



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1988/39 + Add.1
18 December 1987

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-fourth session
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF
THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION,
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

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection
of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 1987/41, the Commission on Human Rights, recognizing that regional arrangements made a major contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and that non-governmental organizations might have a valuable role to play in that process and bearing in mind that intergovernmental arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights had been established in other regions, requested the Secretary-General to assist and encourage the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to pursue the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials within the Commission at Bangkok, the function of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials in the Asian and Pacific region. The Commission also took note of the efforts of United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the human rights dimension more actively and systematically in their development

activities and encouraged those agencies to co-ordinate their efforts with ESCAP to promote the human rights dimension in their activities. Finally, the Commission invited the Secretary-General to finalize preparations for a training course on human rights teaching to be held at Bangkok in 1987 and requested that he report on the results of the course to the Commission at its forty-fourth session and submit a further report to it at that session incorporating information on progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 1987/41.

2. In a letter dated 20 July 1987 addressed to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights informed him of the content of Commission resolution 1987/41. He stated that the Centre for Human Rights was aware of the importance attached by the Commission on Human Rights to the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials within the Commission at Bangkok and, confident that the Executive Secretary of ESCAP was ready to do all possible to ensure realization of the concept of a depository centre, he reiterated the willingness of the Centre for Human Rights to do its utmost to assist him in achieving that objective. The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights also expressed his appreciation for the co-operation of ESCAP in the preparation of the Training Course at Bangkok and indicated that the presence of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP at the opening session of the Course would be most welcome and that any contribution by ESCAP to the work of the Training Course would be a further manifestation of its commitment to pursue its development activities in the region. By a letter dated 18 September 1987, the Deputy Executive Secretary for ESCAP informed the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights that there had been no substantive change in the mandate of ESCAP since the Executive Secretary's last communication on the subject (see E/CN.4/1987/18, para. 3), that the library at ESCAP continued to receive, classify, store and disseminate information on human rights, that citations on human rights documentation acquired by ESCAP were disseminated through the bi-annual Asian Bibliography distributed throughout the Asian Pacific region and that a complete set of relevant documents approved by the Commission on Human Rights for the United Nations Information Centre was also held in the ESCAP library. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP also informed the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights that ESCAP accepted the invitation to attend the Training Course at Bangkok and assured him that ESCAP would continue fully to support the work of the Centre for Human Rights within its terms of reference and available resources.

3. In a letter dated 17 July 1987, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights informed the United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region of the content of Commission resolution 1987/41 and of the readiness of the Centre for Human Rights to provide any assistance that they might require within the limits of its resources, with a view to promoting the human rights dimension in their development activities. The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights also invited the above-mentioned United Nations development agencies to send observers to the Training Course to be held at Bangkok from 12 to 23 October 1987, indicating that the presence of and contribution by observers from their organizations in the discussions of the Training Course could be of mutual benefit to all concerned.

4. The report on the Training Course held at Bangkok from 12 to 23 October 1987 is contained in the addendum to the present report.