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WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION OF YOUTH

Report of the Third Committee

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CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	2
II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2061	6 - 24	2
III. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2062	25 - 27	8
IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE	28	9

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1973, allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 62, entitled "World social situation of youth: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Third Committee considered this item at its 2026th to 2033rd meetings, from 14 to 20 November 1973. The summary records of these meetings (A/C.3/SR.2026-2033) contain the views of representatives of Member States on the item.
3. The Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General on youth (E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1). The Committee also had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/9119 and Corr.1) relating to the action taken by the Economic and Social Council on the report on youth, and a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/L.2052) that contained the conclusions of the seminar on youth and human rights, held at San Remo, Italy, from 28 August to 10 September 1973.
4. The Committee also had before it the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council. 1/
5. The item was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, at the 2026th meeting. At the 2027th meeting, on 15 November, the Director of the Division of Human Rights made a statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2061

6. At the 2030th meeting, on 14 November 1973, the representative of Romania introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061) sponsored by Afghanistan, Austria, Burundi, Cyprus, Guyana, Iceland, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Yugoslavia and Zaire. Subsequently Cameroon and Thailand joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution, entitled "Concerted action on the national and international levels to meet the needs and aspirations of youth and to promote their participation in national development", read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2037 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2497 (XXIV) of 28 October 1969, 2770 (XXVI) of 22 November 1971 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1407 (XLVI) and 1752 (LIV),

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003 and Corr.1), chap. XXI, sect. A.8.

"Considering that the report of the Secretary-General on youth ^{2/} focuses attention on the complexity of the young generations' problems in terms of the realities of the world of today and the demands of the world of tomorrow, and that adequate attention should be given to the conclusions of the report, in particular those of a practical nature,

"Noting that the Secretary-General's report rightly considers youth as an integral part of society while recognizing that it has particular problems and that it often feels most strongly the impact of inequities in national and international economic and social development,

"Mindful that, because of the prevalence of mass poverty and the inequitable distribution of wealth and services in the world, most young people continue to experience serious problems in achieving their aspirations and in satisfying their basic individual, social and economic needs, in particular with regard to health, education, training, employment and participation in national, regional and international development,

"Emphasizing that the United Nations has an important role in the promotion of opportunities for young people to participate fully in national development and in international co-operation, including the achievement of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

"Considering that, as follows from the report of the Secretary-General, it is necessary to take additional measures both at the national and international levels to define and secure the rights of youth as well as its responsibilities, so as to ensure that its needs and aspirations will be adequately met,

"Convinced that the activities of the United Nations system in the field of youth should be developed in a more harmonious and concerted manner,

"1. Takes note with interest of the conclusions and proposals for action in the Secretary-General's report on youth and the conclusions of the Seminar on Youth and Human Rights that took place in San Remo, Italy, contained in document A/C.3/L.2052;

"2. Appeals to Member States to intensify their efforts to implement the principles contained in international instruments adopted in various fields regarding youth by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to implement the proposals for action contained in the Secretary-General's report, particularly:

"(a) To gear their educational policies and programmes to the task of ensuring educational opportunities and education more relevant to the preparation of youth for full participation in all aspects of life and development;

^{2/} E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1.

"(b) To formulate health policies and implement health programmes to ensure that youth will be physically able to take advantage of the increasing opportunities open to them;

"(c) To adopt all possible means to increase job opportunities in order to reduce or eliminate unemployment among young people;

"(d) To increase opportunities for youth to participate in all aspects of national and international life, especially in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade:

"3. Calls upon international, regional and non-governmental organizations, in co-operation with youth organizations, to undertake a concerted review and appraisal of their policies and programmes for youth in the light of the report of the Secretary-General, with particular relevance to education, training, employment and participation in decision-making, in order to enable them to meet more satisfactorily the needs of youth and in order to enable it to play a more effective role in promoting economic and social development and peace in the world;

"4. Recommends that United Nations reports on youth give more attention to the role of youth in the world of today and its role in the actions of peoples to realize fully the principles of the United Nations Charter, for peace and international co-operation for the liquidation of colonialism, alien domination, racial discrimination, and apartheid, and to promote progress and justice all over the world;

"5. Requests the competent and concerned organs of the United Nations system to give continued attention to regional and international meetings on the major problems of concern to the young generations and to other appropriate actions in which youth and national and international youth organizations may effectively participate;

"6. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to examine the question of the advisability of an international document on the fundamental rights and responsibilities of youth in the contemporary world and to present recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to study the situation of youth, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, on the basis of information furnished by the Member States and in consultation with youth organizations, and to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session a comprehensive report on the situation of youth in the world and on the manner in which this complex problem is being treated by the organs and executive bodies of the United Nations system."

7. Amendments to the draft resolution were submitted by Cameroon, Denmark, the German Democratic Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America. They are described below.

Preamble

8. Cameroon proposed (A/C.3/L.2063) to add, after the third preambular paragraph, the following new paragraph:

"Aware that the free development of youth in the countries under foreign domination, and particularly in southern Africa, is seriously compromised from birth and that that fact merits special attention,".

This text was later incorporated in the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1).

9. The German Democratic Republic proposed (A/C.3/L.2068) to add, after the sixth preambular paragraph, the following new paragraph:

"Convinced that international festivals such as the Tenth Festival of Youth and Students held in Berlin in July 1973 can contribute to mutual understanding and promotion of the ideas of peace and friendship among youth of all nations,".

At the 2032nd meeting, the representative of the German Democratic Republic withdrew the amendment.

Operative paragraph 2

10. Trinidad and Tobago proposed (A/C.3/L.2066) that operative paragraph 2 (b) should read as follows:

"To formulate, where necessary, and to improve and implement health policies and programmes including information and services in line with national priorities which will ensure young people taking advantage and benefiting from the information available to them;"

11. New Zealand proposed (A/C.3/L.2070), as an amendment to the amendment submitted by Trinidad and Tobago, to replace operative paragraph 2 (b) by the following:

"To formulate health policies and implement health programmes, and, where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, to make available information and services relating to communicable diseases, narcotic drugs and population programmes, in order to ensure that young people are able to take advantage of the opportunities open to them;"

12. At the 2032nd meeting, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago accepted the New Zealand subamendment.

New paragraph after operative paragraph 2

13. Cameroon proposed (A/C.3/L.2063) to add, after operative paragraph 2, the following new paragraph:

/...

"Calls upon the competent bodies of the United Nations to provide more educational and training facilities at all levels to the youth of southern Africa and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;"

This text was later incorporated in the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1) as operative paragraph 3.

Operative paragraph 3

14. The United States of America proposed (A/C.3/L.2065) to replace the words "with youth organizations" by "with youth and youth organizations". The amendment was later incorporated in operative paragraph 4 of the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1).

Operative paragraph 5

15. The United States of America proposed (A/C.3/L.2065) that the paragraph should read as follows:

"Requests the competent and concerned organs of the system of the United Nations to give continued attention to the organization of appropriate actions on the major problems of concern for the young generation;"

The representative of the United States of America subsequently withdrew the amendment.

Operative paragraph 6

16. Trinidad and Tobago proposed (A/C.3/L.2066) that the paragraph should read as follows:

"Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Social Development to study the possibility of redefining an international policy concerning the involvement of youth at the national and international levels and in accordance with the commitment of the United Nations system to develop more concerted action in the youth field and to present recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;"

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago subsequently withdrew the amendment.

17. Denmark proposed (A/C.3/L.2069) to insert after the words "contemporary world" the following:

"taking into consideration, inter alia, relevant provisions contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and also taking account of recommendations submitted by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth to the Secretary-General and opinions expressed by interested non-governmental organizations;"

The representative of Denmark subsequently withdrew the amendment.

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18. Poland proposed (A/C.3/L.2071), as subamendments to the amendment submitted by Denmark in document A/C.3/L.2069:

(a) To add, after the words "Racial Discrimination", the words "and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development";

(b) To delete the rest of the sentence.

19. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.3/L.2072) proposed, as subamendments to the amendment submitted by Denmark:

(a) To insert, after the words "and also taking into account", the words "the views expressed by the Governments of States Members of the United Nations";

(b) To delete the rest of the sentence.

Operative paragraph 7

20. The United States of America proposed (A/C.3/L.2065) that the paragraph should read as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Governments, the specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations, to assemble data on the situation of youth in such areas as education, health, and employment, and to prepare a report designed to facilitate planning especially for developing countries that would be made available to the Committee on Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, and to submit the report to the thirty-first General Assembly through the Commission for Social Development."

The representative of the United States of America subsequently withdrew the amendment.

Revised draft resolution

21. At the 2032nd meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Romania, on behalf of the sponsors, announced certain revisions in the draft resolution. The sponsors had taken into account a number of amendments and suggestions. In particular, the title had been modified by the insertion of the words "and international" before the word "development".

22. At the 2033rd meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Romania, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1) sponsored by Afghanistan, Austria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cyprus, Guyana, Iceland, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Thailand, Yugoslavia and Zaire. Gabon, Togo and Trinidad and Tobago subsequently joined the sponsors.

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23. At the same meeting, the representative of Romania, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 7, which in the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1) had read:

"7. Requests the Commission for Social Development, having ascertained the views of non-governmental organizations representing youth to examine the question of the advisability of an international document on the fundamental rights and responsibilities of youth in the contemporary world and to present recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;"

to read as follows:

"7. Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Social Development to study the possibility of redefining an international policy concerning the involvement of youth at the national and international levels, including the advisability of an international document on youth, taking into consideration, inter alia, relevant provisions contained in existing international instruments and the views expressed by Governments of States Members of the United Nations and by interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and to present recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;"

24. At the 2033rd meeting, the Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1) as orally revised (see paragraph 23 above). At the request of the representative of Brazil, a separate vote was taken on the words "population programmes" in the New Zealand amendment (A/C.3/L.2070) to operative paragraph 2 (b) (see paragraphs 11 and 12 above). The voting was as follows:

(a) The words "population programmes" were retained by 69 votes to 2, with 21 abstentions;

(b) The amendment to operative paragraph 2 (b) (A/C.3/L.2070) was adopted by 81 votes to 1, with 20 abstentions;

(c) The revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1), as orally revised and as amended, was adopted by 107 votes to none, with 1 abstention (see paragraph 28 below, draft resolution I).

III. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2062

25. At the 2030th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Sierra Leone introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2062) sponsored by Algeria, Chad, Dahomey, Ghana, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo and Tunisia. Subsequently, Argentina, the Congo, Guinea, Guyana, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Republic, Oman, the Sudan and Trinidad and Tobago joined the list of sponsors.

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26. Afghanistan proposed (A/C.3/L.2067) to insert in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, after the words "under colonial", the words "and alien domination".

27. At the 2033rd meeting on 20 November, the Committee voted on the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2062) and on the amendment thereto. The voting was as follows:

(a) The amendment to operative paragraph 4 (A/C.3/L.2067) was adopted by 78 votes to none, with 3 abstentions;

(b) Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 108 votes to none, with 1 abstention (see paragraph 28 below, draft resolution II).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

28. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Concerted action on the national and international levels to meet the needs and aspirations of youth and to promote their participation in national and international development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2037 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2497 (XXIV) of 28 October 1969 and 2770 (XXVI) of 22 November 1971, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1407 (XLVI) of 5 June 1960 and 1752 (LIV) of 16 May 1973,

Considering that the report of the Secretary-General on youth 3/ focuses attention on the complexity of the young generations' problems in terms of the realities of the world of today and the demands of the world of tomorrow, and that adequate attention should be given to the conclusions of the report, in particular those of a practical nature,

Noting that the Secretary-General's report recognizes that youth, an integral part of society, has particular problems and that it is more affected by the impact of inequities in national and international economic and social development,

Aware that the free development of youth in the countries under foreign domination, and particularly in southern Africa, is seriously compromised from birth and that that fact merits special attention,

3/ E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486 Summary and Corr.1.

Mindful that, because of the prevalence of mass poverty and the inequitable distribution of wealth and services in the world, most young people continue to experience serious problems in achieving their aspirations and in satisfying their basic individual, social and economic needs, in particular with regard to health, education, training, employment and participation in national, regional and international development,

Emphasizing that the United Nations can play an important role in the promotion of opportunities for young people to participate fully in national development and in international co-operation, including the achievement of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Considering that, as follows from the report of the Secretary-General, it is necessary to take additional measures both at the national and international levels to define and secure the rights of youth as well as its responsibilities, so as to ensure that its needs and aspirations will be adequately met and its role implemented fully,

Convinced that the activities of the United Nations system in the field of youth should be developed in a more harmonious and concerted manner,

1. Takes note with interest of the conclusions and proposals for action contained in the Secretary-General's report on youth and the conclusions of the Seminar on Youth and Human Rights that took place at San Remo, Italy, ^{4/}

2. Appeals to Member States to intensify their efforts to implement the principles contained in international instruments adopted in various fields regarding youth by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to implement the proposals for action contained in the Secretary-General's report, particularly:

(a) To gear their educational policies and programmes to the task of ensuring educational opportunities and education more relevant to the preparation of youth for full participation in all aspects of life and development;

(b) To formulate health policies and implement health programmes, and, where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, to make available information and services relating to communicable diseases, narcotic drugs and population programmes, in order to ensure that young people are able to take advantage of the opportunities open to them;

(c) To adopt all possible means to increase work opportunities in order to reduce or eliminate unemployment among young people;

^{4/} ST/TAO/HR.47; the conclusions of the Seminar are reproduced in a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/L.2052).

(d) To increase opportunities for youth to participate in all aspects of national and international life, especially in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade;

3. Calls upon the competent bodies of the United Nations to provide more educational and training facilities at all levels to the youth of southern Africa and of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

4. Calls upon international, regional and non-governmental organizations, in co-operation with youth and youth organizations, to undertake a concerted review and appraisal of their policies and programmes for youth, both in rural and urban areas, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General, with particular relevance to education, training, employment and participation in decision-making, in order to enable them to meet more satisfactorily the needs of youth and in order to enable it to play a more effective role in promoting economic and social development and peace in the world;

5. Recommends that United Nations reports on youth should give more attention to the role of youth in the world of today and its role in the actions of peoples aimed at realizing fully the principles of the Charter of the United Nations for peace and international co-operation and for the liquidation of colonialism, alien domination, racial discrimination and apartheid, and at promoting progress and justice all over the world;

6. Requests the competent and concerned organizations of the United Nations system to give continued attention to regional and international meetings on the major problems of concern to the young generations and to other appropriate actions in which youth and national and international youth organizations may effectively participate;

7. Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Social Development to study the possibility of redefining an international policy concerning the involvement of youth at the national and international levels, including the advisability of an international document on youth, taking into consideration, inter alia, relevant provisions contained in existing international instruments and the views expressed by Governments of Member States and by interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, and to present recommendations to the Council at its fifty-eighth session, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Governments, the specialized agencies, interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and youth organizations, to assemble data on the problems confronting youth and on the manner in which these problems are being treated by the organs and executive bodies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report designed to facilitate planning especially for developing countries and to submit it to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session through the Commission for Social Development and to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Youth, its education and its responsibilities
in the world of today

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2445 (XXIII) and 2447 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968,

Recalling further its resolution 2497 (XXIV) of 28 October 1969 on youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development,

Recalling, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 5/ and the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, 6/

Recognizing the important role which the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the Governments of Member States must play to enable youth to meet the challenge of the unprecedented development of science and technology,

Recognizing further the importance of the role of youth and its contribution to economic and social progress and to peace and international solidarity,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation of youth, 7/

1. Invites the attention of the Member States to their responsibility for maintaining a policy conforming to the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and conducive to the elimination of colonialism, racism, apartheid and similar policies, thus preserving and strengthening the faith of youth in these values;

2. Emphasizes the importance of increased co-ordination between United Nations organs and the specialized agencies in the activities and programmes relating to youth and continuing co-operation with the Governments of Member States in order to achieve an effective and harmonious approach to the problems confronting youth;

5/ General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX).

6/ General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX).

7/ E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1.

3. Solemnly invites all young people to affirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in order to further the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding among peoples;

4. Reaffirms the importance for the administering Powers of urgently undertaking all necessary measures to further by all appropriate means and in conformity with the Charter the education and training of youth in the countries and territories still under colonial and alien domination and foreign occupation with a view to expediting their liberation and the full exercise of their right to self-determination;

5. Urges Governments to ensure to youth:

(a) More favourable conditions in the fields of education, training, health, social welfare and employment;

(b) An appropriate opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation;

(c) The possibility of participating in decisions on questions of national interest, particularly those which concern youth;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.
