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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE
TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1987/12, paragraph 6, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to inform it annually of the progress made in carrying out the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 so that the Commission could make its contribution thereto. This report has been prepared pursuant to that request.
2. The Commission urged all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989. It furthermore, appealed to all Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, so as to enable the Secretary-General to implement the various programme elements outlined in the plan of activities.
3. The Commission took note with satisfaction of General Assembly resolution 41/94, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to envisage the organization of a seminar of cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers, within the framework of its programme of activities for 1985-1989.
4. It reiterated its decision to give thematic consideration each year to a selected topic within the plan of activities for 1985-1989 and decided that the topic for 1989 would be "The political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid".

5. The Commission encouraged the Secretary-General to make every effort to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1987, an appropriate draft plan of activities for the period 1990-1993.

6. The Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was seized, during its thirty-ninth session in 1987, of a progress report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/6) on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the First Decade and the first part of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which was prepared by its Special Rapporteur, Mr. Asbjørn Eide. It, furthermore, adopted resolution 1987/6 in which it approved the outline of the study proposed in that report and recommended that the Commission on Human Rights should request the Economic and Social Council to authorize the Special Rapporteur to proceed with the collection of the information he needed for the completion of the study.

7. At its first regular session in 1987, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1987/2, by which it reaffirmed the importance of achieving the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and emphasized the need to ensure co-ordination of activities undertaken by various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies for the purpose of implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

8. The Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a comprehensive and updated report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and a revised report outlining a proposed plan of activities to be implemented during the second half, 1990-1993, of the Second Decade, taking into account the relevant comments and observations made during the deliberations of the Council. It also invited the Secretary-General to solicit observations, views and proposals of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned on the preparation of the draft plan of activities for 1990-1993 and to communicate them to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

9. In the same resolution the Council decided, as a matter of priority, to give particular attention to the specific activities of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade directed towards the elimination of apartheid, in view of the present explosive situation in southern Africa.

10. Pursuant to the above request, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly at its forty-second session the annual report of the Council (E/1987/29 and Add. 1-3) on the relevant activities of all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/493). The latter report, which is available for the information of the Commission, gives a systematic presentation of activities already implemented, the activities outstanding for the period 1985-1989 and the proposed plan of activities to be implemented during the second half of the Second Decade, 1990-1993.

11. The Secretary-General also submitted to the Assembly the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affects the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492).

12. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 41/94, paragraph 10, a training course for legislative draftsmen on the preparation of national legislation prohibiting racism and racial discrimination was organized in New York from 8 to 18 September 1987.

13. After consideration of the item on the implementation of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/47 and approved the plan of activities to be implemented during the second half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1990-1993, which was annexed to the resolution. The Assembly decided that the international community, in general, and the United Nations, in particular, should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and to intensify their efforts, during the Second Decade, to provide assistance and relief to the victims of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, especially in South Africa and Namibia and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination. It appealed to all Governments and to international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of those activities proposed for the first half of the Decade which had not yet been undertaken, to proceed with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993 and to accord the highest priority, in executing the plan of activities, to measures for combating apartheid. The Assembly invited all Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate fully in the implementation of the plan of activities for the periods 1985-1989 and 1990-1993.

14. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affects the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492) by submitting specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination. It also requested him to transmit his study on the role of private group action to combat racism and racial discrimination (A/41/550) to Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in order to obtain their views and an indication from them of further relevant materials, and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-third session a final report on the topic and to prepare and issue as soon as possible a collection of model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination. The Assembly took note of the training course held in New York from 8 to 18 September 1987 that focused on the preparation of national legislation prohibiting racism and racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to submit the report on the subject to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988; it also requested the Secretary-General to prepare and finalize, with the appropriate assistance of qualified experts if possible, a handbook of recourse procedures, in the light of the results of the seminars held on this topic.

15. In addition the General Assembly invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education, and again requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to consider the need for updating the study on racial discrimination. 1/ It also requested the Sub-Commission to complete as soon as possible the study of the results achieved and the obstacles encountered during the First Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the first half of the Second Decade (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/6). The General Assembly once again authorized the Secretary-General to organize in 1988 a global consultation on racial discrimination involving representatives of the United Nations system, regional intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to focus on the co-ordination of international activities to combat racism and racial discrimination and requested him to disseminate widely the results of that consultation. It again requested the Economic and Social Council to envisage the organization, within the framework of its plan of activities for 1985-1989, of a seminar of cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers.

16. The Assembly strongly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and, to that end, requested the Secretary-General to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

17. The following documents will therefore be available to the Commission: the report on the outstanding activities for the period 1985-1989 and the proposed plan of activities to be implemented during the second half of the Second Decade, 1990-1993 (A/42/493); the resolution of the General Assembly to which the approved plan of activities for the second half of the Decade is annexed (resolution 42/47); and the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affects the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492). In addition, the Commission will have before it the reports submitted by ILO (E/CN.4/1988/34) and UNESCO (E/CN.4/1988/35) pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1588 (L) and General Assembly resolution 2785 (XXVI).

Note

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XIV.2.