

2. *Suggests* to Governments that one way to facilitate this examination would be to create national committees composed of the representatives of interested governmental agencies and institutions, as well as individual experts in the different scientific disciplines concerned, for the purpose of giving advice on the relevance of population studies to policies and action programmes and on further investigations that may be desirable;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Population Commission at its next session on the actions taken pursuant to this resolution.

*863rd plenary meeting,
27 May 1955.*

572 (XIX). Recognition and enforcement abroad of maintenance obligations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 527 (XVII) requesting the Secretary-General to ascertain from States Members of the United Nations and those States non-members of the United Nations which are members of any of the specialized agencies whether they consider it desirable to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance, and whether they are prepared to attend such a conference,

Noting from the report of the Secretary-General on the result of the consultations undertaken in pursuance of resolution 527 (XVII)¹⁵ that a substantial number of Governments have given an affirmative answer as to the desirability of calling such a conference and have expressed their willingness to participate in the conference,

Having consulted the Secretary-General as prescribed in General Assembly resolution 366 (IV) approving the rules for the calling of international conferences of States,

1. Decides:

(a) To call a conference of plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of and to sign the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance;

(b) To invite to this conference the States Members of the United Nations and those States non-members of the United Nations which are members of any of the specialized agencies, and to invite the interested specialized agencies in relationship with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Council, as well as The Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, to participate in the Conference;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements for the calling of the conference of plenipotentiaries at Headquarters in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 366 (IV) and of the present resolution.

*849th plenary meeting,
17 May 1955.*

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Nineteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 18, document E/2711 and Add.1 and 2.

573 (XIX). United Nations Children's Fund

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with satisfaction of the reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.¹⁶

*862nd plenary meeting,
27 May 1955.*

574 (XIX). Freedom of information

A

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with appreciation the report prepared by the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on a programme to promote among news personnel wider knowledge of the United Nations, foreign countries and international affairs, pursuant to Council resolution 522 A (XVII),¹⁷

Recalling the report prepared by the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the encouragement and development of independent domestic information enterprises, pursuant to Council resolution 442 E (XIV) and General Assembly resolution 633 (VII),¹⁸

Noting resolution 839 (IX) adopted by the General Assembly at its ninth session authorizing the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope and objectives of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist these States in promoting freedom of information,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in implementation of Council resolution 522 J (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 839 (IX) :

(a) To take steps, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to put into operation a programme to promote freedom of information by providing such services as experts, fellowships, and seminars (including proposals such as those set forth in the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁷ bearing in mind the comments made on it at the nineteenth session of the Council);

(b) To include in the analysis of his budget estimates of the economic and social activities of the United Nations for 1956, to be submitted pursuant to rule 34, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Council, an analysis of the estimated costs of this programme;

2. *Urges* the General Assembly to include in the regular budget of the United Nations for 1956 sufficient

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, *Supplements Nos. 2* (E/2662), *2A* (E/2676) and *2B* (E/2717).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, *Annexes*, agenda item 15, document E/2705 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document E/2543.

funds to provide for the implementation of this programme;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report on developments under this resolution to the Council at its twenty-first session;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its activities for the furtherance of freedom of information.

*861st plenary meeting,
26 May 1955.*

B

REPORTS AND STUDIES ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the reports and studies prepared by the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the specialized agencies concerned, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, and in consultation with professional associations and information enterprises, pursuant to Council resolution 522 A (XVII),¹⁹

Taking note of the report prepared by the International Telecommunication Union²⁰ and the joint study prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommunication Union²¹ pursuant to Council resolutions 522 B and G (XVII),

1. *Urges* all States to cease the practice of censoring outgoing news dispatches during peacetime in order to provide a free flow of information throughout the world;

2. *Urges* all States to facilitate the unrestricted transmission of news by telecommunication services as recommended at the Buenos Aires Plenipotentiary Telecommunication Conference and reported on by the International Telecommunication Union;²²

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit the recommendations of the Director-General of UNESCO²³ to the Secretary-General of ITU for circulation to the Administrations of members and associate members of ITU for study, in order to assist them in considering such proposals as they may decide to present to the next Ordinary Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference of ITU;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the study on the legal aspects of the rights and responsibilities of the media of information²⁴ to appropriate information enterprises and professional associations for their information.

*861st plenary meeting,
26 May 1955.*

¹⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 15, documents E/2683 and Add.1 to 3, E/2687 and Add.1 to 3, E/2693 and Add.1 to 3 and E/2698 and Add.1.*

²⁰ E/2681.

²¹ E/2686 and Corr.1 and 2.

²² See E/2681.

²³ E/2686 and Corr.1 and 2, part III.

²⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 15, document E/2698 and Add.1.*

C

DRAFT CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Having noted General Assembly resolution 840 (IX), which requested the Council to discuss the draft convention on freedom of information and to formulate recommendations for the consideration of the Assembly,

Considering that many divergent views have been expressed by Governments on the draft convention on freedom of information,

Regretting that repeated discussions in the Committee on the draft convention on freedom of information, in the Council and in the General Assembly, have failed to produce agreement on a formula which would describe permissible limitations on freedom of information,

Bearing in mind that, in the absence of a wide measure of agreement on the basic problems involved, an international convention would be unlikely to prove an effective instrument,

1. *Concludes reluctantly* that further action at this stage on the draft convention on freedom of information would be unprofitable;

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly to consider the draft Convention at its twelfth session in the hope that conditions will be more favourable at that time.

*861st plenary meeting,
26 May 1955.*

D

MEDIA OF INFORMATION IN UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming that freedom of information is one of the fundamental human rights which it is among the purposes of the United Nations to promote,

Considering that the development of domestic information media is essential for the spreading of information, and the development of national culture and international understanding,

Convinced that the development of domestic media contributes greatly to the general progress of peoples,

Bearing in mind that the existence of great differences in the state of development of media of information in different countries renders difficult the mutual exchange of information between nations,

Recalling Council resolution 522 K (XVII), which made various recommendations concerning the encouragement and development of independent domestic information enterprises,

Bearing in mind the valuable work being carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this field,

Considering that a further study of this situation would be highly desirable,

1. *Requests* the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and of those non-member States which are members of a specialized agency, to transmit to the Secretary-General, in so far as they have not already done so :

(a) Information on the media of information existing in their territories;

(b) Information on existing measures and plans, including any based on the recommendations made in Council resolution 522 K (XVII), for the development of information media, on measures undertaken towards the implementation of such plans and on difficulties which they are meeting in implementing them;

(c) Recommendations and suggestions regarding possible action on the international plane for the development of media of information of under-developed countries;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to prepare an analysis of the information and recommendations received from Governments and to present on the basis of this analysis elements necessary for the formulation by the Council of a programme of concrete action and measures on the international plane which could be undertaken for the development of information enterprises of under-developed countries, with an evaluation of the material, financial and professional requirements and resources for the implementation of this programme.

*861st plenary meeting,
26 May 1955.*

575 (XIX). Allegations regarding infringements of trade-union rights

A

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the allegations recorded in document E/2587/Add.3,

Noting that the Secretary-General has received no reply to his communication of 9 April 1954 to the Government of Saudi Arabia,

Requests the Secretary-General again to invite the Government of Saudi Arabia to give its consent to the procedure referred to in paragraph (c) (i) of its resolution 277 (X).

*863rd plenary meeting,
27 May 1955.*

B

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with regret of the fact that the Government of Romania has not responded to the invitation transmitted to it pursuant to resolution 523 A (XVII).

*863rd plenary meeting,
27 May 1955.*

C

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with regret of the fact that the Government of Spain has not responded to the invitation transmitted to it pursuant to resolution 523 B (XVII).

*863rd plenary meeting,
27 May 1955.*

D

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the allegations concerning East Germany recorded in document E/2587,

Decides to refer the allegations to the International Labour Organisation for its consideration.

*863rd plenary meeting,
27 May 1955.*

576 (XIX). Relief and rehabilitation of Korea

The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note of the report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency.²⁵

*851st plenary meeting,
18 May 1955.*

577 (XIX). Non-governmental organizations — Applications and reapplications for consultative status

A

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations,²⁶

1. *Decides* to place the World Veterans Federation in category A consultative status;

2. *Decides* to place the International Thrift Institute in category B consultative status;

3. *Decides* to transfer the International Union of Public Transport, at present on the register of non-governmental organizations, referred to in paragraph 17 of Council resolution 288 B (X), to category B consultative status;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to place the following organizations on the register of non-governmental organizations :

European Union of Coachbuilders;

International Container Bureau;

5. *Decides* to defer consideration of the application for category A consultative status of the Agrupación de Trabajadores Latinoamericanos Sindicalistas until 1956;

6. *Decides* not to grant the requests for reclassification from the register to category B of the following organizations :

International Confederation of Professional and Intellectual Workers;

International Federation of Senior Police Officers;

International Gas Union;

²⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/2750).*

²⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 22, document E/2694 and Corr.1.*