

the discussion of this question at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights⁵³ and without prejudice to what is proposed in the succeeding paragraphs, to submit the final report to the Commission on Human Rights not later than three months in advance of its twenty-ninth session in 1973 and not later than 30 November 1972;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue providing all possible assistance to the Special Rapporteur and to urge once again those Governments and specialized agencies that have not yet done so to submit information on the effectiveness of the methods and means used by them in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, so that the Special Rapporteur may utilize this information as he may deem it appropriate;

3. *Requests* each regional economic commission to consider the feasibility of including in the agenda of its next session the consideration of "the question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, taking into account special problems relating to human rights in developing countries", and to indicate particular aspects of these rights;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Committee for Development Planning to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights all available information relevant to this item;

5. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider, within their respective spheres of competence, the question of the effective methods and means to be used for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to forward their suggestions to the Commission on Human Rights in time for consideration at its twenty-ninth session;

6. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study the problem at its twenty-ninth session as a matter of priority, including the feasibility of the observance at an appropriate time of an international year for eradication of poverty.

*1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972*

1690 (LII). Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting General Assembly resolution 2854 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and the documents related thereto, particularly the draft conventions submitted by Australia⁵⁴ and by the United States of America,⁵⁵

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 6 (XXVIII) of 31 March 1972,⁵⁶

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has proclaimed in its article 19 the right of everyone to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information through any media and regardless of frontiers,

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113), chap. IV.

⁵⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 49, document A/8589, para. 26.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 27.

⁵⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113), chap. XIII.*

Considering that it is important to promote the right to complete, objective and truthful information,

Considering that mass media of information play a vital role in that connexion,

Considering that the quest for information may expose journalists to dangerous situations when their mission leads them to carry on their activity in areas where there is armed conflict,

Considering that those whose recognized function is to gather information for dissemination through an information organ should be afforded adequate protection in time of armed conflict,

Considering that, without prejudice to the application of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,⁵⁷ it is desirable to guarantee for all categories of journalists, in view of the present-day requirements of their profession, effective protection when they carry out dangerous missions,

Transmits to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session:

(a) The draft articles of the International Convention on the Protection of Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Professional Missions in Areas of Armed Conflict, as approved by the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-eighth session as the basis for further work;⁵⁸

(b) Proposed amendments and the records of the discussion at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights;⁵⁹

(c) The relevant observations submitted by the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

*1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972*

1691 (LII). Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering General Assembly resolution 2583 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969 in which the Assembly drew attention to the special need for international action in order to ensure the prosecution and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2712 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 in which the Assembly expressed deep concern at the fact that in present-day conditions, as a result of aggressive wars and the policies and practices of racism, *apartheid* and colonialism and other similar ideologies and practices, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed in various parts of the world, and called upon all the States concerned to intensify their co-operation in the collection and exchange of information which will contribute to the detection, arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity,

⁵⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

⁵⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113), chap. XIII, resolution 6 (XXVIII), annex.*

⁵⁹ E/CN.4/L.1199 and Corr.1, E/CN.4/L.1202-1210, E/CN.4/SR.1165, 1166 and 1168-1176.

Referring to General Assembly resolution 2840 (XXVI) of 18 December 1971 in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity and to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session,

Noting that many States have not yet submitted comments and observations in accordance with resolution 2712 (XXV),

1. *Once again requests* those States which have not yet done so to submit to the Secretary-General their comments and observations on this question, including proposals concerning principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-ninth session an analytical survey of the comments, observations and proposals received from States, having regard to the need to formulate principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972

1692 (LII). Report of the Commission on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its twenty-eighth session.⁶⁰

1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972

1693 (LII). Collection and dissemination of information on human rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 9 (II) of 21 June 1946, 303 H (XI) of 9 August 1950, 683 B (XXVI) of 21 July 1958 and 1596 (L) of 21 May 1971,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 2538 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 2732 (XXV) of 16 December 1970 and 2836 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971,

Considering the important contribution that periodic reports on human rights and the *Yearbook on Human Rights* have made to the advancement of human rights,

Convinced that it is only through the timely submission and publication of concise reports by Member States and specialized agencies and of objective information by non-governmental organizations in consultative status that the international community can appreciate both the progress achieved and the problems to be overcome,

Noting the delays experienced in the publication of the *Yearbook on Human Rights*,

⁶⁰ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113).

Believing accordingly that the present system of collecting and disseminating information about the realization of human rights should be reviewed,

Conscious of the need to reduce the volume of documentation of the United Nations,

Conscious also of the burden placed upon States Members of the United Nations by the reporting obligations of the present system,

1. *Decides* to allocate this task to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Periodic Reports of the Commission on Human Rights;

2. *Directs* the *Ad Hoc* Committee, at a special session to be held in New York from 8 to 16 January or 11 to 19 January 1973:

(a) To examine the effectiveness of the present system of collecting and disseminating information about the realization of human rights, giving particular attention to the *Yearbook on Human Rights* and its relation to periodic reports on human rights;

(b) To submit its findings and recommendations for the rationalization and improvement of this system to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-ninth session for onward transmission to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth session.

1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972

1694 (LII). Organization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the Commission on Human Rights has an increasing role to play for the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Considering further the continuing impact of human rights problems throughout the world and the variety and intensity of the questions with which the Commission has to deal,

Noting with appreciation the serious efforts of the Commission to promote the observance and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting that the Commission is experiencing difficulties in giving consideration to all of the items on its agenda,

Aware, however, of the heavy agenda of the Commission and that it is not in a position to examine all the items, due to paucity of time,

Recalling resolution 2 (XXV) of 21 February 1969 of the Commission in which the Commission decided to endeavour to establish a proper balance among the matters referred to it with a view to discharging its important functions to the full,

Noting, however, that the Commission has notably been unable in recent years to pay due attention to the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities which, as a subsidiary body of the Commission, has made outstanding and substantial contributions in the field of human rights,

Considering it necessary that the Commission make such arrangements so as to ensure the full consideration by the Commission of the Sub-Commission's reports,