



General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/170✓
E/1988/25
26 February 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
First regular session of 1988
Item 10 of the provisional
agenda**
HUMAN RIGHTS

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

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 41/153 of 4 December 1986, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region to the Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, incorporating information on progress achieved in the implementation of that resolution. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.
2. Having taken note of the note by the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian region (A/41/180-E/1986/20), the General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of that resolution, 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.
3. In a letter dated 20 July 1987 to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights affirmed the willingness of the Centre for Human Rights to do its utmost to assist him in establishing such a depository centre within ESCAP. However, by a letter dated 18 September 1987, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP informed the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

* A/43/50.

** E/1988/30.

that there had been no substantive change in the mandate of ESCAP that would enable it to establish a separate depository centre for human rights materials, but that the ESCAP library continued to receive, classify, store and disseminate information on human rights. In addition he stated that information on human rights documentation acquired by ESCAP was disseminated through the Asian Bibliography, which was published by the ESCAP library twice a year and distributed throughout the Asian and Pacific region, and that a complete set of relevant documents approved by the Commission on Human Rights for United Nations information centres was also held in the ESCAP library.

4. In paragraph 3 of resolution 41/153, the General Assembly renewed its invitation to States members of ESCAP that had not yet done so to communicate to the Secretary-General as soon as possible their comments on the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region (ST/HR/SER.A/12).

5. By 11 January 1988, despite the repeated invitations of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, no new comments had been submitted by States members of ESCAP on the report of the Seminar. To date, only six member States have submitted their comments, five of which (Australia, France, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the United States of America) were before the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session (see A/39/174-E/1984/38 and Add.1), and one of which (India) was reproduced in the report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian region (A/41/180-E/1986/120). In its most recent resolution on this question (resolution 1987/41), the Commission on Human Rights did not repeat the invitation for such comments.

6. By paragraph 4 of resolution 41/153, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to finalize as expeditiously as possible preparations for a training course, to be held in the Asian and Pacific region, on the teaching of human rights.

7. The Centre for Human Rights, in co-operation with ESCAP, organized a training course on the teaching of human rights, which was held at Bangkok from 12 to 23 October 1987. (For the report on the training course, see E/CN.4/1988/39/Add.1.)

8. By paragraph 5 of resolution 41/153, the General Assembly invited the United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the human rights dimension in their development activities.

9. 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 readiness of the Centre for Human Rights to provide any assistance that they might require, within the limits of the resources of the Centre, to promote the human rights dimension in their development activities. He also invited those agencies to send observers to the above-mentioned training course on the teaching of human rights, indicating that the presence of observers and their contributions to the discussion would be of mutual benefit. Observers from ESCAP, the United

Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization attended the training course and made valuable contributions to its work.
