



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/196
10 September 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Item 87 of the provisional agenda*

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

National institutions for the promotion
and protection of human rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly, in the course of its consideration of the item entitled "Thirty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: international co-operation for the promotion and observance of civil, political, economic, social and human rights", adopted resolution 33/46 of 14 December 1978, entitled "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights". Recalling its resolution 32/123 in which it had suggested that a special seminar should be organized at Geneva in 1978 on the subject of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and also Commission on Human Rights resolution 23 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978, in which the Commission had decided that the seminar should suggest certain possible guidelines for the structure and functioning of national institutions, based on the provisions of its resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission to consider the guidelines suggested by the Seminar on National and Local Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in its report (ST/HR/SER.A/2 and Add.1) and to submit its recommendations in that regard to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, so that they could then be made available to Governments of Member States for their assistance in setting up national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

2. In its resolution 24 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979, the Commission on Human Rights endorsed the guidelines contained in the report of the Seminar; requested the Secretary-General to transmit them to all Member States and to concerned international organizations; and invited all Member States where such national institutions did not yet exist to take appropriate steps for their establishment.

* A/34/150.

The Commission also invited Member States to transmit relevant information regarding the activities of their national institutions to the Commission once every three years, beginning in the first half of 1981; requested the Secretary-General to submit a summary of the reports received by the Commission to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and to the Commission every three years; decided to consider the question of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights every three years and recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that the subitem "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights" should be included in the agenda of its thirty-sixth session.

3. By its decision 1979/38 of 10 May 1979, the Economic and Social Council, noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 24 (XXXV), recommended to the General Assembly that it should:

(a) Include the subitem "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights" in the agenda of its thirty-sixth session;

(b) Recommend to Member States that they should associate representatives of their national institutions with the contents of the debate on the above-mentioned subitem.
