



General Assembly

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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 97

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Ethiopia, Franco, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam:
draft resolution

Efforts and measures for promoting the eradication of illiteracy

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ recognize the inalienable right of everyone to education,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy is one of the paramount aims of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 3/

Recognizing that the elimination of illiteracy constitutes the main prerequisite for ensuring the right to education, other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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- 1/ Resolution 217 A (III).
2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
3/ Resolution 35/56, annex, sect. III K.

7.

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and cultural and spiritual advancement,

Emphasizing further that the above situation is utterly incompatible with the requirements of the great stride of the scientific and technical revolution that mankind is witnessing,

Convinced that the process of education can make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of social progress, mutual understanding and co-operation among nations,

Mindful also that eradication of illiteracy calls for world-wide co-operation and joint efforts,

Considering that the full elimination of illiteracy in all regions of the world should be recognized as a priority objective of the international community,

Convinced that the elaboration of a global strategy for the eradication of illiteracy and the organizing of a world-wide literacy campaign will promote deeper understanding by the world public of the various aspects of the problem of illiteracy and help to intensify efforts to spread literacy and education,

Taking into consideration the appeal made in resolution 2.2 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, adopted at its twenty-third session, concerning the proclamation of an International Literacy Year,

1. Approves the appeal made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to proclaim an International Literacy Year;
2. Decides to designate 1989 as the International Literacy Year;
3. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare, in co-operation with other interested organizations, his suggestions on the observance of the International Literacy Year and submit them to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;
4. Encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to elaborate, as invited by resolution 4.6 of the General Conference, a plan of action designed to assist all States in eradicating illiteracy by the year 2000, whereby the impetus given by the International Literacy Year will be duly furthered.
