

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1986/20/Add.2
15 January 1986

ENGLISH
Original: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
FRENCH/RUSSIAN/SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-second session

3 February - 14 March 1986

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE
COMMISSION; ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Report of the Secretary-General

Development of Public Information Activities in the Field of Human Rights

Replies from Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and non-governmental organizations

AUSTRALIA

[Original: ENGLISH]

[16 October 1985]

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Note, which requested "relevant material in the field of human rights already prepared by specialised agencies", we have attached an example of the material used in Australia's human rights teaching programme - the Human Rights Teaching Kit - which the Centre for Human Rights may find useful in the preparation by the United Nations of the proposed basic human rights teaching booklet.

The Human Rights Teaching Kit was prepared in Australia for the Human Rights Commission in response to a generally agreed need for explicit teaching in primary and secondary schools to promote human rights. It was produced in the latter half of 1984 after trials and evaluations by educators. The kit contains three booklets: one concerning racism; another sexism; and one on human rights. In addition it contains a video cassette with two films: one on the rights of people with mental disabilities; and the other on human rights for the classroom and the school. The material has been widely distributed to Australian schools and is used in many.

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It has been targetted at upper level primary and secondary classes (age groups 10-15) and has proved an effective foundation for discussion and study of additional questions including prisoners of conscience, peace, development, law awareness and multiculturalism. The materials developed in the Kit are considered by the Human Rights Commission to be more comprehensive and more closely tailored to classroom use than other materials available anywhere in the world.

In addition, the Australian Government believes what is now required is a strategy for the development of human rights teaching internationally. This would carry the momentum from endorsing the ideals of human rights teaching to practical commitments. Such a strategy might embrace four main steps:

The collection of what human rights teaching material there are in the world;

The collation of the best ideas available, drafted with world-wide use in mind. Material of this sort (a booklet or set of booklets) would need to respect the universalist character of human rights while accounting for the diversity of world cultures and political systems.

An invitation could then be made to all member States to take part, adapting and developing the material to their own needs. Those States participating would evaluate the material and report back.

A commitment to build the resulting reports into more comprehensive materials and return them for use in member States.

The underlying philosophy (and hence the value of) this strategy, would be its reliance on member States developing and evaluating material at each stage.

The Australian Government believes the strategy of curriculum development employed by the Australian Teaching Kit to foster the process of adoption and adaption of the teaching materials could serve as one useful model for international human rights teaching.

BOLIVIA

[Original: Spanish]

[1 November 1985]

The Government of Bolivia, through the co-operation of the Centre for Human Rights, succeeded in January 1985 in translating one of the most important instruments of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol, into the Aymara and Quechua languages. These documents, translated into the native languages of Bolivia, have been issued for distribution to workers' associations and governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the question.

The Constitutional Government of Bolivia observes the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and therefore gives it the widest dissemination.

BURKINA FASO

[Original: French]

[15 October 1985]

With regard to paragraph 1 of the resolution in question, it is not superfluous to say that in the opinion of the National Council for the Revolution, man, a constituent part of the people, is at the beginning and at the end of social, political, economic and cultural development and is entitled to all considerations.

The resolution has been favourably received in Burkina Faso with regard to its application and implementation. It does not break new ground. On every occasion, government officials do not fail to express publicly their devotion to the ideals and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A member of the Security Council, Burkina Faso through the President of the National Council for the Revolution, the President of Faso, stated forcefully in his message of 4 August 1985 that during its term as member of the Security Council of the United Nations, it will never fail in its mission as defender of the right of peoples in the face of the blind barbarity and brutality of the wild beasts of the International Brotherhood of Beelzebub.

With regard to information activities in the field of human rights, Burkina, without waiting for Commission resolution 1985/49, has since the advent of the Revolution of 4 August 1985, opened wide the columns and antennae of the national news bodies to the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) at Ouagadougou for the dissemination of information on United Nations activities.

Every fortnight - every other Saturday on radio and every other Monday on television - the United Nations Information Centre broadcasts a 45-minute programme entitled respectively "Fréquence ONU" and "Canal ONU".

The government weekly Carrefour Africain offers a platform to the United Nations Information Centre.

UNIC is also offered the opportunity, in case of an emergency, of disseminating press releases and information bulletins on United Nations decisions and activities in radio and television news broadcasts and the columns of the daily newspaper Sidwaya.

Independently of all the facilities offered it, UNIC is authorized, by the Government of the National Council for the Revolution, to publish and distribute its own "UN Flash" bulletin.

With regard to paragraph 9, it may be said that the application of the provisions of Commission resolution 1985/49 will give rise to other comments and proposals for enhancing the promotional activities of the United Nations.

However, we wish to make the following suggestions to the United Nations:

Organization of youth festivals;

Organization of youth exchanges;

Encouragement and intensification of the practice of "fair play" at subregional and regional sports meetings and in all other cultural events;

Doing everything possible to solve the problem of economic disparities;
A strenuous and relentless struggle against any domination in the world
(apartheid, zionism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, the use of
outer space for military purposes, etc.)

CANADA

[Original: English]

[12 December 1985]

A. Publicity within Canada on United Nations activities in the field of human rights

Paragraph 1 of resolution 1985/49 requests "all Governments to take appropriate action to facilitate through all available means, including the mass media, publicity regarding United Nations activities in the field of human rights, ..."

In response to that request, the note of the Secretary-General and the resolution of the Commission on Human Rights were brought to the attention of provincial and territorial governments and appropriate federal departments and agencies. The report of the Secretary-General on this subject (E/CN.4/1985/16) was also distributed to these authorities.

In addition, as a special initiative on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and in celebration of Human Rights Day, 1985, the "Selective list of materials on human rights which should be held by all United Nations Information Centres", contained in annex II to the Secretary-General's report, is being sent to universities and principal reference libraries in Canada.

Canada will continue to promote the diffusion of information on United Nations human rights activities through various means and on the occasion of special events such as United Nations Day and Human Rights Day.

B. Comments on United Nations activities

Paragraph 9 of the Commission on Human Rights resolution invites Governments to "submit further comments and proposals for enhancing the promotional activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights".

Canada believes that the initiatives proposed to the Secretary-General by the Commission on Human Rights will contribute to an increased awareness of the meaning and importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations Organization and its affiliated agencies.

The Government of Canada notes with satisfaction the references made in the resolution to the co-operation between the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies of the United Nations and encourages the strengthening of this co-operation. For example, with regard to the preparation of a basic human rights teaching booklet as proposed in paragraph 6, special co-operation with UNESCO would be indicated, given UNESCO's mandate and expertise in this field.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

[Original: French]

[28 October 1985]

1. TRAINING

The Government has authorized the participation of some officials in international meetings and educational seminars on human rights, in particular the fifteenth educational session on human rights of July 1984, held at Strasbourg, by the International Institute of Human Rights with the assistance of the United Nations.

This year, the Government has submitted the candidacy of a magistrate for a training fellowship in human rights at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

2. INFORMATION

In July 1985 the Government organized a televised debate on human rights, in which the participants included the Ambassador of the United States of America at Bangui, its cultural adviser, the representative of the European Economic Commission, the General Secretary in the Office of the President of the Government, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, the Director of Civil Affairs and Keeper of the Seals in the Ministry of Justice, a lawyer and some guests.

During the debate various subjects were taken up (apartheid and United States policy, the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé and human rights, human rights in the United States, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, human rights and Central African justice). This unique debate took place over three programmes and was rebroadcast on one occasion.

In addition to this special debate, the Ministry of Justice broadcasts once a week a programme on justice and the judicial apparatus, in which the rights and duties of citizens are stressed.

3. EDUCATION

Thanks to the fortunate initiative of the Dean of the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences, human rights are taught at the University, particularly in courses on public freedoms. This year, the Dean gave a special course on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights adopted at Nairobi in 1981.

4. COMMENTS

Although the Central African Republic is one of the countries of the United Nations to have ratified the greatest number of international human rights instruments (23), it would be interesting and necessary for the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva to disseminate those instruments widely at all national levels (grammar schools, secondary schools, universities, the civil service and private sectors), in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant Covenants.

The United Nations should promote somewhat more teaching and training in the field of human rights by increasing the quota of fellowships for seminars and participants in the various sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

CHAD

[Original: French]

[17 August 1985]

The question of human rights in regard to the resolution on development of public information activities, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 14 March 1985, does not call for any special comments on the part of Chad; however, it is important for more than one reason.

It should be said that it is through information alone that the public can be reached and the message transmitted.

To this end, the development of public information activities and the establishment of efficient information facilities are essential.

Because of the special events that the country has experienced, publicity in the field of human rights is not yet very developed in Chad. However, the texts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are taught in pilot schools.

It would therefore have been desirable for special broadcasts on human rights to be transmitted by the Chad National Radio Station in local languages, so that everyone could grasp the exact importance of human rights, and for human rights to be taught in schools at all levels, through inclusion in the curricula.

DENMARK

[Original: English]

[15 July 1985]

A Danish Human Rights Committee was established at the beginning of 1981 on the initiative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The members of the said committee were appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At present the Committee is composed of 17 members including representatives of other ministries and various non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection of human rights on a general and international level.

The Committee is intended as a forum for informal discussions and for an exchange of views and information about the development in international work for the protection of human rights including the study of possible initiatives aimed at further promoting and strengthening the respect of human rights.

The Chairman of the Committee is the Under-Secretary of State for Legal Affairs and meetings are held about three to four times a year.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

[Original: English]

[16 September 1985]

A booklet of the German UNESCO Commission entitled "Der internationale Menschenrechtsschutz" constitutes a part of the multi-volume series "Human Rights - Teaching and Learning Materials for Extracurricular Education" specifically designed for the preparation of the subject of human rights for teaching purposes. On the same subject the volumes "Human Rights - a challenge in education" and "Teaching human rights" have been published by the Federal Agency for Political Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung). Unfortunately all of these publications are available only in German.

GHANA

[Original: English]

[30 September 1985]

To enhance the promotional activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights, the competent Ghanaian authorities consider that it is necessary to expand the number and broaden the scope, of the various organizations which promote the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights. To this end, it is suggested that local institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary, the Police, the Prison Service, and the Labour and Social Welfare Department be included in the promotional activities of the United Nations. Periodic seminars and courses should be organized for officers of such institutions to acquaint them with problems in the field of human rights and how they may be addressed.

Furthermore, material and other relevant documentation in the field of human rights should be made available to such institutions.

MADAGASCAR

[Original: French]

[20 November 1985]

In Madagascar, the majority of international instruments relating to human rights are reproduced in many manuals, collections of legislative and regulatory texts or brochures, available to the public.

The Malagasy Radio Television Network and press disseminate information received in the country on all national and international events concerning human rights, in accordance with the freedom of information and subject to legal provisions relating to the protection of national security and public order.

In this connection, it should be noted that the freedoms of expression, of the press and of assembly are guaranteed to citizens when they are exercised in accordance with the objectives of the Revolution, the interests of the workers and the community, with a view to strengthening the country's new democracy for the establishment of a socialist State, as specified in article 28 of the Constitution.

With regard to the proposals for enhancing the promotional activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights (paragraph 9 of the resolution), in particular those relating to information, it is suggested that the United Nations should once again examine the problems hampering the establishment of a "new world information order", desired by all developing countries.

The dissemination of texts relating to the United Nations activities in general and dealing with human rights in particular should be at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself, the only recipient of all international instruments and documents.

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]

[15 October 1985]

To commemorate Human Rights Day the official information organs of the State of Qatar put out special programmes which included documentary films, television and radio broadcasts. In addition, the Qatar News Agency disseminated reports and local newspapers gave wide coverage to the subject of human rights.

USSR

[Original: Russian]

[27 December 1985]

The Soviet Union constantly supports the activities of the United Nations as an important instrument for the strengthening of international security, and peace and co-operation among peoples. The USSR consistently comes out in favour of achieving international co-operation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

The ideas of publicizing this trend in the activity of the United Nations is understood and supported in the USSR, which throughout its history has made a weighty contribution to the formation and promotion in international relations of the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It was precisely the Soviet Union that put forward the proposal for inclusion in the Charter of the United Nations of the provision on international co-operation "in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".

The Soviet people is deeply gratified by the fact that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the twenty-fifth anniversary of which was recently celebrated by the international community, was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the initiative of the USSR.

The Declaration, drawn up through the collective efforts of many States, helped to unite the freedom-loving forces of all continents, to mobilize them for decisive actions with a view to the liquidation of the shameful system of colonialism, and to ensure the right of peoples to self-determination and independence, the right freely to build their own future without outside interference.

The name of the USSR is linked with the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which gave a powerful impulse to the fight by the international community for the liquidation of a most reprehensible form of racism - apartheid.

The USSR actively supported the elaboration by the United Nations of such basic international documents in this field as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, Principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, etc. The provisions set forth in them are well-known to Soviet citizens and steadfastly implemented in the Soviet Union.

Their texts are printed in publications circulated widely and accessible to all. In particular, the texts of the international agreements on human rights to which the Soviet Union is a party are published in the "Reports of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR", issued in the languages of all the Union Republics of the USSR. They are also printed in the "Collection of international agreements of the USSR" and other publications. These official publications are printed in large numbers and distributed to State and social organizations, judicial administrations, and libraries in the USSR. Any citizen of the USSR or foreigner can subscribe to these publications.

In addition, the USSR has issued such publications as "The Soviet Union and the United Nations", the collection "International law in documents", which contains a special section "Human rights and international law" including texts of international documents in this field. These documents are examined in the textbooks of the law, philosophy, history and other faculties of universities and other higher educational institutions, which study constitutional law, international law, the history and theory of law and the history of political theories. In addition, legal institutes and law faculties of universities offer special courses on human rights issues. In secondary schools of the Soviet Union, these questions are dealt with in courses on social sciences and the foundations of the State and law. Human rights questions are included in the curricula of secondary schools and higher educational establishments throughout the territory of the USSR.

Considerable work is also carried out in this regard in the people's law universities, the All-Union society "Znanie", the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, the Committee of Soviet Women and other social organizations of the Soviet Union.

Every year there is widespread observance by the Soviet public of Human Rights Day, International Day for the Liquidation of Racial Discrimination, International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa and other measures in this field.

Questions relating to United Nations activities in the human rights field are reflected in the "Yearbook of Human Rights", issued by the State and Law Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the "Soviet Yearbook of International Law", issued by the Soviet International Law Association and other periodicals.

The central, Republic and local press organs regularly publish a large number of articles and other material devoted to human rights questions. Considerable attention is given to the subject of human rights in radio and television broadcasts of the USSR and Union Republics.

It is clear that the United Nations Department of Public Information has considerable opportunities to publicize the useful activities of the United Nations relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, and the protection of a most important human right - the right to live in conditions of peace. In this connection, it is important once again to draw the attention of broad sections of world public opinion to the imperative requirement of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - the prohibition by law of all war propaganda. It is essential to stress the importance of recently adopted General Assembly resolutions which resolutely condemned atomic warfare as contrary to human conscience and reason, as the most monstrous crime against peoples and as trampling the first human right - the right to life. In the conditions of a nuclear-missile age it is essential to

publicize urgently the decisions of United Nations bodies which condemn the preparation, promotion, dissemination and propagandizing of political and military doctrines and concepts designed to justify the "legitimacy" of being the first to use nuclear weapons and the "admissibility" of unleashing an atomic war, and the decisions aimed at halting the arms race on earth and preventing its transfer to outer space.

The task of publicizing through the mass media the struggle of the international community against flagrant and mass violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms resulting from a policy of aggression, fascism, racism and colonialism, and against suppression of the national liberation struggle has not lost its urgency.

In view of the fact that 1986 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Covenants on Human Rights, it is extremely important to publicize the basic international agreements on human rights questions adopted by the United Nations, to give those agreements a genuinely universal character through further enlargement of the number of their parties, and to draw attention to the need for the strict observance of those agreements by all States.

FAO

[Original: English]

[13 September 1985]

FILMS AND TELEVISION

"Ethiopia: A fight for survival": video programme on the rehabilitation of agriculture in Ethiopia. English only. Duration 22 minutes.

"Can Africa recover?": video programme on rehabilitation of agriculture in the Chad and the Sudan. Original in French entitled "La Terre d'Afrique peut-elle survivre?". Duration 20 minutes.

"The forgotten farmers": 16 mm film on women in agriculture, shown at the United Nations Conference on Women, Nairobi. Original in English. Versions in Arabic, French, Spanish. Duration 28 minutes.

CURRENT INFORMATION

In addition to coverage of the Director-General's speeches highlighting the world food problems, and the urgency of the crisis in Africa, FAO/GII issued press releases on emergency food aid, on the International Year of Forest and on the crisis in Africa. A news feature was issued on "Land, Food and People".

Press briefings, or information on the food problem were given to a wide variety of press contacts including Asahi Shimbun of Japan, Associated Press, Reuters, United Press International, The Wall Street Journal, The Times, Time Magazine, Le Monde, La Croix, Jeune Afrique, La Presse, Inter Press Service, La Voz, El Pais, The International Herald Tribune, The Guardian, The New York Times, Agence France Presse to name but a few.

WORLD FOOD DAY

In connection with World Food Day 1985, the following four full-length feature stories were issued:

Forestry and food security;

Food and the environment;

Rural poverty;

Fighting world hunger.

FIELD REPORTAGE MISSIONS

Special journalists' missions to report on the famine in Africa, and on the rehabilitation of agriculture, were completed by The Observer in Botswana, by ANP of the Netherlands in Lesotho and Zimbabwe, La Croix in the Sudan, among others. Missions were also sent by Le Monde to Thailand and Nepal, and by The Times to Brazil and Bolivia.

PUBLICATIONS

During the past year public information booklets have been produced on the following subjects falling within the realm of man's right to food:

"Protect and Produce" on soil conservation for development;

"Forestry for Development";

"Sharing experience for progress" on TCDC.

RADIO

To date, during 1985 approximately 120 programmes on the world food situation have been produced by GII in association with 29 correspondents.

EXHIBITS

Exhibits dramatizing the problems of the third world countries, and FAO's work in assisting them toward self-reliance, were set up at:

The Berlin Green Week Jubilee, Federal Republic of Germany;

Tsukuba Fair, Tokyo;

The Verona Agricultural Fair, Italy;

The Milan International Trade Fair, Italy;

The Novi Sad Fair, Yugoslavia;

Mexico City in connection with the World Forestry Congress;

The French Cultural Centre in Nairobi, Kenya;

The United Nations Womens' Conference, Nairobi;

The Indian Ocean Conference on Marine Affairs, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Over 7,000 black/white photographs of food and nutritional problems of the third world, and on many facets of development, were processed in the FAO Photo Library. In addition, 1,325 inter-negatives and films were processed and 99 blow-ups of prints were produced.

Prints in colour of various sizes totalled 1,850 with 9,150 duplicate transparencies, inter-negatives, colour slides and films processed and 9,000 colour slides mounted.

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT COMMUNICATION (DSC)

DSC is the use of communications media and techniques to support rural development by (a) promoting understanding of objectives among rural peoples and motivating them toward change, and (b) increasing the impact of extension work and training at the grass-roots level. During 1985, GII will backstop approximately 50 DSC projects in the field, and follow-up on approximately 15 pipeline projects.

WORLD FOOD DAY

World Food Day, celebrated on 16 October, was established in order to increase global awareness of the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and to stimulate national and international action in the struggle to feed the world. It is FAO's policy that World Food Day will be observed every year until the right to food is fully realized throughout the world.

In both concept and action, World Food Day is a public awareness programme which promotes freedom from hunger and the right to food. WFD activities are carried out at various levels: at the international level through observances at FAO headquarters in Rome; at the regional level through FAO Regional and Liaison Offices; at the national level through WFD National Committees, which may be governmental or non-governmental.

World Food Day constitutes not only one day of commemoration on food issues, but also promotes year-long and world-wide efforts to end hunger. WFD activities at the country level may include new agricultural and food production projects, food policy announcements, seminars, television and radio programmes, official government ceremonies, prize-giving to farmers, etc. WFD promotional materials are prepared annually and distributed through FAO representatives around the world. This year's materials include: one information bulletin, two posters, a brochure, a handbook for schools, four press features, radio programmes, a TV statement by the Director-General, national-level booklets on FAO country co-operation, a booklet on FAO's work over its 40-year history, a press conference.

World Food Day activities and materials spread information on food issues, educate the general public on the long-term efforts needed to fight hunger and promote people's participation through its own activities and co-operation with NGOs concerned with development.

FAO is consistently striving to protect the right to food for all using, when appropriate, innovative approaches. Thus, following a series of self-appraisals in the 1970s, the Organization is promoting the right to food by stressing the role of women in food and agricultural production and of people's participation in rural development.

All FAO field programmes are now required to include women's considerations in the identification, design, implementation and evaluation of rural development programmes and projects, with a view to promoting the integration of women into the development process. To this end, WFD 1984 had as its theme "Women in Agriculture" and it highlighted FAO's overall concerns with the plight of women and the accompanying priority decision to incorporate women in development strategies.

In attempting to implement programmes designed to recognize and enhance the preponderant role played by women in world food production; to ease women's burdens, long working days, and undervalued/unrecognized labour inputs; and to see to it that women as well as men share the benefits of development, FAO is emphasizing the human dimension of the world hunger problem.

World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) outlines a broad-based, humanistic approach to world hunger. WCARRD strategy pinpoints the eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty as the key to transformation of rural life and envisions international and domestic efforts to deal with the structural causes of poverty. WCARRD principles and programme of action are designed to promote rural development, self-reliance and a higher quality of life in rural areas. Among the key elements of WCARRD is people's participation in the development process. The Peasant's Charter states: "Participation by the people in the institutions and systems which govern their lives is a basic human right and also essential for realignment of political power in favour of disadvantaged groups for social and economic development. Rural development strategies can realize their full potential only through the motivation, active involvement and organization at the grass-roots level of rural people ..." (Peasants' Charter, p.13).

In accordance with the WCARRD mandate, FAO has undertaken to promote national strategies which require the promotion of rural institutions and people's organizations along with the adoption of necessary structural reforms. A constant theme is the amelioration of the situation of the disadvantaged in rural society. Through the People's Participation Programme, FAO works through informal groups and centres, where possible, on income-generating activities. The groups emphasize the principles of self-organization and self-reliance. This programme's approach assumes that involving people in the preparation of projects will eventually benefit them and lead to greater efficiency.

WCARRD promotes concern for people involved in development. The general programme attempts to treat people as the protagonists in the development process and not as objects of the "trickle-down effect".

Furthermore, WCARRD is a framework whose theoretical orientation is in accordance with the general requirements envisioned in the human rights system describing the relationship between individuals and the State. Noteworthy in this regard are three WCARRD elements: the call for a realization of a higher standard of living for everyone, the emphasis on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and the call for participation by people. These notions reflect many human rights including freedom from want, the right to be equal before the law, the right to participate in determining one's destiny (i.e. political participation, self-determination), and the right to form organizations including trade unions, etc. These principles are practical measures which, as implemented, will certainly lead to the realization of the right to food.

ILO

[Original: English]

[9 August 1985]

A compilation of Conventions and Recommendations, grouped by subject-matter has been published in English and the French edition will appear very shortly. In addition, the Spanish Government has established a Spanish version of the same compilation.

Concerning activities envisaged to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ILO has in mind the preparation of a publication which would provide an updated comparative analysis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights and the standards adopted by the ILO.

The publication of an updated fact sheet on "Human Rights and the ILO" is also being currently prepared.

By way of example of measures taken by ILO to make its standard-setting activities better known, the following ILO publications can be cited:

Chart of ratifications of international labour Conventions (January 1985, with changes as at 1 June 1985);

A booklet on International labour standards;

Manual on procedures relating to International Labour Conventions and Recommendations, 1984;

International Labour Standards. A workers' Education Manual, 2nd edition, 1982;

Developing Countries and ILO Standards. Proceedings of the Regional Tripartite Seminar on Practice and Procedures in formulating Labour Standards (Bangkok, 26-30 April 1982), ILO (ARPLA), Bangkok, 1982;

Developing Countries and ILO Standards. A Guide to Practice and Procedures in formulating international labour Standards, 2nd Edition, ILO (ARPLA), Bangkok, 1984;

ILO principles, standards and procedures concerning freedom of association, 1978;

ILO standards and action for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment, 1984.

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

[Original: English]

[13 September 1985]

MAJOR PROJECT ON PEACE AND GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION

Objectives and Organization

The UNU Major Project on Peace and Global Transformation has been organized around problem-clusters in the areas of conflicts arising from conditions of mass inequity and deprivation, lack of respect for human rights and basic needs, unstable peace and security, run-away science and technology and their social and political consequences, environmental degradation and the conflicts over natural resources, social conflicts over race, religion and ethnicity, and the search for mechanisms of conflict resolution among nations, sub-national groups and regions. Such problems are studied at the global, regional and local levels. Research is undertaken through networks of university departments, research institutions as well as individual scholars including those working in official agencies. The results are published in series of books, monographs, and papers.

This Major Project is a new research programme of the United Nations University. The work of conceptualization and planning for the Major Project was done during 1982. Sub-projects in different regions of the globe were planned during 1983 and the early part of 1984 and are now fully in the process of implementation. The full programme extends up to the end of 1987, coinciding with the Medium Term Perspective of the United Nations University. But since 1984 it has been divided into two biennial segments, 1984-85 and 1986-87. The first segment is devoted to empirical research at the local and regional levels and during the second, the plan is to incorporate the research results from the first phase into analyses at the global level along six of the most challenging global themes. These are:

1. Global, regional and local conflicts over natural resources (including non-material space resources like radio-bands and satellite orbits);
2. The global economic crisis and its impact on different regions and States;
3. The militarization process (including the arms-race, military research and development and militarism as an ideology);
4. The role of the State and intergovernmental agencies;
5. The problems of human rights, basic needs and cultural identity and the related problems of violence in and growing vulnerability of individuals and communities;
6. The role of science and technology in peace and transformation (and inversely in promoting violence and protecting the status quo).

What the Major Project is designed to do is to take a holistic perspective by studying the interactions and interlinkages among the problem-areas. The idea is to identify the trends and counter-trends which are emerging as a result of the interlinkages. The trends, it may be said, outline the "danger-zones" and within these the most dangerous points are identified, described

and analysed. At the same time, the interlinkages among the problem-areas also show counter-trends, some as a result of corrective steps taken at the State level or intergovernmental level but largely due to the actions of a growing of popular movements for peace, ecological preservation, participative democracy, development with justice, human rights and for the survival of endangered cultures. The Major Project identifies within such counter-trends, and points at where the most efficacious and constructive intervention can take place. Conceptually, it operates at three levels: the conceptual, the empirical and the communicative; and all these levels are sought to be linked.

Human rights

Research under the rubric of human rights is being conducted in South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America. The four empirical components within the rubric are: violence, human rights, basic needs and cultural survival. Since each issue within the larger problematique on peace and transformation are examined at five levels, the human rights issue is also examined within that framework. These are:

Conflicts over Natural Resources;

Global, economic crisis;

Militarization;

Role of the State;

Human rights.

The modalities of each sub-project is translated into actual research by a network of scholars and activists. A process of information exchange is set up through meetings, a system of correspondence and contact. This feed-back system not only circulates resources, ideas and end-results intra-network; it also results in new institutions and other researchers joining the UNU network thereby setting up a dynamic process which

(a) collated research already conducted,

(b) indicated where the current trends had given way to counter-trends.

South-East Asia

Network activity within South-East Asia was initiated by Core Group Member Dr. Lim Teck Ghee in 1983-84. The process of information exchange, participation in meetings and joint work will continue into 1986 in collaboration with grass-roots and other non-governmental organizations and will deepen in the course of the project to provide the necessary praxis in order to inform the project participants in their attempt to construct a "coherent theory which establishes the now hidden interlinkages" between the local, regional and global problems of the role of the State, militarization, the economic crisis, conflict over natural resources, destruction of cultures and violations of human rights.

Africa

In 1986 all studies under the rubric "Conflicts over Natural Resources" will be linked to the Food-Energy Nexus Major Project. Results of studies on

Conflicts over Natural Resources will be linked to those within the South East Asia network. The projects under the rubric "Role of the State" will be interlinked in a transregional network. The co-ordinators of these programmes will meet Dr. Omo-Fadaka to plan and design thematic and empirical linkages. The final product of this network will be a composite publication entitled "Conflicts". This will be produced in 1987.

Research under the rubric "Human Rights and Cultural Survival" will be initiated in the African region. A seminar has been planned for September 1985. The participants will prepare and deliver studies on mass migration due to insecurity, human rights at grass-roots level, the role of modern communication in the context of human rights, the study of women as human rights issues, militarization, and People's Security.

During 1987, studies on the theme of Human Rights and Cultural Survival which have been completed by the end of 1985 will be linked with explorations into the perceptions of desirable societies in various ethical and religious systems, studies on the global impact of human migration, the problems of ethnic minorities (planned at the Rome meeting as a joint project with RGSD). The issue of overall human social development, as a macro-perspective will also be investigated in the African context. As a result of all these activities an overall picture of the peace and transformation problematique in Africa is expected to emerge by the end of 1987.

Latin America

Dr. Jose A. Silva-Michelena, Core Group Member, Latin America has planned a project interlinking violence, human rights and the cultural survival dimensions. The research will explore: the relationship between political régimes and specific forms of organized violence and its impact upon human rights and cultural survival; the relationship between political régimes and non-violence movements, their negotiations with Governments, and all these new factors ("counter-trends") leading to a non-violent alternative to life; the relationship between violence in the social and political system which will be a country-by-country exploration of the alternatives to violence and a more participative form of development.

The methodology will be case-study oriented. Certain Latin American countries like Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador and Peru have been selected. Researchers already working within the country have been selected to form part of the network. A monograph compiled as a result of this research effort will be edited by a co-ordinator. Two workshops have been planned. The first will be held at the beginning of the 1986-1987 segment, to plan the research design and theoretical framework of the project. The second workshop will conclude the project and discuss the research results.

Furthermore, efforts will be made to integrate the work done during the period covering 1984-1986 in Latin America and co-ordinate it with research from outside the region in order to reach an integrated perspective on the Global Economic Crisis and the Human Rights dimensions.

Expected output

In its present form and content the Peace and Global Transformation Major Project concludes at the end of 1987. Preparations for its conclusion in the form of putting together the results of all its research activities (empirical

and conceptual at the local, regional and global levels) within the Major Project itself and joint activities with other programmes within the UNU will begin in early 1987. Research results will then be made available in manuscript as well as synthesized form. Since most of the research on Human Rights issues starts in the 1985-1987 segment, results are expected to be disseminated in 1987 with a mid-project report in 1986.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

[Original: English]

[5 November 1985]

ECA stands ready to further its efforts towards the dissemination of human rights materials prepared by the United Nations to Governments, NGOs and individuals.

All human rights materials we receive are entrusted to our Information Service Section which has its mailing lists for onward transmission to all concerned. ECA is prepared to deal with all requests for dissemination of materials connected with human rights.

We have also another possibility through our Documents Section when other mailing lists could be used for the same purpose.

The only reservation would relate to the availability of human rights materials in local languages. A wider dissemination and certainly a better impact, would entail translation of at least the basic documents into the main African vernaculars. Otherwise, the materials available will be only within the reach of a minority which somehow constitutes the educated elite.

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

[Original: English]

[9 October 1985]

The ICFTU undertakes, on a priority basis, activities in the field of human rights, in particular regarding trade union rights. Such activities consist, inter alia, of seminars and conferences at national, regional and international level. The ICFTU also frequently mobilizes its affiliates worldwide for protest actions in specific cases of violation of trade union rights. We regularly disseminate information on the subject to our 144 affiliated organizations in 99 countries with a membership of more than 82 million workers. This information is also publicized for use by the press and other media.

LELIO BASSO INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTS
AND LIBERATION OF PEOPLES

[Original: French]

[13 September 1985]

We regard as excellent the idea of preparing a handbook on human rights for schools and - why not? - for adults also, since that might in our opinion help to transform the indignation and horror which everyone feels at the violation of

those rights into a determination to fight against such violations, in other words, to move from the emotional to the rational level. However, to that end, we believe it essential to place man and his rights in their natural context, i.e. the people of which man is a part and the rights of the people in question. This is particularly so since if we examine closely the case of serious and repeated violations of human rights, it must be noted that if the rights of man - the individual - are violated, it is in order to subjugate more easily the people to which he belongs and that, conversely, if the rights of the people as such are respected, it is much more unlikely that human rights will be violated.

For this reason, we believe that an educational manual on human rights cannot detract from the right or rights of peoples. We therefore propose that you should take this into account and are transmitting to you documentation designed to clarify the matter.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

[Original: English]

[27 September 1985]

The WFTU highly appreciates all the United Nations efforts aimed at intensifying its relevant activities to increase public awareness of both the contents of different human rights including the existing possibilities of their efficient defence and promotion at both national and international levels.

Being fully aware of the importance of the matter, WFTU resolutely supports resolution 1985/49 and is actively contributing to its implementation within the framework of its international trade union activities.

While noting that it is the duty of all States to respect the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations when contemplating or taking action having any impact on respect or violations of human rights, we have to stress, as the principal point of departure as to public information on human rights, that an efficient defence and promotion of human rights as a task of the States within their international co-operation, should not be isolated from general and fundamental principles of the United Nations, as mentioned in articles 1 and 2 of its Charter.

Therefore, WFTU is of the opinion that any development of public information activities in the field of human rights must be ensured in such a manner that would exclude the possibility that such activities would, in fact, run counter to the fundamental principles of the United Nations, that of maintenance of peace, the ban on the use of force, the outlawing of acts of aggression, sovereign equality of all States, self-determination of all peoples, etc.

Our Federation, as a mass and class trade union organization is increasingly concerned, in the turbulent time we are passing through, about large-scale brutal violations of the most fundamental trade union rights in many countries of the present world and concentrates its efforts mainly on defending and promoting trade union rights.

In this sense, WFTU keeps its national affiliated centres informed of possibilities of international protection of trade union rights outlining the valid procedure of such protection, operating within the framework of the

activities of the United Nations (Economic and Social Council) International Labour Organisation and UNESCO. For this reason we also use our seminars and other educational activities to deepen the knowledge of our affiliated centres thereon.

In addition, WFTU uses its periodicals "Flashes" and "World Trade Union Movement" to inform the workers all over the world on present problems linked with the implementation of human and trade union rights, accent being put especially on unmasking apartheid, the economic and social consequences of the inhuman government policies in some countries of Latin America, Asia, Middle East, etc.

In conclusion, WFTU would like to propose that the United Nations introduce, in addition to current activities of the Commission on Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights, a special column in the relevant United Nations documents and periodicals entitled: "United Nations actions taken to ensure follow-up to communications to the United Nations as to violations of fundamental human rights".