

585 (XX). World social situation

A

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION (TENTH SESSION)

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Social Commission (tenth session).³¹

883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.

B

INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS AND LEVELS OF LIVING

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the recommendations of the Social Commission³² and the preliminary recommendations of the Statistical Commission³³ on the *Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living*,³⁴ as well as the opinions expressed in these Commissions regarding the report,

Noting that the Statistical Commission is to examine the report further at its next session,

1. Expresses appreciation of the report as having made a significant contribution to research and to the utilization of research materials in the social field, and notes the views expressed by the Secretary-General with regard thereto;³⁵

2. Considers the measurable component approach summarized in paragraph 199 of the report to be a useful basis for future action with the ultimate aim of enabling international comparisons to be made;

3. Regards the immediate need as one of choosing components which are capable of measurable analysis and whose significance has won international recognition, and of initiating or developing, above all in under-developed countries, statistical systems which will take account of such components and enable accurate measurements of changes in levels of living over years to be made on a comparable basis;

4. Draws the attention of States Members of the United Nations to the methods recommended for this purpose by the Committee of Experts in carrying out studies of levels of living and planning social and economic development programmes, giving special attention to agricultural and industrial workers;

5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To promote, in association with the specialized agencies concerned, the carrying out of family living surveys and to provide technical assistance, on request, to enable Governments to conduct such surveys;

³¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758).*

³² *Ibid.*, para. 32.

³³ *Ibid.*, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/2569), para. 83.

³⁴ E/CN.3/179-E/CN.5/299. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1954.IV.5.

³⁵ E/CN.5/302, paras. 1 to 9.

(b) To continue his close co-operation with the International Labour Organisation in connexion with the proposed working group of experts³⁶ on the objectives, scope and methodology of family living studies;

(c) To pursue, in association with the International Labour Organisation, the examination of the concepts, definitions and techniques required in the measurement of under-employment and irregular employment;

6. Draws the attention of the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies concerned and governmental and non-governmental organizations to the need of further work on development of components and of additional indicators for measurement of non-material and other social and technical aspects of levels of living;

7. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide over-all planning and co-ordination in carrying forward work on levels of living through arrangements which will ensure the maximum participation of interested specialized agencies;

(b) To present at future sessions of the Social Commission, the Statistical Commission and the Council a progress report on work done with a view to the development of measurement of levels of living, as well as further measures which need to be taken;

(c) To utilize the reports on the world social situation and the United Nations statistical reports and related studies to disseminate information on levels of living and changes therein.

883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.

C

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling its resolution 496 (XVI),

Considering that Governments have a vital role to play in achieving economic and social progress and that such progress can be accelerated, especially in areas which are less developed economically, if the latent abilities and energies of the people are utilized in self-help activities for the improvement of their communities,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on "Principles of community development"³⁷ and the views and recommendations of the Social Commission³⁸ and the specialized agencies³⁹ thereon,

1. Recommends for the consideration of States Members of the United Nations and for implementation as far as practicable by all concerned, the report and the principles tentatively outlined therein;

2. Invites Member States to furnish their observations on these principles to enable the Secretary-General to consider how far they need to be supplemented or modified in the light of the observations received, with a

³⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

³⁷ E/CN.5/303.

³⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758)*, para. 49.

³⁹ E/CN.5/303/Add.1 and E/CN.5/SR.230.

view to further consideration of the matter at the next session of the Social Commission;

3. *Calls the attention* of Member States to the technical assistance available through the United Nations, the specialized agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations;

4. *Urges* Member States to continue to make available information on their experience in community development to the United Nations and the specialized agencies and to provide suitable forms of assistance to other countries;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) In co-operation with the specialized agencies and, as appropriate, with the regional economic commissions, to continue to assist Governments, especially of the under-developed countries, in developing and carrying out projects in this field through technical assistance and study activities;

(b) In association with the specialized agencies, to encourage and assist in regional co-operation in this field, including, as appropriate, the organization and development of regional exchange centres for technical information, training courses, seminars and study tours;

(c) To give special attention, in association with the specialized agencies concerned:

(i) To the role of the government and the role of the population in planning and implementing programmes of community development;

(ii) To the assistance which different forms of co-operative action can give to community development;

(iii) To the development of new methods and techniques relating to improvement in living conditions in local communities;

(iv) To identifying and defining the role which the various professional and technical services or disciplines play in balanced community development;

(v) To the study of methods of evaluation;

(vi) To the study to be undertaken by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East on the analysis of the actual and potential contribution to capital formation and to economic development generally of community development and other similar measures of co-operation, and to promote similar studies in other regions;

6. *Requests* the Technical Assistance Board to give sympathetic consideration to projects of regional co-operation in the field of community development.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

D

TRAINING OF WELFARE PERSONNEL

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on *Training of Welfare Personnel* ⁴⁰ and the

recommendations of the Social Commission on this subject,⁴¹

Having regard to the urgent need in many countries of a rapid increase in trained personnel chosen for their individual sympathies and qualifications and their ability to understand the outlook and requirements of the persons with whom they are to work,

Noting the increased interest of Member States concerned to ensure better methods of selection and training programmes for social workers and the efforts now being made for this purpose,

1. *Confirms* the necessity of stressing the value not only of the training and use of professional social workers but also of training and using local multi-purpose and auxiliary workers in certain cases;

2. *Recommends* to Member States that the appropriate governmental and non-governmental agencies consider the feasibility of undertaking:

(a) A review of the extent to which the principles and recommendations of the Social Commission relating to social work education and in-service training have been implemented in their countries;

(b) A study of the personnel requirements in their country, the skills needed for the various types of social work, and the training programmes and training materials required for professional and auxiliary social workers;

(c) A further extension and improvement of training facilities and training programmes at different educational levels with particular attention to problems and techniques of community development, as well as to problems of adequate financing of training facilities and programmes;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue consultation with the specialized agencies concerned in the examination of common problems encountered in training auxiliary and community workers;

(b) To continue to give priority to assisting Governments in their training programmes in the fields of social welfare, including the collection, preparation, translation and exchange of suitable training materials for both professional and auxiliary workers;

(c) To provide material, with special reference to regional requirements, to assist Governments and all concerned in the development of training programmes at all levels;

(d) To promote regional seminars and conferences for the development of the content and techniques of training of social workers at all levels;

(e) To focus attention on selected problems of social work training in the preparation of the next survey on social welfare training.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

⁴⁰ E/CN.5/304, United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955: IV.9.

⁴¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758), para. 62.*

E

FINANCING OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 537 (VI) and Council resolutions 434 I (XIV) and 496 (XVI) as well as the resolution on financing of housing and community development adopted by the Social Commission at its eighth session,⁴²

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 537 (VI), requested the Council to give give urgent attention, *inter alia*, to assistance to Governments in developing practical methods of financing housing programmes from domestic or external sources,

Having noted the growing interest of Governments in the problems of financing of housing and community improvement programmes and in the adoption in this connexion of national policies and special measures, including the establishment of housing agencies and financial institutions,

Considering further that certain methods of financing successfully used in the housing and community improvement field, including self-help and mutual help and co-operatives, could prove applicable in the financing of other social development programmes,

1. *Reaffirms* its belief in the significant role that programmes of housing can play in economic and social development and also in opening avenues of employment in different countries;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To study and assemble, in collaboration with appropriate agencies, information on the feasibility of financing housing programmes from external sources, for example by means of mortgage, and to include such information in the report prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 824 (IX) on the international flow of private capital;

(b) To convene, at the request of interested Governments, as part of technical assistance activities and in co-operation with regional economic commissions where they exist, the specialized agencies, and the inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, regional meetings of experts in order:

(i) To consider the problems and practical methods of financing housing and community improvement programmes, especially for persons in low-income groups;

(ii) To prepare material describing (1) existing possibilities and appropriate sources for the financing of housing and community improvement programmes, as part of economic and social development in general, and (2) special methods designed to bridge the gap between the cost of, and the ability of low-income families to pay for, adequate housing;

(c) To review, in co-operation with regional economic commissions where they exist, developments in the field of financing of housing and community improvement;

⁴² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2247), para. 113.*

(d) To report to the Social Commission and to the Council the results of the action taken under paragraphs (a) to (c) above;

3. *Urges* the Technical Assistance Board to give sympathetic consideration to assistance in organizing the regional meetings of experts as well as to requests by Governments for technical assistance in the field of housing and community improvement.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

F

MAINTENANCE OF FAMILY LEVELS OF LIVING

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to the urgency in many countries of considering policies and practical methods of administering broad measures to maintain and improve family levels of living,

Having considered the Secretary-General's proposals in the progress report and work programme for 1955-1957⁴³ and the recommendations of the Social Commission relevant to the formulation of recommendations for a co-ordinated policy regarding family levels of living, particularly in the application of broad programmes of social security, social assistance and related social services for family and child welfare,⁴⁴

1. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation and other specialized agencies concerned to co-operate with the United Nations in a joint study of these problems;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue the study of these matters jointly with the Director-General of the International Labour Office and with the other specialized agencies concerned;

(b) To convene, in joint sponsorship with the International Labour Office and in co-operation with the other specialized agencies concerned, a working group composed of experts highly qualified in those fields and, at the same time, representative of countries at varying stages of economic development and with varying social structure, to assist in the examination of the technical problems involved;

3. *Invites* the Social Commission, the International Labour Organisation and the other specialized agencies concerned to examine the report of the working group;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after the Social Commission has considered the report of the working group and the observations of the interested specialized agencies, to submit to the Council, at its twenty-fourth session, the report of the working group, together with a report including the views expressed thereon by the Social Commission and the specialized agencies concerned, and his own observations.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

⁴³ E/CN.5/308, paras. 223 and 224.

⁴⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758), para. 129.*

G

ADVISORY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 418 (V) on advisory social welfare services, and Council resolution 222 (IX) on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance,

Having noted the views and recommendations of the Social Commission on the programme of advisory social welfare services,⁴⁵

Noting that the present allocation of resources in the United Nations budget for advisory social welfare services does not, in many cases, permit the Secretary-General to meet valid requests by Governments in the fields covered by the terms of resolution 418 (V),

1. *Reiterates* that, with a view to raising the level of living of populations generally, measures of a social nature should accompany those more directly aimed at economic development, and that programmes of social development should include measures aimed at creating social conditions favourable to economic development and at preventing disruptive social effects of accelerated economic growth;

2. *Approves* the emphasis laid by the Secretary-General, in his proposals for the organization and the work of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields,⁴⁶ on increased direct assistance to Governments in the social welfare field and in the social aspects of economic development;

3. *Recommends* that the General Assembly provide for a significant increase, within the present level of the United Nations budget, in allocations for the programme of advisory social welfare services for 1956 and following years.

883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.

H

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

The Economic and Social Council,

I

Taking into account the fact that under Article 55 of the Charter the United Nations is bound to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress and development,

Bearing in mind in this connexion that the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*,⁴⁷ whilst showing the progress made in developing measures to improve social conditions, none the less demonstrates that much remains to be done to improve the lot of wide sections of the world's population,

⁴⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758), para. 109.*

⁴⁶ See E/CN.5/308.

⁴⁷ E/CN.5/301/Rev.1. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.8.

Recognizing the universal desire for an agreement on internationally supervised world-wide disarmament,

Considering that the reduction of expenditure on armaments would permit an increase in the resources available for the improvement of social conditions and would at the same time establish a climate favourable for the expansion of international co-operation in the social and economic fields,

1. *Expresses* confidence that Governments will continue to spare no efforts to improve the social and economic conditions in their own countries and elsewhere, particularly in the under-developed countries, and will further increase those efforts when additional resources are freed by an agreement on internationally supervised world-wide disarmament;

2. *Hopes* for the early achievement of these objectives in the interests of the rapid improvement of social and economic conditions throughout the world;

II

Recalling its resolution 434 A (XIV) requesting a supplementary report dealing with a survey of national and international measures taken to improve the social conditions reflected in the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation*,⁴⁸

Having considered the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*⁴⁹ and the views expressed thereon in the Social Commission,⁴⁹

Having commended the Secretary-General and the Directors-General of the specialized agencies who collaborated in its preparation,

Believing that the *Survey* has important practical value for governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with social problems and with programmes for improving social conditions,

1. *Recommends* that Governments take such measures as they deem appropriate to bring the *Survey* to the attention of interested governmental and non-governmental agencies in their countries;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to place the chief emphasis in the next *Survey* on changes that have taken place since the first *Survey* and to include material on:

(a) International measures taken to improve social conditions;

(b) Further use of community development as a technique for improving the levels of living, particularly in under-developed areas, community development being interpreted as a process creating conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and the fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative;

III

Recalling that the Secretary-General, by Council resolution 434 A (XIV), was requested to prepare a further report on the world social situation,

⁴⁸ E/CN.5/267/Rev.1. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1952.IV.11.

⁴⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758), paras. 79 to 93.*

Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To place chief emphasis in the next report on changes that have taken place throughout the world since the preliminary report⁵⁰ and to give special attention to the problems of peoples undergoing rapid transition especially through urbanization;

(b) To issue the report by December 1956 for consideration by the Social Commission at its eleventh session, and by the Council at its twenty-fourth session;

(c) To prepare for the use of the Council, at its twenty-second session, a report on the extent to which the priorities and programmes set forth in Council resolution 496 (XVI) on the programme of concerted practical action in the social field have been taken into account and implemented by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.

586 (XX). Report of the Commission on Human Rights (eleventh session)

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights (eleventh session).⁵¹

889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.

B

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE MATTER OF EMIGRATION AND TRAVEL

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the work programme established by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fifth session and approved by the Commission on Human Rights and the Council, it was provided that among the measures to combat discrimination which the Sub-Commission would study would be those in the field of immigration and travel,⁵²

Recalling that at its sixth session the Sub-Commission decided that the study should cover not only immigration and travel but also emigration,⁵³

Recalling that at its tenth session the Commission drew the attention of the Sub-Commission to the observations made on a proposal (subsequently withdrawn) under which, *inter alia*, the words "immigration and travel" in draft resolution D of the Sub-Commission would have been replaced by the words "the right to return to

⁵⁰ E/CN.5/267/Rev.1. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1952.IV.11.

⁵¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/2731 and Corr.1).

⁵² E/CN.4/670, para. 48, resolution A.

⁵³ E/CN.4/703, para. 143, resolution D.

one's country as provided in article 13, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,"⁵⁴

Recalling further that in its resolution 545 D (XVIII), the Council requested the Sub-Commission "to take as the objective of its study in this field paragraph 2 of article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights",

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights (eleventh session) and the draft resolution it proposed on this subject,⁵⁵

Reaffirms its decision set forth in resolution 545 D (XVIII), which, by requesting the Sub-Commission to limit its study to "the right of everyone to 'leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country'", implicitly excluded immigration from the scope of this study.

889th plenary meeting,
29 July 1955.

C

STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF DISCRIMINATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered chapter IV of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its eleventh session,⁵⁶ which relates to the report of the seventh session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,⁵⁷

Noting that at its seventh session the Sub-Commission completed the discussion of the preliminary reports on the procedure to be followed in carrying out studies of discrimination in 1955 in the matter of:

(a) Political rights mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵⁸

(b) Religious rights and practices,⁵⁹

(c) Emigration, immigration and travel,⁶⁰

Considering that both the Council and the Commission had taken no action to revise the plan of the Sub-Commission that a new study in one of the above-mentioned fields should be undertaken in 1955, whether or not the study of discrimination in education had been completed,

1. Expresses its regret that the necessary steps were not taken to make such a study possible in 1955;

2. Commends the Sub-Commission for its efforts and endorses the programme of work which it has adopted, subject to the revision of the study mentioned under sub-paragraph (c) above to read: "The right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return

⁵⁴ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/2573), paras. 486 to 495.

⁵⁵ Ibid., Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/2731 and Corr.1), Annex I, draft resolution A.

⁵⁶ Ibid., chapter IV.A.

⁵⁷ E/CN.4/711.

⁵⁸ E/CN.4/Sub.2/165.

⁵⁹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/162.

⁶⁰ E/CN.4/Sub.2/167.