

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Third session

ACTIVITIES OF ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF
PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Part IV^{1/}

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Introduction

1. At its second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities requested the Secretary-General, inter alia:^{2/}

"... to furnish the members of the Sub-Commission with relevant data on the activities of all organs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the field of the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities, as and when it becomes available."

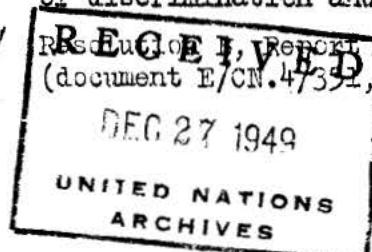
This memorandum contains such relevant information concerning the activities of the Economic and Social Council.

B. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council Relating to Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

2. At its sixth session the Economic and Social Council adopted Resolution 116 (VI), which reads in part:

1/ This study is one of a series dealing with the activities of various organs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the field of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.

2/ Report of the Second Session of the Sub-Commission (document E/CN.4/392, paragraph 15).



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"B.

"THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND THE PROTECTION
OF MINORITIES

"The Economic and Social Council

A. Requests the Secretary-General:

- (i) To organize studies and prepare analyses designed to assist the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities in determining the main types of discrimination which impede the equal enjoyment by all of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the causes of such discrimination, the results of such studies and analyses to be made available to members of the Sub-Commission;
- (ii) To keep in mind, in connexion with any studies he may make in the fields of the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities, the desirability of formulating effective educational programmes in these fields and to report any findings that might assist the Sub-Commission in making appropriate recommendations to this end;

B. Advises UNESCO of the interest of the United Nations in effective educational programmes in the fields of the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities, and

- (i) Requests UNESCO to make available to the Sub-Commission any relevant material or analyses that might result from that organization's proposed study of social tensions or from any other UNESCO programme;
- (ii) Suggests collaboration between the United Nations and UNESCO in the formulation of such a programme;
- (iii) Suggests that UNESCO consider the desirability of initiating and recommending the general adoption of a programme of disseminating scientific facts designed to remove what is commonly known as racial prejudice; and
- (iv) Invites UNESCO to consider the creation of a committee of world leaders in educational theory and practice, which should make it its business to study and select the most common and

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basic principles of a democratic and universal education in order to combat any spirit of intolerance or hostility as between nations and groups.

C.

MINORITIES TREATIES

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Taking note of chapter VIII, paragraph 37, of the report of the Commission on Human Rights.^{1/}

"Requests the Secretary-General to study the question whether and to what extent the treaties and declarations relating to international obligations undertaken to combat discrimination and to protect minorities, the texts of which are contained in League of Nations document CL.110.1927.1 Annex, should be regarded as being still in force, at least in so far as they would entail between contracting States rights and obligations the existence of which would be independent of their guarantee by the League of Nations; and to report on the results of this study to a later session of the Commission on Human Rights with recommendations, if required, for any further action to elucidate this question."

3. This study does not deal with discrimination purely on grounds of sex, the Economic and Social Council having reaffirmed in Resolution 48 (IV) that: "... it is the fundamental purpose of the Commission [on the Status of Women] to develop proposals for promoting equal rights for women and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex in the legal, political, economic, social and educational fields."

4. The reports made to the Economic and Social Council by the Commission on the Status of Women are available as documents E/281/Rev.1, E/615 and E/1316. It may be added that in addition to the resolutions of the Council establishing the Commission on the Status of Women, Resolutions 48 (IV), 76 (V), 120 (VI), 121 (VI) 154 (VII), 196 (VIII) and 242 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council relate to questions of discrimination on grounds of sex. Resolutions 121 (VI) and 154 (VII) F and G of the Economic and Social Council, however, relate also to discrimination against certain categories of women on grounds of nationality, race, language or religion.

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Third Year, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 1, pages 10 and 11.

5. Resolution 121 (VI), on the Principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work for Men and Women Workers which was adopted at the sixth session of the Council, reads:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the question of the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women workers placed on its agenda at the request of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the memorandum submitted on the subject by the Federation,

"Having considered the recommendation on equal pay adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women,

"Reaffirms the principle of equal rights of men and women laid down in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter and approves the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers;

"Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to implement the latter principle in every way, irrespective of nationality, race, language and religion;

"Decides to transmit the memorandum of the World Federation of Trade Unions to the International Labour Organisation, inviting the latter to proceed as rapidly as possible with the further consideration of this subject and to report to the Council on the action which it has taken;

"Further resolves to transmit the memorandum of the World Federation of Trade Unions to the Commission on the Status of Women for its consideration and for any suggestions it may wish to make to the Council; and

"Invites non-governmental organizations in category A concerned to

submit their views on the subject to the ILO and to the Council."

Resolution 121 (VI), on the report of the Second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was adopted at the seventh session of the Council, reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Reaffirms the principle of the equality of rights of men and women enshrined in the preamble of the United Nations Charter, and in particular in the educational field and all its branches;

"Noting that this principle is not satisfactorily applied in many countries, especially where the technical and professional

of women is concerned, due either to the lack of legislation guaranteeing the right of women to education or to the failure to apply such legislation;

"Requests the States Members of the United Nations to grant women equal educational rights with men and to ensure that they are afforded genuine educational opportunities, irrespective of nationality, race or religion;

"Further suggests that UNESCO include in its annual reports information on its progress and plans for improving educational opportunities for women, and that UNESCO upon request be ready to make suggestions for programmes for the education of adults in the various countries where such programmes would help to solve the problem of illiteracy, and for other educational programmes having in mind, when elaborating every educational programme, that the widest publicity of the political, social and civic rights of women and of the historical evolution and practical result of these matters is a question of vital importance, in order to teach the principle of equality of the sexes.

"G.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recognizing that restrictions with regard to the equality of rights of men and women constitute an infringement of the fundamental rights of the human person and are incompatible with the obligations assumed by the States Members of the United Nations under the terms of the United Nations Charter,

"Noting that there exist, in a certain number of countries, discriminatory practices with regard to the economic and social condition of women, which are not compatible with the dignity of woman and which make it more difficult for her to participate in the economic life of such countries,

"Invites the States Members of the United Nations to adopt the necessary measures so that:

"(a) Whatever their nationality, their race, their language or their religion, women shall benefit by the same rights as men in regard to employment and remuneration therefor, as provided for in resolution 121 (VI), leisure, social insurance and professional training and that

"(b) in each country there should be legal safeguards for the rights of mothers and children;

"Draws attention to divergencies in various local systems in this field, some of them restricting the right of married women to act as guardians, to

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control property and earnings, and to undertake independent business ventures, and to engage in various other activities."

7. At its eighth session the Council adopted Resolution 214 (VIII), on Reports of the Council NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) Committee, which reads in part

"B.

CONSULTATION WITH THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Takes note of the Report of the Council NGO Committee prepared in response to Council resolution 133 (VI) H of 11 March 1948 regarding communications from the World Jewish Congress;

"Notes that the unsettled conditions in Palestine may have affected the observance of fundamental human rights in Palestine and some other areas;

"Expresses the hope that Governments and authorities concerned will not cease to exert whatever efforts are necessary to safeguard the fundamental human rights of individuals and groups of different faiths."

8. The Economic and Social Council at its ninth session adopted Resolution 222 (IX) A, entitled "Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries", relating to, inter alia, the setting up of a Technical Assistance Board (TAB) and of a standing Technical Assistance Committee of the Council (TAC). In paragraph 7 of this resolution, the Economic and Social Council "requests that the TAB and the TAC, in carrying out their terms of reference, be guided by the "Observations on and guiding principles of an expanded programme of technical assistance for economic development" (Annex I) and take into account the records of the debate on the expanded programme which occurred during the ninth session of the Council."

The Annex referred to includes the following passages:

"The Council recommends the following principles to serve as guides to the United Nations and specialized agencies participating in the expanded programme of technical assistance, hereinafter called the "participating organizations":

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The participating organizations should, in extending technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries;

.....

3. Avoid distinctions arising from the political structure of the country requesting assistance, or from the race or religion of its population.

....."

9. The observations and guiding principles referred to in the paragraph above and the arrangements made by the Council for the administration of the technical assistance programme, were approved by the General Assembly at its 242nd plenary meeting on 16 November 1949 (documents A/1102, A/1103, A/1104, and A/1105).
