

been adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and of this resolution.

924th plenary meeting,
3 May 1956.

606 (XXI). Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the information conveyed by the Secretary-General²⁰ and of the assurances received from the representative of Saudi Arabia²¹ that his Government has the intention to transmit at an early date a reply to the invitation transmitted to it by the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 575 A (XIX) of 27 May 1955.

906th plenary meeting,
20 April 1956.

607 (XXI). Forced labour

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report on forced labour²² prepared by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Office, in response to General Assembly resolution 740 (VIII) of 7 December 1953 and Council resolution 524 (XVII) of 27 April 1954,

Noting with satisfaction that the question of forced labour is to be considered at the forthcoming session of the International Labour Conference in June,

Having received the communication of the Director-General of the International Labour Office²³ transmitting the decision of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation to establish an *ad hoc* committee on forced labour and to seek the collaboration of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the International Labour Organisation has special responsibilities in this field and is giving particular attention to measures designed to assist in the elimination of forced labour,

1. *Condemns* all forms of forced labour, wherever they exist, which are contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, all systems of forced labour which are employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views, and which are on such a scale as to constitute an important element in the economy of a given country;

2. *Urges* that action be taken towards the elimination of forced labour wherever it may exist;

²⁰ *Ibid.*, agenda item 10, document E/2833.

²¹ *Ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, 906th meeting, para. 46.

²² E/2815 and Add.1 to 5 and Add.4/Corr.1.

²³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 11, document E/2807.

3. *Commends* the International Labour Organisation for the action it has taken thus far, and expresses its interest in further action to be taken by the Organisation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in response to the communication from the Director-General of the International Labour Office referred to above, to transmit to the Director-General any information which he may receive relating to forced labour, notwithstanding the provisions of Council resolution 75 (V) of 5 August 1947, as amended;²⁴

5. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation to include henceforth in its annual report to the Council an account of action taken in this field.

919th plenary meeting,
1 May 1956.

608 (XXI). Slavery

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee²⁵ set up in accordance with Council resolution 564 (XIX) of 7 April 1955, to prepare a text of a draft supplementary convention to deal with those practices resembling slavery not covered in the International Slavery Convention of 1926,

Considering that it is desirable that the drafting of the convention should be completed by a conference of plenipotentiaries and that the convention should be opened for signature as soon as possible,

Having consulted the Secretary-General as prescribed in General Assembly resolution 366 (IV) of 3 December 1949, approving the rules for the calling of international conferences of States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and expresses its appreciation of the Committee's work;

2. *Decides*:

(a) That a conference of plenipotentiaries should be convened in order to complete the drafting of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery and to open it for signature;

(b) That invitations to attend the conference should be extended to all States which are Members of the United Nations and to those States non-members of the United Nations which are members of any of the specialized agencies;

(c) That the conference should be held at Geneva as soon as possible after the end of the twenty-second session of the Council;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To make all necessary arrangements for the calling of the conference of plenipotentiaries in accordance with

²⁴ See Council resolutions 116 A (VI), 192 A (VIII) and 275 (X).

²⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document E/2824.