 21 June to 2 July 1982, 1/ and the comments on the report of the Seminar received from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and from States members of the Commission, 2/

1/ A/37/422, annex.

2/ See A/39/174-E/1984/38 and Add.1 and E/CN.4/1986/19.

Welcoming the designation of the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as a regional human rights focal point,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/73 of 10 March 1988, 3/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 4/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist and encourage the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to pursue the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials within the Commission at Bangkok, the function of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials in the Asian and Pacific region;

3. Renews its invitation to States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific that have not yet done so to communicate to the Secretary-General as soon as possible their comments on the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region and, in particular, to address themselves to the conclusions and recommendations in the report concerning the development of regional arrangements in Asia and the Pacific;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure a continuing flow of human rights material to the library of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok for appropriate dissemination in the region;

5. Takes note of the efforts of United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the human rights dimension more actively and systematically in their development activities;

6. Encourages United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to co-ordinate, within existing resources, with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific their efforts to promote the human rights dimension in their activities;

7. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the successful training course on human rights teaching held at Bangkok from 12 to 23 October 1987 under the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; 5/

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 2 (E/1988/12), chap. II, sect. A.

4/ A/43/170-E/1988/25.

5/ E/CN.4/1988/39/Add.1.

8. Draws attention to the summary of discussions and conclusions in the report, in particular to the need to advance both formal and informal teaching of human rights in the region, with emphasis on the identification of target groups, particularly in rural areas;

9. Takes note of the general consensus among participants in the training course that it would be useful for the better identification of existing measures and the dissemination of materials to establish a resource library that would collect and disseminate laws, documents and other publications throughout the region;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, incorporating information on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-fifth session.
