

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution Adopted 21 June 1946

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the Report of the nuclear Commission on Human Rights of 21 May 1946 (E/38, Rev. 1)

DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

1. Functions

The functions of the Commission on Human Rights shall be those set forth in the terms of reference of the Commission, approved by the Economic and Social Council in its Resolution of 16 February 1946, with the addition to paragraph 2 of that Resolution of a new sub-paragraph (e) as follows:

"(e) any other matter concerning human rights not covered by items (a), (b) (c), and (d)."

2. Composition

(a) The Commission on Human Rights shall consist of one representative from each of eighteen Members of the United Nations selected by the Council.

(b) With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General shall consult with the governments so selected before the representatives are finally nominated by these governments and confirmed by the Council.

(c) Except for the initial period, the term of office shall be for three years. For the initial period, one-third of the members shall serve for two years, one-third for three years and one-third for four years, the term of each member to be designated by lot.

(d) Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.

(e) In the event that a member of the Commission is unable to serve for the full three-year term, the vacancy thus arising shall be filled by a representative designated by the member government, subject to the

3. Working Groups of Experts

The Commission is authorized to call in ad hoc working groups of non-governmental experts in specialized fields or individual experts, without further reference to the Council, but with the approval of the President of the Council and the Secretary-General.

4. Documentation

The Secretary-General is requested to make arrangements for:

(a) The compilation and publication of a yearbook on law and usage relating to human rights, the first edition of which should include all declarations and bills on human rights now in force in the various countries;

(b) the collection and publication of information on the activities concerning human rights of all organs of the United Nations;

(c) the collection and publication of information concerning human rights arising from trials of war criminals, quislings, and traitors, and in particular from the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials;

(d) the preparation and publication of a survey of the development of human rights;

(e) the collection and publication of plans and declarations on human rights by specialized agencies and non-governmental national and international organizations.

5. Information Groups

Members of the United Nations are invited to consider the desirability of establishing information groups or local human rights committees within their respective countries to collaborate with them in furthering the work of the Commission on Human Rights.

6. Human Rights in International Treaties

Pending the adoption of an international bill of rights, the general principle shall be accepted that international treaties involving basic human rights, including to the fullest extent practicable treaties of peace, shall conform to the fundamental standards relative to such rights set forth in the Charter.

7. Provisions for Implementation

Considering that the purpose of the United Nations with regard to the promotion and observance of human rights, as defined in the Charter of the United Nations, can only be fulfilled if provisions are made for the implementation of human rights and of an international bill of rights, the Council requests the Commission on Human Rights to submit at an early date suggestions regarding the ways and means for the effective implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a view to assisting the Economic and Social Council in working out arrangements for such implementation with other appropriate organs of the United Nations

8. Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press

(a) The Commission on Human Rights is empowered to establish a Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press.

(b) the function of the Sub-Commission shall be, in the first instance, to examine what rights, obligations, and practices should be included in the concept of freedom of information, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights on any issues that may arise from such examination.

9. Sub-Commission on Protection of Minorities

(a) The Commission on Human Rights is empowered to establish a Sub-Commission on the protection of minorities.

(b) Unless the Commission otherwise decides, the function of the Sub-Commission shall be, in the first instance, to examine what provisions should be adopted in the definition of the principles which are to be applied in the field of protection of minorities, and to deal with the urgent problems in this field by making recommendations to the Commission.

10. Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination

(a) The Commission on Human Rights is empowered to establish a Sub-Commission on the prevention of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, language, or religion.

(b) Unless the Commission otherwise decides, the function of the Sub-Commission shall be, in the first instance, to examine what provisions should be adopted in the definition of the principles which are to be applied in the field of the prevention of discrimination, and to deal with the urgent problems in this field by making recommendations to the Commission.

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