



SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES
Fifth Session

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AND
ACTION PROGRAMMES ON DISCRIMINATION AND
MINORITY PROBLEMS INITIATED OR BEING
PLANNED BY UNITED NATIONS ORGANS, BODIES,
AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

In accordance with resolution 443 (XIV) of the Council, the Secretary-General submits this descriptive list of research projects and action programmes on discrimination and minority problems initiated or being planned by United Nations organs, bodies, and specialized agencies for the information of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Research Projects and Action Programmes on Discrimination and
Minority Problems

A. UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

1. General Assembly

The action programmes on discrimination and minority problems initiated or being planned by the General Assembly are described in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/5, pp. 1-4; E/CN.4/Sub.2/83; E/CN.4/Sub.2/128, pp. 1-5; and E/CN.4/Sub.2/145, part I.

2. Security Council

The action programmes on discrimination and minority problems initiated or being planned by the Security Council are described in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/5, p. 4; and E/CN.4/Sub.2/86.

3. Economic and Social Council

The action programmes on discrimination and minority problems initiated or being planned by the Economic and Social Council are described in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/5, pp. 4-5; E/CN.4/Sub.2/34; E/CN.4/Sub.2/123, part II, pp. 5-6; and E/CN.4/Sub.2/145, part II.

4. Trusteeship Council

The action programmes on discrimination and minority problems initiated or being planned by the Trusteeship Council are described in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/5, pp. 5-6; E/CN.4/Sub.2/31; E/CN.4/Sub.2/123, part III, pp. 6-9; and E/CN.4/Sub.2/145, part III.

5. Commission on Human Rights

The action programmes on discrimination and minority problems initiated or being planned by the Commission on Human Rights are described in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/5, p. 6; E/CN.4/Sub.2/5, pp. 7-9; E/CN.4/Sub.2/131; and E/CN.4/Sub.2/143.

6. Social Commission

The problems of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities are relevant to the work programme of the Social Commission in the fields of migration, housing, social services, and social defence, in so far as an equality of treatment regardless of race, creed, etc., is basic to all these fields. In addition to this general interest, the following specific projects may be mentioned (the first three are under way; the fourth has been deferred until 1955):

Social Policy and Development

B-4: Inventory of the Legal and Social Position of Migrants in various countries.

B-5: Status of various aspects of the status of migrants in their capacity as aliens.

B-6: Inventory of international instruments relating to the status of aliens.

Social Services

C-1: Equal treatment of legitimate and illegitimate children.

7. Commission on the Status of Women

A majority of the research projects and action programmes of the Commission on the Status of Women is related to the elimination of discrimination on grounds of sex. These projects and programmes are described in the reports of the Commission (E/231/Rev.1; E/615; E/1316; E/1712; E/1997, Corr.1, Rev.1; E/2203, Corr.1-2).

/8. Secretary-General

8. Secretary-General

At the request of the Sub-Commission or on his own initiative, the Secretary-General had undertaken the following research projects for the use of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and other organs interested in discrimination and minorities problems:

- (a) Provisions of national constitutions concerning prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/4);
- (b) International protection of minorities under the League of Nations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/6);
- (c) Definition and classification of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/85);
- (d) Suggested studies on the problem of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/89);
- (e) Contribution of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/80);
- (f) Analysis of information from governments relating to prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/132)
- (g) Memorandum on prevention of discrimination and denial of fundamental freedoms in respect of political groups (E/CN.4/Sub.2/129);
- (h) Memorandum on the position of persons born out of wedlock (E/CN.4/Sub.2/125);
- (i) Memorandum on the procedure for the international protection of minorities in Upper Silesia (1922-1937) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/126);
- (j) Memorandum on treaties and international instruments concerning the protection of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/133);
- (k) Memorandum on the principle of non-discrimination as applied in the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (E/CN.4/Sub.2/135);
- (l) Study of the legal validity of the undertakings concerning minorities (E/CN.4/367 and Add.1).

B. UNITED NATIONS BODIES:

1. High Commissioner for Refugees

The High Commissioner states that: "The specific nature of this Office, which is solely concerned with refugees who come within its competence according

/to its Statute

to its Statute, unlike other organizations with programmes affecting unspecified groups of people, does not allow this Office to engage in any general projects or programmes of this kind. The task of international protection of refugees which is entrusted to this Office by its Statute includes, however, protection of refugees against discrimination. I may refer in this connexion to Article 3 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which reads:

"The Contracting States shall apply the provisions of this Convention to refugees without discrimination as to race, religion or country of origin."

"This Office is, according to article 8 of its Statute, charged with 'promoting the conclusion and ratification of international conventions for the protection of refugees, supervising their application and proposing amendments thereto.' It therefore encourages any measures, legislative or otherwise, which are designed to prevent discrimination against refugees, and endeavours, through its own action or that of its branch offices, to prevent discrimination against refugees in the application of laws or in practice whenever such discrimination should occur, in particular discrimination practised against a person because he is a refugee."

C. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES^{1/}

1. International Labour Organisation

The Director-General of the ILO states that: "I am in the first instance to refer you to the statements of the activities of the International Labour Organisation in the field of the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities which have already been supplied to the United Nations and which

^{1/} Pursuant to ECCSOC resolution 443 (XIV), the Secretary-General addressed letters of enquiry to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and the World Health Organization. The replies received from the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization are reproduced as an appendix to this document. Information supplied by UNESCO, in addition to the list of research projects and action programmes appearing in this section, is reproduced separately as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/146.

appear in Economic and Social Council documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/10 of 5 November 1947, E/CN.4/Sub.2/93 of 12 January 1950, and E/CN.4/Sub.2/141 of 5 November 1951.

"To these statements it may be added that the ILO Committee of Experts on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories (Geneva, November/December 1951) invited the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to consider the adoption of an international labour recommendation on certain aspects of migrant labour, in which connexion the report of the Committee embodied the following suggestions relating to the access of indigenous workers to skilled employment:

"11. The further provisions for the access of indigenous workers to skilled employment should include:

'(a) Acceptance of the principles of equal opportunity for all sections of the population and of the abolition of any barriers established by law, custom or agreement, preventing or restricting access of any such section to particular types of jobs or employment as contrary to public policy;

'(b) Measures to secure in practice the realization of these principles and the increased performance of skilled work by indigenous workers such as:

'(i) In all territories provision of equal access to technical and vocational training facilities for all workers;

'(ii) In territories where barriers still exist but where there is no permanently settled class of non-indigenous workers and in new industrial enterprises anywhere, the opening of equal opportunities for all qualified workers to jobs requiring specified skills; and

'(iii) In territories where there is a permanently settled and distinct class of non-indigenous workers, creation by stages of opportunities for advancement of indigenous workers to semi-skilled and skilled jobs.'

"The Governing Body intends to reconsider the question of the proposed recommendation when it proceeds to consider the agenda of the 37th session (1954) of the International Labour Conference.

/"It may

"It may also be added that, at the Secretary-General's request, the International Labour Office is to supply for the seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women information on the implementation and the general effect of the Convention (No. 100) and Recommendation (No. 90) concerning equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value adopted in 1951 by the 34th Session of the Conference which are described in paragraph 2 of document E/CN.4/Sub.2/141; this convention will come into force on 23 May 1953."

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

The Director-General of UNESCO has supplied the following classified list of UNESCO programmes and activities, which are described in greater detail in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/146:^{2/}

EDUCATION

(a) Provision of education

Free and compulsory primary education for all. Studies, international and regional conferences, missions of experts (resolution 1.23).^{3/}

Fundamental education. Studies, assistance to associated projects, missions of experts, establishment and maintenance of a network of regional and national fundamental education training and production centres.

Further education of workers. Maintenance of an International Centre of Workers' Education, established in 1952, and utilization of this centre for the organization of seminars and summer courses (resolution 1.22).

(b) Combating prejudice by means of education

Research into the formation of attitudes among children. Conferences of experts to discuss the education and the mental health of children in Europe (Paris, December 1952).

Studies of factors influencing the attitude of school children towards persons belonging to other races (resolutions 1.251 and 1.313).

^{2/} Earlier activities of UNESCO in these fields were described in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/90, E/CN.4/Sub.2/121 and Add.1.

^{3/} The numbered references are to the resolutions in the UNESCO programme for 1952.

Youth movements and organizations. Seminars for the study of human rights and international understanding (e.g. Rangoon, October 1952) (resolution 1.34).

Improvement of text-books. International seminars to discuss the teaching of history, geography, foreign languages and other subjects, with the object of improving school text-books and so promoting international understanding (e.g. teaching of history, Sèvres, July-August 1951) (resolutions 1.315-1.316).

Teaching about human rights. Various studies and publications have been prepared in anticipation of a seminar (to be held at Woudshouten, Netherlands, in August 1952) the results of which it is proposed to use for the purpose of assisting States in conducting, as part of an international plan, national experiments in teaching about human rights, and for the purpose of providing the teaching staff with documentary material (resolution 1.33).

(c) Use of languages in education

Study of the technical, psychological and social problems arising in connexion with the use in education of vernacular or other languages in sovereign States and Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 1.121).

SCIENCE

(a) Dissemination of scientific data concerning the race question

Preparation and distribution of a statement on race, publication of studies in the collections "The Race Question in Modern Science" and "The Race Question in Modern Thought" (resolution 3.2).

Studies relating to the educational use of the scientific data thus assembled.

(b) Investigations of positive contributions to the solution of problems connected with the social integration of minorities

Investigation in various States of Brazil commenced in 1951. Investigations in Brazil, Mexico, French West Indies, United States of America, Yugoslavia, and the Federal Republic of Germany undertaken in 1952. A synthesis of the results of those investigations will be published (resolution 3.22).

/(c) Studies

(c) Studies relating to the cultural assimilation of immigrants

Studies (undertaken in 1951) of the cultural assimilation of certain groups of immigrants in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France and Israel. A synthesis of these studies will be published (resolution 3.23).

(d) Studies of internal social tensions

Studies in agreement and collaboration with a Member State which has newly gained its independence, relating to the methods employed to reduce internal social tensions (resolution 3.25).

CULTURE

(a) Studies of the right of minorities to preserve their cultural identity and of their right to participate in national and international cultural life (resolution 4.52).

(b) Studies of the mental habits of certain peoples as evidenced by their local languages (resolution 4.53).

APPENDIX

A. World Health Organization

The Director-General of WHO states that: "The programme of WHO is not directed specifically to the problem of discrimination or the protection of minorities, and for this reason I believe that none of the research projects or action programmes undertaken by this organization could properly be included in a descriptive list of projects such as that suggested by the Government of Sweden. On the other hand, all the activities of WHO, including those conducted co-operatively with governments, are carried out in a spirit of non-discrimination. They are designed in accordance with the Preamble to the Constitution to bring benefits to people without distinction on account of race, religion, political belief, economic or social conditions. Insofar as many of these programmes are directed toward helping people in the most depressed economic circumstances, they may be said to advance the protection of groups who might be at a social disadvantage.

"The principles which govern the programme of WHO were set out in the first two paragraphs of the document submitted to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities at its third session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/37). You may find it appropriate to refer to these provisions in the document which will be prepared for the fifth session of the Sub-Commission."

B. Food and Agriculture Organization

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization states that: "The Food and Agriculture Organization's program does not include any items dealing with discrimination and related minority problems. We do, however, undertake certain activities which are for the benefit of groups of people of low economic status. For example, we have included in our program of work for 1952 and 1953 the holding of a European Rural Life meeting, and are making plans for holding in the Near East a technical meeting on cooperatives in collaboration with the Arab League. We have also been giving consideration, in cooperation with certain European governments, to the problems of mountain farmers. In all these cases, and others which might be cited, emphasis however is upon the application of technical agricultural knowledge to the problems of the group concerned rather than upon prevention of discrimination. I therefore do not believe that items such as these should be included in your descriptive list and that it would be better to omit any contribution to this list from FAO."