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### ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 739 (VIII), asked the Commission on Human Rights, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider at its tenth session three draft resolutions on annual reports on human rights, advisory services, and studies on specific aspects of human rights which had been submitted to the Commission at its ninth session by the representative of the United States of America.<sup>1/</sup> The General Assembly asked the Commission to prepare recommendations on these three draft resolutions to be considered by the Council at its eighteenth session. It also asked the Commission to take account of comments made by Member States and specialized agencies (E/CN.4/690 and Add.1 to 12, and E/CN.4/691 and Add.1) and of the views expressed at the eighth session of the General Assembly.
  2. At its tenth session (February to April 1954), the Commission had not time to give full consideration to the three proposals, which were, however, revised by their sponsor.<sup>2/</sup>
  3. At its eleventh session (April 1955), the Commission was able to examine in detail and to adopt, after amendment, only the proposal which concerned technical assistance in the field of human rights.<sup>3/</sup>
  4. The Council considered the draft resolution submitted by the Commission<sup>4/</sup> at its twentieth session (E/AC.7/SR.321 and 322, E/SR.889), when amendments presented by the representative of the United States of America on the Council.
- <sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 8, document E/2447, paras. 263-272.
- <sup>2/</sup> Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7, document E/2573, chapter V.
- <sup>3/</sup> Ibid., Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 6, document E/2731, chapter VII.
- <sup>4/</sup> Ibid., annex I, draft resolution D.

(E/AC.7/L.259 and E/SR.889) were adopted. The main purpose of these amendments was to incorporate into the broad programme of assistance in the field of human rights proposed in the Commission's resolution the technical assistance programmes already approved by the General Assembly to promote and safeguard the rights of women, to eradicate discrimination and protect minorities, and to promote freedom of information. The general programme envisaged in the new draft resolution would be known as "Advisory services in the field of human rights", thus distinguishing it from the United Nations and the Expanded Programmes of Technical Assistance already established.

5. The text of the resolution adopted by the Council and submitted to the General Assembly reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following  
draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Considering that by Articles 55 and 56 of the United Nations  
Charter the States Members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

"Recognizing that technical assistance, by the international  
interchange of technical knowledge through international co-operation among countries, represents one of the means by which it is possible to promote the human rights objectives of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Taking note of resolution 729 (VIII) of the General Assembly  
authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist those States in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women,

"Taking note of resolution 730 (VIII) of the General Assembly  
authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of any Member State, technical advice and other services which do not fall

within its territory in the eradication of discrimination or in the protection of minorities or both,

"Taking note of resolution 839 (IX) of the General Assembly authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope and objectives of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist those States in promoting freedom of information, and resolution 574 A (XIV) of the Economic and Social Council requesting the Secretary-General to take steps to put into operation a programme to promote freedom of information by providing such services as experts, fellowships and seminars,

"Taking account of the arrangements previously established by the General Assembly concerning the regular technical assistance programme and the advisory services of the United Nations in its resolutions 200 (III), 246 (III), 305 (IV), 418 (V), 518 (VI) and 723 (VIII),

"Considering that the specialized agencies, within their competence and by virtue of their regular programmes of technical assistance, are already rendering important services to their members with a view to ensuring the effective observance of human rights:

"1. Decides to consolidate the technical assistance programmes already approved by the General Assembly (relating to the promotion and safeguarding of the rights of women, the eradication of discrimination and the protection of minorities and the promotion of freedom of information) with the broad programme of assistance in the field of human rights proposed in this resolution, the entire programme to be known as 'Advisory services in the field of human rights';

"2. Authorizes the Secretary-General:

"(a) Subject to the directions of the Economic and Social Council, to make provision at the request of Governments, and with the co-operation of the specialized agencies where appropriate and without duplication of their existing activities, for the following forms of assistance with respect to the field of human rights:

"(i) Advisory services of experts;

"(ii) Fellowships and scholarships;

"(iii) Seminars;

"(b) To take the programme authorized by this resolution into account in preparing the budgetary estimates of the United Nations;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake the performance of the assistance provided for in paragraph 2(a) above, in agreement with the Governments concerned, on the basis of requests received from Governments and in accordance with the following policies:

"(a) The kind of service to be rendered to each country under paragraph 2(a) (i) shall be determined by the Government concerned;

"(b) The selection of the persons under paragraph 2(a) (ii) shall be made by the Secretary-General on the basis of proposals received from Governments, which shall indicate their preferences with regard to host countries, and those persons shall be acceptable to the host countries;

"(c) The amount of assistance and the conditions under which it is to be rendered shall be decided by the Secretary-General with due regard to the greater needs of the under-developed areas and in conformity with the principle that each requesting Government shall be expected to assume responsibility, as far as possible, for all or a considerable part of the expenses connected with the assistance furnished to it, either by making a contribution in cash, or in the form of services, for the purpose of carrying out the programme;

"(d) The assistance shall be applicable to any subject in the field of human rights, in addition to the subjects covered by the existing resolutions of the General Assembly, provided however that the subject shall be one for which adequate advisory assistance is not available through a specialized agency and which does not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Economic and Social Council, to the Commission on Human Rights and, as appropriate, to the Commission on the Status of Women, on the measures which he takes in compliance with the terms of this resolution;

"5. Recommends that the specialized agencies continue to develop their technical assistance activities with a view to aiding Member States to further the effective observance of human rights;

"6. Invites the specialized agencies to communicate to the Economic and Social Council, for transmission to the Commission on Human Rights, any observation which they may find appropriate on the above assistance and on any new measures of assistance which they may deem necessary with a view to assisting Member States in furthering the effective observance of human rights;

"7. Expresses the hope that international and national non-governmental organizations, universities, philanthropic foundations and other private groups will supplement this United Nations programme with similar programmes designed to further research and studies, the exchange of information and assistance in the field of human rights."

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