

1745 (LIV). Capital punishment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms everyone's right to life,

Recalling its resolutions 934 (XXXV) of 9 April 1963, 1574 (L) of 20 May 1971 and 1656 (LII) of 1 June 1972, and General Assembly resolutions 1396 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2393 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968, 2857 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and 3011 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 indicating the continuing interest of the United Nations in the study of the question of capital punishment and its desire to promote full respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also in this field,

Having considered the third report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment,¹³

Noting with satisfaction that a large number of Member States recently provided the Secretary-General with the information requested in General Assembly resolution 2393 (XXIII),¹⁴

Noting however that, notwithstanding the information now available, it is difficult to establish a full picture of the present situation, trends and safeguards concerning capital punishment,

Believing that scientifically based studies are needed to improve the present knowledge and understanding of the death penalty and to define what further work could be done by the United Nations in this field, including studies embracing: redefinition of criminal offences to which the death penalty is applied; restriction of the variety and form of such offences to which the death penalty is applied; promotion of studies undertaken on a transregional basis taking into account groups of countries with similar legal, social and economic systems, and similar levels of economic and social development; promotion of individual country studies to determine the economic, social and educational levels of persons executed and of those convicted but not executed in retentionist States over the last two decades,

1. *Reaffirms* that the main objective to be pursued is that of progressively restricting the number of offences for which capital punishment might be imposed with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that, since the publication of the second report of the Secretary-General,¹⁵ capital punishment has been abolished in six countries;

3. *Considers* as further positive signs towards the abolition of capital punishment the fact that, in countries where it still exists, it is generally considered as an exceptional measure which in most cases has not been applied for a long time, and the progressive restriction in those countries of ordinary offences for which it is or may be imposed;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the introduction on occasion of harsher methods of execution involving for example, torture or beating, no matter where or under what circumstances these may have occurred;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council periodic updated and

¹³ E/5242 and Add.1.

¹⁴ See ST/SOA/118 and Add.1 and 2.

¹⁵ See *Capital Punishment* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.67.IV.15), part II: "Developments, 1961 to 1965".

analytical reports at five-year intervals starting from 1975;

6. *Invites* Member States, so that the future five-year reports may be based on all information available:

(a) To include in their periodic reports submitted under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965 any further change in the present situation in regard to capital punishment and safeguards thereto;

(b) To inform the Secretary-General of any new research carried out by qualified national institutions and of any governmental action undertaken to promote research in this field;

7. *Invites* the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, availing itself also of the services of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute, and of the regional social defence institutes, to examine the third report of the Secretary-General and to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session comments and recommendations, through the relevant functional commissions, to stimulate at the international and national levels a better understanding of the issues presently involved in the question of capital punishment.

*1855th plenary meeting
16 May 1973*

1746 (LIV). National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1581 A (L) of 21 May 1971 and 1667 (LII) of 1 June 1972, in which the Council recognized the great importance of carrying out appropriate structural social and economic changes for the achievement of social progress and development and for that purpose considered it appropriate to study the experience of the various countries of the world in this field,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶ prepared on the basis of replies by Governments to his questionnaire on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress,

Noting that social progress has been achieved through the efforts of Governments and through voluntary and co-operative efforts and that such changes are built on a democratic basis,

Recognizing that the great variation in levels of economic growth and the differences between the political systems, cultures and aspirations of Member States necessarily influence the degree of utilizing the experience gained by individual Member States,

Having regard to the fact that the peoples of the world, striving to achieve the goals of social progress and a higher standard of living, are increasingly placing their hopes in State measures and in the active participation of the population in the process of social changes to achieve the above-mentioned goals for the benefit of all the people and in particular the working force,

Sharing the concern of the Governments of many countries at the inadequacy of their rates of economic and social development, which are often slowed by

¹⁶ E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add. 3 and Add.3/Corr.1.

existing economic and social structures, as well as by the lack of effective international co-operation and by external interference in the internal affairs of States,

Bearing in mind that the strengthening of national independence and the achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress depend fundamentally on internal basic social changes for purposes of strengthening national independence, achieving the democratization of society and improving social and economic structures, and on the reaffirmation of the principle of the inadmissibility of external interference in any form, including interference by multinational corporations,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development¹⁷ which recommends that countries should carry out democratically based structural changes and reforms, and in particular that, in accordance with article 2 of that Declaration, social progress and development shall be founded, *inter alia*, on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and on the recognition and effective implementation of civil and political rights as well as of economic, social and cultural rights without any discrimination,

Deploring the persistence of poverty, illiteracy disease, poor housing and social inequities and recognizing the national and international responsibility to eradicate these evils,

Bearing in mind that the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade¹⁸ will be achieved if both the developed and developing countries carry out progressive and structural social changes in their respective societies,

Further bearing in mind that the efforts of the developing countries in achieving the far-reaching social and economic changes require the fulfilment by the developed countries of their obligations towards the developing countries,

1. *Expresses its thanks* to the Secretary-General for his report, which reflects various approaches toward the goal of achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

2. *Stresses* the great importance of fundamental internal democratic social and economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure a speedy improvement in the well-being of the population;

3. *Regards* it as its task to promote the implementation of article 18 (b) of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, that is, the promotion of democratically based social and institutional reforms and motivation for change basic to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and exploitation and conducive to high rates of economic and social progress, and draws the attention of Governments to this recommendation;

4. *Recommends* that appropriate measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population, including the working force, in the production, preparation and execution of economic and social development policies and programmes designed to achieve far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, taking into account the experience of other Governments in this field;

5. *Further recommends* that the Secretary-General should, in consultation with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, continue the study of national experience in carrying out fundamental democratic social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, make a detailed analysis of this question in his reports on the world social situation and include it in the programme of work of the Commission for Social Development;

6. *Decides* to include this question in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session and recommends its inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

1855th plenary meeting
16 May 1973

1747 (LIV). Unified approach to development analysis and planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the vital importance of the implementation of policies and objectives recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development decade, as well as in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 2681 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1494 (XLVIII) of 26 May 1970,

Having examined the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on a unified approach to development analysis and planning,¹⁹

Noting in particular the idea expressed in the report that development is a dynamic and integrated process that could, in certain cases, call for profound social changes and structural transformations,

Taking into consideration the fact that social development is related to a favourable international political climate and that the United Nations, in particular the Economic and Social Council, should play an important role in promoting social development in connexion with the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 2880 (XXVI) of 21 December 1971,

Endorsing the idea expressed in the report of the need, in addition to national income growth indices, to develop adequate means for the assessment of national income distribution among various groups of the population with a view to providing practical guidance for the policy measures aimed at the elimination of mass poverty and unemployment, ensuring fuller use of manpower resources and broader access to education, health and other social services,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on the Expert Group Meeting on a Unified Approach to Development Analysis and Planning, held at Stockholm from 6 to 10 November 1972,²⁰

Bearing in mind that comprehensive and unified national planning is a more effective approach than partial or sectoral planning, which could result in unbalanced development,

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

¹⁹ E/CN.5/477.

²⁰ E/CN.5/490.