

munication Union or through other arrangements to bring into effect reduced international press telegram rates, as expeditiously as possible.

*1066th plenary meeting,  
24 April 1959.*

**720 (XXVII). Freedom of information:  
draft Declaration on Freedom of Information**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that the purposes of the United Nations include, *inter alia*, the development of friendly relations among nations, and the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Recognizing* that the promotion of freedom of information as a fundamental human right is essential to the fulfilment of these purposes,

*Mindful* of the significance which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has acquired among the peoples of the United Nations,

*Considering* that a United Nations Declaration on Freedom of Information could be a further step towards the realization of the purposes set forth above,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly has decided, in its resolution 1313 C (XIII) of 12 December 1958, to proceed at its fourteenth session to a discussion of the text of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information,<sup>21</sup> and without prejudice to the Assembly action in this respect,

*Having received* the text of a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information,

*Decides* to place the question of a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information on the agenda for its twenty-eighth session.

*1066th plenary meeting,  
24 April 1959.*

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<sup>21</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7, annex.*

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## **Other questions**

**713 (XXVII). Establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a list of national parks and equivalent reserves**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* that national parks and equivalent reserves have been established in most countries which are Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, and that they contribute to the inspiration, culture and welfare of mankind,

*Believing* that these national parks are valuable for economic and scientific reasons and also as areas for the future preservation of fauna and flora and geologic structures in their natural state,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other interested specialized agencies, a list of national parks and equivalent reserves, with a brief description of each, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-ninth session, together with his recommendations for maintaining and developing the list on a current basis and for its distribution;

2. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to transmit to the Secretary-General a description of the areas they desire to have internationally registered as national parks or equivalent reserves;

3. *Furthermore invites* the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to assist the Secretary-General, upon his request, in the preparation of the proposed list.

*1063rd plenary meeting,  
22 April 1959.*

**714 (XXVII). International co-operation on cartography:  
question of convening a third United Nations regional  
cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Commending* the valuable work achieved by the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East,

*Recalling* the recommendation of the Conference<sup>22</sup> that a third United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East be convened not later than 1961,

*Noting* the increasing interest of Governments in participating in the work of such conferences,

*Requests* the Secretary-General to consult the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned on the convening, not later than 1961, of the third United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East and on the date, place and agenda of the conference, and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-ninth session.

*1064th plenary meeting,  
23 April 1959.*

## **715 (XXVII). International co-operation on cartography**

### **A**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General concerning international co-operation on cartography,<sup>23</sup>

*Noting* the draft programme for achieving international uniformity in the writing of geographical names,<sup>24</sup> which was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Governments of Member States for comment,

*Considering* the comments on the draft programme that have been received from the Governments,

#### **1. Requests the Secretary-General:**

(a) To provide encouragement and guidance to those nations which have no national organization for the standardization and co-ordination of geographical names to establish such an organization and to produce national gazetteers at an early date;

(b) To take the necessary steps to ensure the following central clearing-house functions for geographical names:

(i) Collection of gazetteers and information concerning the technical procedures that each Member State has adopted for standardization of domestic names;

(ii) Collection of information on the techniques and systems used by each Member State in the transliteration of the geographical names of other countries;

(iii) Dissemination to Member States and, upon request, to any working groups established on a common linguistic basis, of all documents and information collected, utilizing existing United Nations periodicals wherever feasible;

#### **2. Further requests the Secretary-General:**

(a) To set up a small group of consultants chosen, with due regard to equitable geographic distribution and to the different linguistic systems of the world, from those countries having widest experience of the problems of geographical names:

(i) To consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names, including the preparation of a statement of the general and regional problems involved, and to prepare draft recommendations for the procedures, principally linguistic, that might be followed in the standardization of their own names by individual countries;

(ii) To report to the Council at an appropriate session, in the light of its discussion on the above points, on the desirability of holding an international conference on this subject and of the sponsoring of working groups based on common linguistic systems;

(b) To invite Governments of countries interested and experienced in the question to make available, at his request and at their own expense, consultants to serve on the above group.

*1064th plenary meeting,  
23 April 1959.*

### **B**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General concerning international co-operation on cartography,<sup>23</sup>

*Noting* the draft proposal for amendments to the existing specifications for the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale,<sup>25</sup> which was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Governments concerned for comment,

*Recognizing* the increasing need for the sheets of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale and the urgency for completing these maps at an early date,

*Requests* the Secretary-General to urge Governments to furnish their views on the draft proposal for amendments to the existing specifications for the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale and, after considering the replies and in consultation with appropriate experts, to suggest specific recommendations for such amendments to the Council at its twenty-ninth session.

*1064th plenary meeting,  
23 April 1959.*

<sup>22</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.I.9, p. 7, resolution 2.

<sup>23</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 6, documents E/3209 and Add.1 to 4.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, document E/3209, para. 11.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21.