



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/373
8 September 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
Item 77 of the provisional agenda*

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 34/46 of 23 November 1979, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present to it at its thirty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of the said resolution.
2. In paragraph 2 of its resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue at its thirty-sixth session the ongoing work on its over-all analysis with a view to further promoting and improving human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the Commission's programme and working methods, and on the over-all analysis of the alternative approaches and ways and means for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the provisions and concepts of resolution 32/130.
3. The Commission on Human Rights considered this item at its thirty-sixth session, held from 4 February to 14 March 1980, and by resolution 28 (XXXVI) decided to continue its ongoing work at its thirty-seventh session. ^{1/} In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Commission decided to establish at the beginning of that session an open-ended sessional working group to continue the over-all analysis and also to consider the question of the co-ordination of specific human rights activities within the United Nations system, as well as to elaborate appropriate recommendations with respect to the analysis for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Commission deemed it necessary, while carrying out that task, to pay attention to the preparation of a broadly balanced long-term programme of work, in conformity

* A/35/150.

^{1/} For a discussion of the agenda item, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3 (E/1980/13), chap. IX.

with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and relevant international instruments, taking into account the concepts enumerated in Assembly resolution 32/130. In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on the possibility of the creation of an intersessional role for the Commission's Bureau and on the possible need for convening emergency sessions of the Commission in order to consider responding to reports of mass and flagrant violations of human rights of an urgent nature and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Commission further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-seventh session the following: (a) available information on intersessional roles performed by the bureaux of other bodies in the United Nations system; (b) information on the means available, including financial implications, for the convening of intersessional meetings of the Bureau and of emergency sessions of the Commission; and (c) any other information relevant to the subject. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring its resolution 28 (XXXVI) to the attention of the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

4. In its resolution 23 (XXXVI), the Commission re-emphasized the call of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to all individuals and all organs of society to strive by teaching and education to promote respect for the rights and freedoms contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, and appealed to all Governments to encourage and support individuals and organs of society exercising their rights and responsibilities to promote the effective observance of human rights without prejudice to articles 29 and 30 of the Universal Declaration.

5. In paragraph 9 of resolution 34/46, the General Assembly also requested the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session to consider the existing human and other resources that the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat had at its disposal for the implementation of Assembly resolutions, on the basis of complete data which the Secretary-General was requested to provide to it, and thereafter to make recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, with a view to further improving the working of the Division. In its decision 34/417, the General Assembly requested the Commission, in the context of the over-all analysis and of the consideration to be undertaken at its thirty-sixth session in pursuance of, respectively, paragraphs 2 and 9 of Assembly resolution 34/46, to consider the proposals contained in Assembly resolution 34/47 entitled "Services of the Secretariat concerned with human rights" and to take them into due account in formulating its recommendations.

6. At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission had before it the revised human rights medium-term programme for the period 1980-1983; the proposed human rights programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981; and the 1980-1981 calendar of meetings and conferences serviced in whole or in part by the Division of Human Rights, or of particular interest to the Division. The Commission considered the above-mentioned matters under its agenda item on the further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms. By its resolution 22 (XXXVI) the

Commission joined in the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to consider, if he deemed it appropriate, the redesignation of the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights and in its invitation to the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources were allocated to the sector in the Secretariat concerned with human rights so as to enable it to discharge its functions.

7. In paragraph 10 of resolution 34/46, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to give, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, priority to the holding in 1980 of a seminar, as had already been decided by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1979/30, on the effect of the present unjust international economic order on the economies of developing countries and the obstacle that that constituted for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular for the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living as stated in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This seminar was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 30 June to 11 July 1980. Its agenda was as follows:

1. The effects of the existing unjust international economic order on the economies of the developing countries and the obstacle that this represents for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to enjoy adequate standards of living as proclaimed in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. The right to development as a human right. Equality of opportunity to achieve it. The right to development as a right of individuals and nations.
3. The search for formulas for international co-operation which help in eliminating the existing unjust international economic order and permit the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The report of the seminar (ST/HR/SER.A/8) will be made available to delegations.

8. In paragraph 11 of resolution 34/46, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General and concerned organs and bodies of the United Nations system to implement fully the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/36 on the further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The latter resolution was brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and other pertinent organs of the United Nations, and appropriate measures are being taken to implement those parts of the resolution addressed to the Secretary-General.

9. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 34/46, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, taking also into account relevant information already available within the United Nations, and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a study on the nature and extent to which the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms was affected by present international

conditions, with particular reference to situations resulting from apartheid, from all forms of racial discrimination, from colonialism, neo-colonialism, and imperialism, from policies which tended to divide the world into spheres of influence, from the arms race, from foreign domination and occupation, from aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, from refusal to recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination and of every nation to the exercise of full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources, from intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States, particularly with reference to developing countries, as well as from the existence of the unjust system of international economic relations, taking into account the conclusions of the seminar mentioned in paragraph 7 above. This study is currently under preparation and will be submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

10. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 34/46, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit the said resolution to the specialized agencies concerned and to all United Nations bodies that dealt with human rights. This request was duly carried out.
