

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

be extended to various countries, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to co-ordinate the efforts of the United Nations organs in the matter.

*1096th plenary meeting,
6 April 1960.*

755 (XXIX). Non-governmental organizations: applications and re-applications for consultative status

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations,¹⁷

1. *Decides* to grant the requests of the following organizations for category B consultative status:

Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem,

European Alliance of Press Agencies,

International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property;

2. *Decides* to grant the request of the following organization that it be placed on the Register:

International Association of Electrical Contractors;

3. *Decides* to defer for one year consideration of the request of the following organization for category A consultative status:

General Union of Workers of Black Africa;

4. *Decides* not to grant the request of the following organization that it be placed on the Register:

World Muslim Congress.

*1108th plenary meeting,
19 April 1960.*

761 (XXIX). International co-operation on cartography

A

THE CONVENING
OF A THIRD UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC
CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on his consultations with Governments regarding the convening of a third United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East,¹⁸ as recommended by the second regional cartographic conference held in Tokyo in 1958,

Noting the great usefulness of such conferences in meeting the increasingly urgent need of countries for the basic cartographic data and survey work required in their economic and social projects,

¹⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 15, document E/3329.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, agenda item 8, documents E/3339 and Add.1, part I.

Noting also that the Government of Thailand has offered to act as host to the conference in Bangkok and to extend full co-operation to the United Nations in this connexion,

Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to convene in Bangkok, during the last quarter of 1961, a third United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East; such steps shall include the preparation of a provisional agenda, on the basis of the proposals received, and the sending of invitations to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and to interested intergovernmental organizations.

*1111th plenary meeting,
21 April 1960.*

B

THE CONVENING OF A UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL
CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the usefulness of the two United Nations regional cartographic conferences for Asia and the Far East,

Aware that the necessary steps are being taken to convene a third such conference,

Noting that basic cartographic data and survey work are important in the economic development of any area,

Considering that Africa might also benefit from the convening of a regional cartographic conference similar to those held in Asia and the Far East,

Taking into account the valuable work already being done in this field by interested bodies,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with the Governments of States members of the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as with the specialized agencies concerned and other international organizations as appropriate, on the desirability of convening a United Nations regional cartographic conference for Africa and on the place and agenda for such a conference;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its thirty-first session on the results of his consultations.

*1111th plenary meeting,
21 April 1960.*

C

INTERNATIONAL MAP OF THE WORLD
ON THE MILLIONTH SCALE

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning international co-operation on cartography,¹⁹

Noting the comments that have been received from Governments with respect to the suggested revisions

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, documents E/3339 and Add.1.