

Recalling also its own resolutions 170 (VII) of 13 August 1948, 203 (VIII) of 11 February 1949, 314 (XI) of 24 July 1950, 446 (XIV) of 23 July 1952, and 609 (XXI) of 26 April 1956,

Having considered the report¹⁴ prepared jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in accordance with Council resolution 609 (XXI),

Noting with satisfaction that, according to that report, considerable progress has been made in many Member States in developing facilities for teaching about the United Nations and its related agencies,

Noting, however, that much remains to be done, especially in the fields of teacher-training, the supply of suitable teaching materials, the use of extra-curricular activities and the expansion of facilities for adult education,

Noting also that conditions in under-developed countries require that more efforts be devoted to the development of facilities for teaching about the United Nations and its related agencies in these countries, bearing in mind the urgent need for producing suitable teaching materials in their national languages,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for his co-operation in the preparation of the above-mentioned report;

2. Reaffirms its belief in the importance of teaching about the United Nations and its related agencies as a means of promoting interest in and support for their work;

3. Commends the Secretary-General and thanks the administrative heads of the specialized agencies for the efforts made by them, in response to the request contained in Council resolution 609 (XXI), to provide materials relating to the activities of their respective organizations, and expresses the hope that these efforts

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, agenda item 13, documents E/3322 and Add. 1-3.

will be maintained, and if possible intensified, within existing budgetary limits;

4. Expresses its appreciation also for the valuable work done by non-governmental organizations in helping to disseminate information about the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and expresses the hope that they will continue their efforts in this field;

5. Requests the Secretary-General and invites the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to co-operate in this field, and to assist interested non-governmental organizations;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to compile a further report on this subject, on the basis of inquiries to Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, for consideration by the Council in 1964;

7. Urges Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to furnish, in response to the inquiries addressed to them, full information on the situations in their respective countries, particularly as regards the needs to which attention is drawn in paragraph 50 of the report submitted to the Council at the present session.

1097th plenary meeting,
6 April 1960.

753 (XXIX). United Nations Children's Fund

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the sessions which it held in September 1959¹⁵ and in March 1960.¹⁶

1108th plenary meeting,
19 April 1960.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/3304).

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 2A (E/3336).

Questions relating to human rights

756 (XXIX). Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 720 (XXVII) of 24 April 1959 and 732 (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959,

Having in mind General Assembly resolution 1459 (XIV) of 10 December 1959,

Desiring to ensure freedom of information as a fundamental human right,

Recognizing the great importance of freedom of information in the development of friendly relations among peoples and nations and in the fulfilment of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Being aware that the General Assembly is engaged in considering the draft Convention on Freedom of Information with a view to its early adoption,

Noting that nothing should be allowed to interrupt, hinder or prejudice General Assembly action in achieving this task as soon as possible,

Having considered and completed a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information in the light of the comments submitted by Member States in accordance with Council resolution 732 (XXVIII), with the hope that it will promote the realization of freedom of information and assist the General Assembly in the completion of its work in this field,

Decides to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration the text of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information annexed to the present resolution.

*1111th plenary meeting,
21 April 1960.*

ANNEX

DRAFT DECLARATION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Preamble

Whereas the development of friendly relations among nations and the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are basic purposes of the United Nations,

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers",

Whereas freedom of information is essential to the respect for other human rights and fundamental freedoms, since no other liberty is secure if information cannot be freely sought, received and imparted,

Whereas freedom of information is also fundamental to peaceful and friendly relations between peoples and nations, since the erection of barriers to the free flow of information obstructs international understanding and thus impairs prospects for world peace,

Whereas newspapers, periodicals, books, radio, television, films and other media of information play an important role in enabling people to acquire the knowledge of public affairs necessary for the discharge of their responsibilities as citizens, and in shaping the attitudes of peoples and nations to each other, and therefore bear a great responsibility for conveying accurate information,

Now, therefore, the General Assembly,

Desiring to reaffirm the principles which should be upheld and observed and which domestic law and international conventions and other instruments for the protection of freedom of information should support and endeavour to promote,

Proclaims this Declaration on Freedom of Information in proof of its determination that all peoples should fully enjoy free interchange of information and access to all media of expression:

Article 1

The right to know and the right freely to seek the truth are inalienable and fundamental rights of man. Everyone has the right, individually and collectively, to seek, receive and impart information.

Article 2

All Governments should pursue policies under which the free flow of information, within countries and across frontiers, will be protected. The right to seek and transmit information should be assured in order to enable the public to ascertain facts and appraise events.

Article 3

Media of information should be employed in the service of the people. No Government or public or private body or interests should exercise such control over media for disseminating information as to prevent the existence of a diversity of sources of information or to deprive the individual of free access to such sources. The development of independent national media of information should be encouraged.

Article 4

The exercise of these rights and freedoms entails special responsibilities and duties. Those who disseminate information must strive in good faith to ensure the accuracy of the facts reported and respect the rights and the dignity of nations, and of groups and individuals without distinction as to race, nationality or creed.

Article 5

The rights and freedoms proclaimed above should be universally recognized and respected, and may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. They should be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of national security, public order, morality and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Other questions

746 (XXIX). Measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquakes in Morocco

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the consequences of the recent earthquakes in the Kingdom of Morocco;
2. *Invites* Member States to consider what assistance to the Government of Morocco they may be in a position to offer;
3. *Invites* the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to give urgent attention to the problems resulting from the catastrophe which fall within their fields of activity;

4. *Trusts* that other specialized agencies which may be in a position to assist will pay due attention to the urgent problems arising from the earthquakes;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Member States, the international organizations and the non-governmental organizations for the assistance they have already rendered and expresses the hope that the scope of such assistance can be extended;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bear in mind the special situation of Morocco when deciding, within the scope of his resources and powers, the services to