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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Hungary and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic:
revised draft resolution

Strengthening of international co-operation
in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Conscious that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international co-operation in the field of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international co-operation should be based on the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ and other relevant international instruments,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Deeply convinced that such co-operation should be based on a profound understanding of the economic, social and cultural realities, the difference in levels of development and the variety of problems existing in different societies because of the different historical paths of development which they have followed,

Considering that regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights can make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field among the regions and within the United Nations system could be improved,

Emphasizing the necessity for the international community to continue its efforts to take practical measures to prevent mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms affected by situations that jeopardize international peace and security, all forms of discrimination, particularly apartheid and racism, as well as colonialism, foreign occupation and domination, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, as well as the refusal to recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination,

Recalling its resolution 41/155 of 4 December 1986 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/42 of 10 March 1987, 3/

Taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

Noting that not all States have yet communicated their views on means and methods of strengthening international co-operation in the field of human rights,

1. Urges all States to co-operate fully with the United Nations in its study of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and their encouragement, protection and promotion in any part of the world, including by providing information in response to requests by the Secretary-General and United Nations working groups, special representatives and rapporteurs for such material;

2. Calls upon all Member States to base their activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the development of further international co-operation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with this international legal framework;

See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 5 (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

4/ A/42/612 and Add.1.

3. Considers that such co-operation should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights, to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

4. Affirms that a primary aim of international co-operation in the field of human rights is a life of freedom and dignity for each human being and for all peoples;

5. Considers also that respect for human rights and the development of co-operation between States in this field are closely bound up with the reduction of international tension and the establishment of relations of harmony and confidence between States;

6. Expresses its conviction that promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the expansion of cultural, scientific and other ties among States and the development of human contacts are in the interest of all countries;

7. Reaffirms that it is of paramount importance for the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms that Member States should undertake specific obligations through accession to, or ratification of, international instruments in this field and that they should fully and effectively discharge their international legal obligations pursuant to such instruments;

8. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the various treaties in the field of human rights;

9. Expresses its conviction that the review and consideration of issues related to the promotion and exercise of human rights, as well as the adoption of decisions on these issues, should promote international political co-operation among States, the dispelling of prejudices and the identification of real problems with a view to their constructive solution;

10. Emphasizes that co-operation in the field of human rights should be guided by justice and equality, with due respect for the dignity of all people without any discrimination;

11. Emphasizes also that in such co-operation, special importance should be attached to the identification of ideas and values which will facilitate the creation of a situation of mutual understanding and trust, and that no manifestations of hostility in relations and expressions of views should be tolerated;

12. Emphasizes further that the collection, analysis and dissemination of information about human rights is an important task and should contribute to the understanding of problems existing in different societies and improve awareness of differing economic, social and cultural realities;

13. Notes the important place that the promotion and protection of human rights has secured on the international agenda and in relations between States, and emphasizes in this connection the importance and role in assessing the activity of States in this sphere of existing international mechanisms established on the basis of the international covenants and other conventions;

14. Invites all States which have not yet done so to communicate their views on means and methods of strengthening international co-operation in the field of human rights, and in so doing to reflect the measures they have taken for achieving such co-operation;

15. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its forty-fourth session the question of the conduct of international co-operation in the field of human rights;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of the information received from Governments and taking into account the work of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session, a report on ways of developing and strengthening international co-operation in the field of human rights, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

17. Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-third session under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".
