



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/8805
18 September 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
Item 50 (a) of the provisional agenda*

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Reports of the Secretary-General under General Assembly
resolutions 2784 (XXVI) and 2785 (XXVI)

CONTENTS

| | <u>Paragraphs</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| I. Introduction | 1 | 2 |
| II. General Assembly resolution 2784 (XXVI). | 2 - 8 | 2 |
| III. General Assembly resolution 2785 (XXVI). | 9 - 16 | 4 |

ANNEX

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR A "DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION"

* A/8760.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-sixth session ^{1/} the General Assembly adopted on 6 December 1971 resolution 2784 (XXVI) entitled "Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination" and resolution 2785 (XXVI) entitled "International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination".

II. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2784 (XXVI)

2. In section I, paragraph 1, of resolution 2784 (XXVI), the General Assembly requested the President of the Assembly to forward a special message annexed to the resolution directly to the heads of State or Government of each State. In paragraph 2, the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report based on the information and comments received from Governments, in accordance with the above-mentioned message, to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-eighth session. In paragraph 3, the General Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 2, to submit suggestions with a view to launching continued international action to combat racism on the basis of a "Decade for vigorous and continued mobilization against racism and racial discrimination in all its forms".

3. In section IV of the message annexed to the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to it at its twenty-seventh session, in which would be included reports of Governments on the message.

4. In compliance with the request contained in section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2784 (XXVI), the Economic and Social Council, at its 1810th meeting, on 6 January 1972, transmitted that resolution to the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission at its twenty-eighth session had before it the Secretary-General's report entitled "Continued international action to combat racism and racial discrimination" (E/CN.4/1093 and Add.1-2 and A/8660-S/10528), which reproduced communications received from Governments in reply to the special message concerning the United Nations campaign against racial discrimination forwarded to the heads of State or Government of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies by the President of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with section 1, paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2784 (XXVI). This report and further communications

^{1/} For background documents, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 54.

received from Governments (E/CN.4/1093/Add.3-5) will be available to delegations to the General Assembly. 2/

5. At its 1152nd meeting, on 15 March 1972, the Commission adopted resolution 1 (XXVIII), in paragraph 1 of which it requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its next session and as its first priority urgently to prepare suggestions and draw up a draft programme to be followed during the envisaged "Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" and to submit its suggestions and draft programme to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session. In paragraph 2, the Commission drew the attention of the Sub-Commission to certain points to be considered as guidelines in the study of the subject and the preparation of the suggestions and draft programme. In paragraph 3, the Commission drew the attention of the Secretary-General and the Sub-Commission to the advisability of developing and updating the programmes carried out during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In paragraph 4, it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in the light of the above-mentioned guidelines and the experience gained during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and on the basis of replies available from Governments to the message sent by the President of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly to heads of State or Government, an outline of a long-term programme of international action to combat racism, apartheid and racial discrimination in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, and to submit the outline to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its twenty-fifth session for its consideration and comment. In paragraph 5, it requested the Economic and Social Council to inform the General Assembly of the action taken by the Commission in the resolution with a view to early implementation of the request contained in section I of General Assembly resolution 2784 (XXVI).

6. On the recommendation of its Social Committee, the Economic and Social Council at its 1818th meeting, on 2 June 1972, decided to inform the General Assembly of the action taken by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1 (XXVIII) with a view to early implementation of the request contained in section 1 of General Assembly resolution 2784 (XXVI).

7. In compliance with the request in paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 1 (XXVIII), the Secretary-General submitted to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its twenty-fifth session a working paper outlining a long-term programme of international action to combat racism,

2/ For the replies received up to 27 March 1972, see documents E/CN.4/1093 and Add. 1-4; A/8660-S/10528, entitled "Letter dated 27 January 1972 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General". For replies received between 27 March 1972 and 15 August 1972, see E/CN.4/1093/Add.5. Replies received after 15 August 1972 will be circulated in further addenda to document E/CN.4/1093.

apartheid, and racial discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/325, annex). The Sub-Commission, after considering the item entitled "Suggestions and Draft Programme for a Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination", by its resolution 3 (XXV) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights a draft programme for a "Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination".

8. At its 658th meeting, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session of the draft programme for a "Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" as adopted by the Sub-Commission. The draft programme is reproduced in the annex to the present document.

III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2785 (XXVI)

9. In paragraph 5 of resolution 2785 (XXVI), the General Assembly requested every competent United Nations organ, specialized agency, regional intergovernmental organization and non-governmental organization in consultative status, acting in good faith without political motivation and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to consider, as a matter of highest priority: "(a) The further action that it might itself take with a view to the speedy elimination of racial discrimination throughout the world; (b) The action that it might suggest to its subsidiary organs, to States and to international and national bodies for this purpose; (c) The follow-up measures required to ensure full and effective implementation of its decisions in this matter."

10. In paragraph 7, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, (a) in conformity with the conclusions stated in paragraphs 52 and 57 of his report on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities 3/ to study information programmes on all questions relating to racial discrimination, taking into account the views of the Economic and Social Council and its competent subsidiary bodies with a view to intensifying the realization of such programmes; (b) to pursue, as a major feature of action to combat racism and racial discrimination after the International Year, a world-wide programme intended to build up public opinion, especially through radio and television broadcasts, and the distribution of appropriate literature such as the Statement on Race and Racial Prejudice, 4/ adopted by a committee of experts on the subject convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris in September 1967, and the special study on racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 5/ with a view to eradicating once and for all false racial beliefs based upon distortion or lack of scientific knowledge and showing how the different races complement one another.

3/ A/C.5/1320/Rev.1.

4/ UNESCO document SHC/CS/122/8, appendix 4.

5/ Racial Discrimination (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.XIV.2).

11. In paragraph 8, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session a report on the measures taken by United Nations organs, which would make possible a detailed assessment and formulation of further new methods and measures to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

12. Relevant measures taken by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, are referred to in paragraph 4 to 8 above and in the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. 6/

13. The Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, by approving the sixty-fifth report of its Working Group (A/AC.109/L.763) at its 841st meeting, on 16 March 1972, decided, inter alia, to take into consideration, in its examination of specific Territories, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2785 (XXVI).

14. The following information has been made available concerning the Council for Namibia:

"A statement was issued by the Council for Namibia on 1 March 1971, concerning the United Kingdom's announcement regarding the supply of arms to South Africa. In this statement, the Council expressed its concern that this action would help in perpetuating the South African Government's policy of Apartheid and minority rule and its carrying out of the same policy in Namibia.

"A statement was issued by the President of the Council on 19 January 1972 on the strike of migrant workers in Namibia. He expressed his solidarity with the strikers in their determined struggle against oppression and exploitation and called for an immediate end to the contract labour system, which, as practiced in Namibia, is in clear violation of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The Council continued its consultations with representatives of the Namibian people and the Organization of African Unity. Further action to be taken by the Council with a view to a speedy elimination of racial discrimination throughout the world, will include its participation in Joint Meetings with the Special Committee on Apartheid and the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the aim of which is to study interrelationships of the problems of South Africa and measures for greater co-ordination and more effective action.

"The Council will intensify publicity relating to Namibia and to the conditions prevailing in the Territory.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8703).

"On the initiative of the Council, the General Assembly decided to have a series of United Nations commemorative postage stamps issued to publicize its direct responsibility for Namibia."

15. It is anticipated that the reports of these organs to the General Assembly, as well as those of the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council and other organs, will include information relevant to resolution 2785 (XXVI).

16. A report on the implementation of paragraph 7 (a) and (b) of resolution 2785 (XXVI), by the Office of Public Information, will be circulated in an addendum to the present document.

ANNEX

Draft programme for a "Decade for action to combat
racism and racial discrimination"

1. The General Assembly is determined, as solemnly proclaimed in the preamble of the Charter, to:

(a) Reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small;

(b) Establish conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained; and

(c) Promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

2. The United Nations has opposed all manifestations of racial discrimination and has in particular condemned the policy of apartheid and similar policies based on racial theories, and consequently, its competent organs have:

(a) Declared that discrimination between human beings on the ground of race, colour or ethnic origin is an affront to humanity and shall be condemned as a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; as an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and as a fact capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples;

(b) Declared that any Government or régime whose official policy or actual practice is based on racial discrimination contravenes the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and called upon them to desist forthwith from pursuing such policies;

(c) Condemned all military, economic or political collaboration with the racist régimes that enables and encourages these régimes to enforce and perpetuate their racist policies, and called for an immediate end to such collaboration;

(d) Reaffirmed time and again the legitimacy of the struggle of all oppressed peoples, in particular, in the Territories under colonial, racial or alien domination, to obtain racial equality and freedom, and called for increased and continued moral and material support to those peoples.

3. Action has been taken by a number of countries and both international and national institutions to oppose racial discrimination and pursue racial harmony, including:

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(a) The ratification, accession and implementation of the widely accepted International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other international agreements with similar objectives;

(b) The continuing efforts of specialized agencies, such as the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

(c) Programmes instituted by regional organizations;

(d) Governmental procedures put into effect to combat racism both nationally and locally, as well as legislation designed to improve relations among racial groups;

(e) Activities carried on internationally or within a particular country to reduce racial hostility, protect persons and groups from discrimination, and promote respect for all people regardless of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin or other status.

4. The actions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 have been successful in promoting a greater understanding of the fallacy and injustice of racist dogmas and practices but have been disregarded by a number of Governments and racist régimes and in particular in southern Africa.

5. The resulting current frustrations and disappointments must not be allowed to discourage the continued efforts of the world Organization and other bodies to eradicate the evil of racial discrimination in all its forms.

6. The ultimate success of the efforts of the United Nations and other bodies in combating racial discrimination will depend upon:

(a) Full adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter in creating conditions of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction on the basis of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin or other status;

(b) The vigour with which action is taken by individual Governments and the degree of co-operation between them, inside and outside the United Nations, to fulfil the purposes and principles of the Charter and to implement the relevant resolutions relating to the eradication of racist policies and practices.

7. To this end, the General Assembly proclaims the years ____ to ____ to be the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in All its Forms and Manifestations.

Goals and objectives

8. The ultimate goals of the Decade are to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, or other status, especially by eradicating racism and racial discrimination; to arrest any expansion of racist policies, to eliminate the persistence of racist policies and to counteract the emergence of alliances based on mutual espousal of racism and racial discrimination; to resist any policy and practices which lead to the strengthening of the racist régimes and contribute to the sustenance of racism and racial discrimination; to isolate and dispel the fallacious and mythical beliefs that contribute to racism and racial discrimination; and to put an end to racist régimes.

9. To this end, appropriate measures should be taken for the full implementation of United Nations instruments and decisions concerning the elimination of racial discrimination and for obtaining support for all peoples striving for racial equality, and the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination, emphasizing, inter alia, the education of youth in the spirit of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity and worth of the human person and, particularly, against theories of racism and racial discrimination; and to pursue a vigorous world-wide campaign of information to enlighten and involve world public opinion in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

Policy measures and target dates

10. The above goals and objectives call for a continuing effort by all peoples, Governments and institutions to eradicate racial discrimination and to promote racial harmony within their national jurisdiction and universally.

11. To this end, the following actions need to be taken at the national, international and regional, and United Nations levels:

National

(a) The preparation and implementation of measures in the economic, social, cultural and political fields that would ensure the full equality of all peoples and individuals without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. This would necessitate:

- (i) No support should be given to Governments or régimes which practise racial discrimination that will enable them to perpetuate racist policies or practices.
- (ii) The consideration of enacting appropriate legislation and other measures to prevent racial discrimination and to prosecute or outlaw organizations

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which promote or incite to racial discrimination, or incite to the use of violence for purposes of such discrimination, and also of abrogating those laws and ordinances promoting the maintenance and extension of racial discrimination.

- (iii) The consideration by every national and local Government of recourse procedures to be invoked against any acts of racial discrimination which may be suffered by an individual and which violate his human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is necessary that there should be adequate machinery and procedures for handling such complaints, with easy access thereto, facilitated by all appropriate encouragement and support to persons in the protection of their rights.
- (iv) Arrangements for granting scholarships by the competent authorities and institutions to the youth of the Territories where racial discrimination prevails and in particular by greater contributions to the United Nations education and training programmes for southern Africa.
- (v) The encouragement of the preparation and publication of studies based in particular on the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- (vi) Governments and all institutions concerned should publicize the contents of this programme as widely as possible, using every means at their disposal, including all the appropriate media of communication.
- (vii) The ratification and accession, on as wide a basis as possible, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- (viii) Non-discrimination for any reason or on any basis whatsoever in education and school systems. This should be implemented as rapidly as possible during the first half of the Decade and in any event not later than _____.
- (ix) Non-discrimination on any of the grounds mentioned above, in the laws and policies of immigration. This should be attained as soon as possible and in any event not later than _____.
- (b) The inclusion in the curricula of education of children and youth of the subject of human rights with special emphasis, in the primary stages of education, on the equality of all human beings and the evils of racial discrimination. This should be attained during the first one third of the Decade and in any case not later than _____.
- (c) The use of available media of information to continuously and systematically educate the public in the spirit of respect for human rights and in

particular against all policies, practices and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. This should be embarked upon as from the first year of the Decade.

International and regional

(a) A world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination should be convened as a major feature of the Decade. It should be convened by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council which shall contain suggestions on the date, place, duration, agenda and participation of the conference. This should be envisaged as a mid-term feature and the preparation thereof should start as from the second year of the Decade.

(b) The convening of international and regional seminars, conferences and other similar activities in line with the goals and objectives of this programme should be undertaken. The Secretary-General should be informed of all of the activities undertaken in this connexion.

(c) The consideration of the ways and means to prepare concrete proposals in support of the efforts of all oppressed peoples suffering from racism and racial discrimination, including the establishment of regional funds on a voluntary basis to support the efforts of those peoples should be considered; reports on the subject would be forwarded to the Secretary-General every three years.

(d) The denial to racist régimes of any support or assistance which will enable them to perpetuate racist policies or practices.

(e) The implementation of United Nations resolutions on the question of the elimination of racial discrimination is imperative. The regional organizations should be invited by the United Nations to address themselves to this question in order that the total eradication of all forms of racial discrimination be attained within the shortest possible time.

(f) The adoption of new international instruments regarding the elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms and on the crime of apartheid should be considered.

(g) The co-ordination between all Governments of their activities in the field of information is advisable. Such co-ordination should be achieved through the United Nations, the regional organizations or through bilateral or multilateral agreements.

United Nations system

In addition to the role referred to above, the following activities should be undertaken by organizations within the United Nations system:

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- (a) Research and study
- (i) The existing studies and research in the field of apartheid and racial discrimination should be updated and developed.
- (ii) Student workshops should be organized for the teaching of international law with particular reference to topics related to the United Nations Declaration and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as the Declaration on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations which, inter alia, refers to the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.
- (iii) Further research and publications should be envisaged dealing with racial discrimination in regard, inter alia, to:
- a. The right to security of persons and protection by the State against violence or maltreatment whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual, group or institution;
 - b. The right of access to any place or service, intended for use by the general public, such as transport, hotels, restaurants, cafés, theatres and parks.
- (iv) Pilot studies on racism and racial discrimination in the economic, political, social, cultural, sociological and other fields should be undertaken, continued and co-ordinated. Special attention should be given to:
- a. Charting the spread or decline of racism or racial discrimination, diagnosing and detecting the introduction of racism or racial discrimination into any area early enough to permit effective preventive action;
 - b. The propagation, consciously or otherwise, of racial prejudice clichés by the press, cinema and television;
 - c. The role of science, especially social science, in combating racism and racial discrimination and in solving racial problems;
 - d. The preparation and implementation of economic, social and political measures that would ensure the real equality of all peoples and individuals without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
 - e. Problems of discrimination arising in connexion with immigration and foreign workers;

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- f. The crime of apartheid under international penal law with particular reference to the responsibility of individuals;
 - g. Problems of racial discrimination arising in connexion with housing, sport activities, etc.;
 - h. The role of private group action in combating racism and racial discrimination, consistent with the objectives of this programme.
- (v) Seminars on both the international and regional levels on special aspects of combating racism and racial discrimination should be organized.
- (vi) The United Nations should address an appeal to various scientific international organizations (for example, associations of jurists, sociologists, anthropologists, historians, economists) to devote special efforts during the Decade to the analysis and study of aspects of racial discrimination within their competence.
- (b) Education, training and information
- (i) The need for interagency co-ordination and co-operation in the field of education and training on problems and activities concerning the elimination of racial discrimination undertaken in the implementation of the present programme should be identified.
 - (ii) The procedures and types of action used by various agencies in the field of education and training related to racial discrimination with a view to any necessary harmonization should be examined, in the light of the experience acquired.
 - (iii) New education and information materials should be prepared to combat racism and racial discrimination, such as teaching materials for use in every type of institution of learning, at the elementary, secondary and higher levels of education.
 - (iv) Popular publications, films, radio and television programmes should be produced for distribution to the general public.
- (c) International funds
- (i) The General Assembly should establish an international fund on a voluntary basis to help the peoples struggling against racial discrimination and apartheid.

- (d) Co-ordination, review and appraisal, and reporting
- (i) The Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General should assume responsibility for co-ordinating programmes and activities connected with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Council should also consider an annual item concerning this question on the basis of the information and reports available which should review the implementation of this programme including the activities of:
- a. Governments;
 - b. The United Nations;
 - c. The specialized agencies; and
 - d. Other international organizations.
- (ii) The Secretary-General should submit an annual report during the Decade to the Economic and Social Council containing:
- a. A summary of actions, suggestions, trends, etc. that emerges from the deliberations of the United Nations organs and bodies, including those of the specialized agencies seized of the question of racial discrimination and apartheid;
 - b. A summary of the reports received by the United Nations under the system of periodic reports on human rights.
- (iii) Governments should forward a report every two years on the actions taken under the programme of the Decade on the basis of a questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General.
- (iv) The Economic and Social Council should submit an annual report to the General Assembly during the Decade to enumerate activities undertaken in this respect.
- (v) The Economic and Social Council should submit to the General Assembly every three years an analytical report containing:
- a. A review and appraisal of the activities undertaken in connexion with the Decade;
 - b. Suggestions and recommendations.

- (vi) The General Assembly should address itself on the basis of the first analytical report, to the question of the ways and means to ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions on apartheid, racial discrimination and related matters.
 - (vii) The Economic and Social Council would have before it in the first year of the Decade:
 - a. A report from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the role it can play in the Decade;
 - b. A report by the Secretary-General concerning the activities to be carried out under the advisory services programme in the field of human rights during the Decade in regard to the question of racial discrimination.
 - c. A report on the role of the Office of Public Information in this respect.
 - d. A report from the Economic and Social Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the activities that could be carried out by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.
 - (viii) The Economic and Social Council should include in its first report to the General Assembly on the above-mentioned questions appropriate recommendations thereon.
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