

## OTHER DECISIONS

### Draft declaration on social development

At its 1530th meeting held on 31 May 1968, the Council decided to forward the text of the draft declaration on social development, as submitted by the Commission for Social Development,<sup>41</sup> together with all the amendments submitted during the forty-fourth session of the Council<sup>42</sup> and the relevant comments and reservations made during that session, to States Members of the United Nations for their comments and subsequently to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-third session, as a separate agenda item.

### Report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning<sup>43</sup>

At its 1526th meeting held on 28 May 1968, the Council decided to take no action on draft resolution IV concerning the establishment of a working group on housing, building and planning contained in chapter

<sup>41</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/4467/Rev.1), annex I.*

<sup>42</sup> E/AC.7/L.535, 538-540, 543 and 544.

<sup>43</sup> See also resolution 1303 (XLIV) concerning the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields.

VII of the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning<sup>44</sup> and decided to transfer projects 2.8 (Social aspects of housing and urban development), 2.9 (Design of low-cost housing and community facilities) and 2.10 (Industrialization of building) from category II to category I of the work programme for 1968-1970.<sup>45</sup>

### Report of the Population Commission<sup>46</sup>

At its 1520th meeting held on 23 May 1968, the Council took note of chapters IV, V, VI and VII of the report of the Population Commission<sup>47</sup> and decided to postpone to the forty-fifth session consideration of the remaining chapters of the report and the draft resolution contained in chapter XI of the report as well as the section of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning population programmes.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>44</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/4440).*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, chapter IV.

<sup>46</sup> See also resolution 1303 (XLIV) concerning the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields.

<sup>47</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/4454).*

<sup>48</sup> E/4493/Add.1.

## QUESTIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS

### 1302 (XLIV). Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights: report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered*, in accordance with its resolution 277 (X) of 17 February 1950, the question of infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa, which had been brought to its attention by the International Labour Office on the basis of a communication received from the World Federation of Trade Unions,<sup>49</sup>

*Recalling* that, in accordance with resolution 1216 (XLII) of 1 June 1967, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts which was established under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights<sup>50</sup> was authorized to examine the allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and its report;<sup>51</sup>

2. *Condemns* the continuing infringements of trade union rights and the unlawful prosecution, contrary to generally accepted international standards and incompatible with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, of trade union workers, as a violation of the right to freedom of association and as a manifestation of the criminal policy of *apartheid*;

<sup>49</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 14, document E/4305.*

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/4322 and Corr.1)*, para. 268.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 16, document E/4459.*

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of the Republic of South Africa to conform to the generally accepted international standards pertaining to the right to freedom of association and, in particular:

(a) To amend its legislation relating to trade union rights so as to establish a non-discriminatory system under which all persons can freely exercise their trade union rights irrespective of their racial origin;

(b) To grant legal recognition to all existing African trade union associations;

(c) To grant formally to African workers the right to strike and to repeal the provisions which make it a criminal offence for such workers to do so;

(d) To abolish "job reservations";

(e) To repeal those provisions of the Masters and Servants Act and of the Bantu Trust and Land Act of 1936 which prescribe criminal sanctions for breach of contract of employment of African workers, and which have the effect of compelling African farm and domestic workers to work under conditions akin to slavery or servitude;

(f) To abolish the Suppression of Communism Act and to refrain from prosecuting African workers and trade unionists because of their union activities, on the pretext that they have committed violations of ordinary law;

(g) To repeal the general or special provisions which directly or indirectly affect the exercise of trade union rights;

(h) To resume, in order to review the convictions and ensure the observance of trade union rights and the release of the persons in question, the proceedings which led to the conviction of the workers and trade

unionists referred to in the complaint submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions on 3 March 1966;

(i) To release all trade unionists who are in prison as a result of their trade union activities;

5. *Further calls upon* the Government of the Republic of South Africa to implement the above recommendations with immediate effect and to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its having done so;

6. *Decides* to request the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts, reappointed by resolution 2 (XXIV) of the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>52</sup> to examine further the question of the continuing infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa and also to include in its examination the infringements of trade union rights in the Territory of South West Africa under the direct responsibility of the United Nations and now illegally occupied by the Government of the Republic of South Africa;

7. *Decides further* to request the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts to carry out, in co-operation with the United Kingdom, the administering Power, and in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, taking due account of the latter's primary responsibility in this matter, similar examinations of the denial and infringements of trade union rights, by the illegal racist régime in Southern Rhodesia;

8. *Authorizes* the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts to receive communications, hear witnesses and make any other arrangements, as necessary, in order to conclude its work speedily;

9. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts to report to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-sixth session on its findings, and to submit its recommendations for any action to be taken in specific cases;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give every assistance and extend any facilities that may be required by the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts in order to carry out its mandate;

11. *Decides* to transmit the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts established under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights to the Special Committee on the Policies of *Apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa for its information, and recommends to include the outcome of the research of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts about the infringement of the trade union rights in its documents which are designed for wide informative dissemination;

12. *Requests further* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the maximum publicity to the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts.

*1526th plenary meeting,  
28 May 1968.*

### **1323 (XLIV). Report of the Commission on the Status of Women**

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-first session.<sup>53</sup>

*1530th plenary meeting,  
31 May 1968.*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/4475), chapter XVIII.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 6 (E/4472).

### **1324 (XLIV). Political rights of women**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women, containing relevant information available to the Secretary-General as at 15 September 1967,<sup>54</sup>

*Noting also* the report of the first Seminar on Civic and Political Education of Women,<sup>55</sup> held at Helsinki, Finland, in August 1967 and organized on a world-wide basis in accordance with Council resolution 1124 (XLI) of 26 July 1966,

1. *Recognizes* that considerable progress has been made in the field of the granting of political rights to women and that there now remain only a few countries in which women have no voting rights and are not eligible for election, or in which the right to vote and/or the eligibility of women for election are subject to limitations that are not imposed on men;

2. *Notes*, however, that although women have now acquired civic and political rights on equal terms with men under the laws of almost all countries, the exercise of these rights and women's effective influence in all questions of policy and their full participation in policy-making at all levels is limited in practice in a number of them;

3. *Believes* that henceforth particular attention should be paid by Governments and the United Nations bodies concerned to the opportunities available and the extent to which women are exercising their political rights, including the right to vote, to be eligible for election, to hold public office and to exercise public functions;

4. *Urges* all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies which have not already done so, to take the necessary action without delay to accord women political rights on equal terms with men, if possible during the International Year for Human Rights;

5. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies which have not already done so, to ratify or accede to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women,<sup>56</sup> if possible during the International Year for Human Rights;

6. *Draws the attention* of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to the conclusions contained in the report of the Seminar on Civic and Political Education of Women,<sup>57</sup> held at Helsinki, Finland, in August 1967, and in particular to the suggestions for the consideration of Governments;<sup>58</sup>

7. *Draws the attention also* of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to the conclusions and suggestions contained in the report of the above-mentioned Seminar.<sup>59</sup>

*1530th plenary meeting,  
31 May 1968.*

<sup>54</sup> A/6807 and Add.1.

<sup>55</sup> ST/TAO/HR/30.

<sup>56</sup> General Assembly resolution 640 (VII) of 20 December 1952, annex.

<sup>57</sup> ST/TAO/HR/30, chapter VIII.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 153.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 154 and 155.