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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR
THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

By its resolution 48/91 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action proposed for the Decade. In paragraph 16 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all of the activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies analysing information received on activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The present report contains information received by the Centre for Human Rights on activities undertaken or envisaged by Governments and intergovernmental organizations on the implementation of the Programme of Action by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies within the framework of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 50/136 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly invited all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate fully in the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, in accordance with the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/146 of 23 December 1994.

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 50/136, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

3. With a view to responding to that request, on 15 March 1996 the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all Member States and letters to United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. At the time this report was being drafted, he had received 11 replies from which a synthesis has been derived.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Commission on Human Rights

4. At its fifty-second session, the Commission on Human Rights discussed the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and declared all forms of racism and racial discrimination to be among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world, to be combated by all available means. 1/ It appealed to those States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying all relevant international instruments, particularly the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 2/ and the Convention Against Discrimination in Education. 3/ The Commission, by its resolution 1996/8 of 11 April 1996, again invited the Secretary-General to establish a focal point within the Centre for Human Rights, as called for by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/59.

5. By the same resolution, the Commission urged all who were implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people.

6. It deeply regretted that the financial resources that should have been allocated for the implementation of the 1994-1995 biennial programme for the Third Decade were not provided and requested the Secretary-General to include the activities not implemented in the 1994-1995 programme in the future programme of the Decade and to provide the necessary resources.

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7. The Commission also called upon the international community to provide the Secretary-General with appropriate financial resources for efficient action against racism and racial discrimination and strongly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade.

8. With respect to contemporary forms of racism, the Commission considered the reports of the Special Rapporteur. By its resolution 1996/21 of 19 April 1996, it expressed profound concern and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination and all racist violence, expressed deep concern at and condemnation of manifestations of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers and members of their families and other vulnerable groups in many societies, and categorically condemned the role played by some print, audiovisual, and electronic media in inciting racial hatred.

9. The Commission also called upon all Governments to enact and enforce legislation to prevent acts of racism and invited all Governments to take, where possible, measures to provide assistance to and rehabilitation of victims of acts of racism. In addition, it regretted that the Special Rapporteur had again encountered difficulties in his efforts to fulfil his mandate, owing to lack of resources and urged all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur. It also decided to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to examine incidents of contemporary forms of racism and recommended a draft decision to the Economic and Social Council calling for extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate.

10. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide, without further delay, the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance and resources to carry out his mandate and enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and a comprehensive report to the Commission at its fifty-third session.

B. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, established under the terms of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, has the tasks of examining periodic reports submitted by States parties on their implementation of the Convention, consideration of communications from individuals or groups under the terms of article 14 of the Convention, and deliberation on disputes between States parties.

12. At its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions, the Committee continued to discuss the convenience of holding a joint meeting with the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as it had done in 1994 and 1995. Members of the Committee agreed that a meeting between the bureaux of both organs should be scheduled for August 1996.

13. During its forty-eighth session, the Committee engaged in a useful exchange of views with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. It was noted that the Programme of Action for the Third Decade faced a lack of resources and, unless a supplementary financial

effort was made, very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 would be carried out.

14. Two important contributions of the Committee to the Third Decade are its development of innovatory procedures to address situations of racial discrimination which require urgent response and its early warning procedure. Early warning measures are aimed at preventing existing problems from escalating into conflicts and may include confidence-building measures to identify and support structures to strengthen racial tolerance and consolidate peace in order to prevent a relapse into conflict. Urgent procedures are aimed at responding to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention.

15. At its forty-eighth session, the Committee considered the situation in nine countries: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Croatia, Israel, Rwanda, Liberia, Guatemala, Burundi, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regard to each, the Committee either requested urgent reports from the Government or took other appropriate action within its mandate.

16. The Committee has developed a work procedure for the prevention of and urgent response to situations of racial discrimination, by which it may request information and reports on an urgent basis, make appropriate recommendations and offer missions of experts to assist States parties in addressing difficulties. The procedure is designed to facilitate rapid reaction and involvement by the Committee, both regarding the States parties and other United Nations bodies, with a view to taking the necessary steps to prevent systematic and massive violations of human rights and to help prevent situations involving racial discrimination to decline into conflict. The Committee believes that, by means of the procedure, new avenues permitting the Committee to fulfil its mandate in a more efficient way had been opened.

17. The Committee continues to improve its contribution to the prevention of racial discrimination by sharpening the focus of its activities. It expects to continue to improve its relations with States parties through the joint action initiated by meetings of the persons chairing treaty bodies.

C. International Day for the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination

18. Significant issues were addressed on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 1996. The Secretary-General highlighted in his message that the United Nations offered a medium of communication between cultures and a resource for Member States to study each other's strategies for accommodating diversity. However, much remained to be done. Vast political and technological changes that had occurred around the globe had, while bringing new possibilities for understanding between peoples, brought with them economic and social uncertainty. In that climate, some had sought security in smaller and more exclusive racial and ethnic groupings, leading to social marginalization, suffering and conflict.

19. The Secretary-General emphasized that adoption of severe and stiff laws was vital to assuring and promoting tolerance among social groups. The education of each and every individual should foster awareness of the common ties of humanity and give an impetus to the development of cultures of tolerance and solidarity.

20. He concluded that, on the eve of the twenty-first century, it was essential for the international community to continue its efforts to eradicate all forms of racism and racial discrimination. With more commitment to those efforts, it would be possible to create a world of peace, prosperity, equality and tolerance for future generations.

21. In connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights stated that the United Nations had developed a wide range of mechanisms to combat discrimination, including the International Convention, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism and the Third United Nations Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

22. He said that, despite the disappearance of all institutionalized forms of racial discrimination from the world, the international community was still confronted with a resurgence of racist ideologies and practices, particularly in the economic and social fields. He pointed out that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the provisions of which should be embodied in every country's national law, had been ratified by 146 States. He also added that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, through its early warning procedure, increased its effectiveness.

23. The Secretary-General's message was communicated at a round table organized by the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

24. During the round table, participants and invited guests discussed the theme "Racism at the eve of the twenty-first century". The discussion was led by Ms. Edith Ballantyne, of the NGO Subcommittee on Racism, and the members of the panel were Mr. Michael Banton, Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Prof. Jean Ziegler, University of Geneva; and Dr. Deborah Robinson, Executive Secretary of the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches.

25. Representatives of permanent missions at Geneva and of non-governmental organizations and students from Geneva and Annemasse also participated in the round table.

26. In his presentation, "Preparing for a new era", Mr. Michael Banton noted that the International Convention had been astonishingly successful but that its text reflected the understandings of the early 1960s.

27. In 1970, when the Committee first started to consider State reports, some members expected Governments to correct all the evils and inequalities in their societies. They thought of the State as omnipotent. However, it had been appreciated that some things were better implemented by voluntary action, by

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agencies independent of direct governmental control, or by private companies. That lesson would have to be built into strategies for the future.

28. Mr. Banton went on to say that the first challenge for the new era was to find a way to get States to accept all of their responsibilities. The new era must act on the understanding that prevention was cheaper than cure. He viewed the problems of racial and ethnic discrimination in the future to be more difficult because they reached to the very heart of societies.

29. Concerning preparation for the new era, he noted that particular attention must be paid to the mass communications media, specifically its negative contribution to disaster in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. Then he proposed new policies to be developed in association with experienced persons in those fields.

30. Dr. Robinson dealt with culture as a means to overcome racism and racial discrimination. She described the positive influence of cultural exchange among societies with a view to changing the perceptions and attitudes of people, especially youth, towards those who were different, whether from the North or the South.

31. Some participants expressed their regret that, unlike the first Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Second and Third Decades had not aroused the same enthusiasm within the international community. Nevertheless, general welcome was expressed for the fact that the United Nations, through the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, had decided to attack the resurgence of anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

32. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights concluded the work of the round table by assuring the participants of the commitment of the High Commissioner and of the Centre for Human Rights to the campaign against racism and racial discrimination and encouraged the participants to pursue their own activities to the same end.

33. As part of the activities organized on the occasion of the Day, 30 paintings by 10 artists were exhibited at the Palais des Nations from 18 to 29 March 1996.

D. Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

34. In his report to the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1996/72 and Add.1), Mr. Glèlè-Ahanhanzo, Special Rapporteur, presented his findings on contemporary manifestations of racism and racial discrimination in several countries. He had also submitted a report to the General Assembly (A/50/476).

35. He emphasized that the end of apartheid did not mean the end of racism and that contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related

intolerance, together with anti-Semitism, boded ill for the international community. He pointed out that his missions to Brazil, France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had enabled him to begin a dialogue with the Governments of those countries and to get a sense of the actual situations there. Through exchanges with those involved on a daily basis, the missions provided a means of going beyond the impersonality of written texts and statistics in order to come to grips with living reality.

36. He concluded that an enormous task still remained to be completed in view of the complexity of the issues. He hoped that all the countries covered by his mandate would receive him and provide him with assistance for the discharge of his mission.

E. United Nations bodies

1. Department of Public Information, United Nations Secretariat

37. The Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination requests the Department of Public Information to undertake specific activities that could be carried out by Governments and relevant non-governmental organizations to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) each year.

38. In view of this mandate, the Department set out the following objectives of an information strategy on the Decade: to increase public awareness and broaden substantive knowledge of the issues; to mobilize additional resources; and to generate greater political support for appropriate action.

39. The strategy emphasizes the following key messages:

(a) All forms of racism and racial discrimination, including those resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority, such as ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious violations of human rights and must be combated by all available means;

(b) Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as stated by the Commission on Human Rights.

40. The strategy is mainly targeted at the news media, non-governmental organizations, governmental officials, policy makers, students and educators. Information materials are also being channelled to the general public through non-governmental organizations, educational and cultural institutions, religious organizations and others.

41. The Programme also states that the Department should publish posters for the Third Decade and informative brochures on the activities planned for it. Relevant documentary films, reports and radio broadcasts should be considered. The General Assembly supported the organization of a seminar on the role of mass media in combating or disseminating racist ideas, with the cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Department.

42. The products and services of the Department include promotional print materials, press coverage and audio-visual programmes. These are made available by the Department at United Nations Headquarters, by the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, which provides regular services to the Centre for Human Rights there, and by United Nations information centres and services around the world.

43. In an effort to link issues, World Chronicle included a 30-minute United Nations television programme on the International Year for Tolerance, which included the issue of racism. Since the beginning of the Third Decade, United Nations Radio has produced more than 50 programmes and features on racial discrimination, in the six official United Nations languages and in such non-official languages as Bangla, Dutch, Hindi, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Turkish and Urdu.

44. The Department produced and distributed 30,000 copies of a six-language poster for the Third Decade (DPI/1651) in September 1995. Writers were contacted for a series of articles on key human rights issues, including racism and ethnic conflict in late 1995, but the articles had to be cancelled owing to the financial crisis.

45. To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination, a backgrounder has been produced each year. In 1995, it was distributed electronically to the United Nations information centres and services. The Department has also provided the centres with suggestions on ways to celebrate the Day.

46. The Department's Public Inquiries Unit and the focal points on human rights in the Department's Promotion and External Relations Division continue to respond to numerous requests for information and publications. Since the beginning of the Third Decade, the Visitor's Service at Headquarters has arranged for 10 special briefings for 247 people on issues related to human rights and racism.

47. The Department's network of United Nations information centres and services continues to play a significant role in furthering the objectives of the Third Decade. In addition to disseminating relevant materials received from Headquarters, they have adapted and translated materials locally. They have also organized or co-sponsored special commemorations, events, meetings, public gatherings and briefings; participated in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and given numerous interviews to national and local media.

48. The following activities, inter alia, were undertaken by selected centres and services around the world:

(a) UNIC Bucharest coordinated a round table on racial discrimination. Speakers included the President of the Jewish communities, the Armenian Consul and the representative of the International Migration Organization;

(b) At UNIC Buenos Aires, a total of 120 people attended the screening of "Pinceladas", and the Centre issued a press release on the issue of racial

discrimination. The Centre also organized a seminar with the Ministry of the Interior, on discrimination in Argentina, and an NGO forum on the struggle against discrimination;

(c) UNIS Geneva organized a number of activities with the Centre for Human Rights including a round table on the theme "Combatting racial discrimination and related intolerance in democratic society". As part of its regular servicing, UNIS Geneva continues to ensure full coverage of the annual meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year UNIS Geneva cooperated with the Centre for Human Rights in organizing an art exhibition devoted to human rights and racial discrimination, and a round-table discussion on the theme "Racism on the eve of the XXIst century";

(d) UNIC Lomé organized a round table on the issue of racial discrimination.

49. The Department is preparing a series of backgrounders - features and factsheets on indigenous concerns that will be published in the current biennium. It is also planning to update and reprint some of the backgrounders included in the information kit produced for the International Year of Indigenous People. A recent backgrounder, entitled "Indigenous women: taking control of their destiny" (DPI/1717), has been published and distributed in English, French and Spanish. Work is also progressing on the design for a poster on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, to be issued in the second half of 1996.

2. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

50. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a mandate to provide international protection to refugees and to seek durable solutions to the problem of refugees. UNHCR shares the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, mainly through the elimination of the human rights violations which would help prevent refugee flows and promote the durability of voluntary repatriation as a solution. The Office has launched a public awareness campaign in over a dozen countries of asylum in Europe, North America and Latin America in order to combat racism and xenophobia and sensitize people to the plight of refugees. In 1996, UNHCR is also expanding its campaign in Africa and the Middle East.

F. Specialized agencies

51. In paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/136 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly urged the specialized agencies, inter alia, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people in their implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism.

1. International Labour Organization

52. The International Labour Organization reported that it had been dedicated since its origins to the promotion of social justice. Hence, the elimination of discrimination was integral to all of its activities.

53. The principal means of action in that field was through international labour standards. In the area of "prevention of discrimination" the ILO had supported the adoption of international conventions and the supervision of their implementation by a highly developed machinery aimed both at pointing out problems and at contributing to their solution. Over 6,300 ratifications had been received on 176 conventions.

54. The ILO's principal convention in the area of discrimination was the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) which had been ratified by 120 countries. It required all ratifying States to "declare and pursue a national policy designed to promote, by methods appropriate to national conditions and practice, equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation, with a view to eliminating any discrimination in respect thereof". It defined "discrimination" as "any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity and treatment in employment or occupation".

55. In supervising the implementation of the Convention, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations carried out a special survey on equality of opportunity and treatment. The survey found that race was one of the grounds most frequently referred to in national texts prohibiting discrimination and also noted several recent instances in which it had been added to national legislation on the subject. The Committee concluded that there was currently a legislative trend to make discriminatory practices based on race a punishable offence. The Committee also noted the fact that the majority of the many comments addressed to States related to discrimination on grounds other than race or colour.

56. Complementing the efforts of the Discrimination Convention to combat racism is the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), which revises the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107). It has so far only nine ratifications. There is strong concern for the prevention of discrimination on the basis of race inherent in these instruments.

57. In execution of its responsibilities related to combating racism and in the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the ILO carries out a large number of promotional and assistance activities concerning indigenous and tribal peoples around the world. They are intended in some cases to assist Governments and indigenous representatives to analyse Convention No. 169 so as to determine whether they wish to ratify it; to promote the implementation of its principles even in the absence of ratification; and to assist development initiatives affecting indigenous and tribal peoples, irrespective of the ratification. The ILO has recently assisted Namibia, Brazil, the Philippines, Guatemala and several Eastern European countries.

58. When a convention has been ratified, ILO's supervisory bodies examine governmental reports and other information concerning its implementation and make comments with a view to helping countries improve their implementation.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

59. As part of its contribution to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, UNESCO is planning to compile international instruments that aim to combat racism and discrimination and will organize by the end of 1996 an international expert meeting on the origins of extreme nationalism, xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism and the ways and means of eradicating them.

60. In 1996-1997, UNESCO also plans to analyse prejudices and negative stereotypes that lead to discrimination and support national activities aimed at the prevention of discrimination.

61. In connection with the same subject, UNESCO and the Marangapoulos Foundation for Human Rights organized an international expert seminar on the prevention of discrimination against immigrants, refugees and persons belonging to minorities (Greece, 13-14 May 1994).

62. The seminar examined the strengths and weaknesses of international law and institutions as means of protection for those who were the targets of discrimination. It noted in particular the weaknesses of institutions of implementation, combined with conflicting attitudes among Governments on the degree and nature of protection to be given to different groups of victims.

63. Participants reviewed the current conditions that constituted fertile grounds for virulent ethno-nationalism, xenophobia and racism - for example, the process of transition, dislocation, unemployment and ideological vacuums - and the factors at different levels which interacted with each other to create those conditions.

64. On the positive side, it was noted that a comprehensive framework which in principle protected everyone had evolved. Under international human rights law, the rights contained in the instruments should be ensured and protected for everyone "under the jurisdiction" of States parties. The broadness of the concept meant that it applied to minorities as well as majorities, irrespective of their ethnic or national origin, colour or religious affiliation; it included citizens and the various categories of aliens residing in a country.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS

65. The recommendation to the Commission to convene a third world conference against racism and racial discrimination is pending the decision of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General has not received enough replies or substantial contributions to guide the General Assembly to take the relevant steps.

A. Denmark

66. The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that in 1995 particular appreciation had been paid to the measures taken to combat ethnic discrimination in the labour market, such as the establishment of the Board of Ethnic Equality, the introduction of a bill on the prohibition of unequal treatment and the "Barrier Action Plan", comprising 18 initiatives in broad areas of the labour market and education/training fields to improve the conditions of ethnic minorities.

67. The 18 initiatives of the action plan to break down barriers are:

- (a) "Pool of funds" for mutual cultural understanding;
- (b) Continued training programmes for the staff of the public employment service;
- (c) Staff manual;
- (d) Interpretation assistance to the public employment service;
- (e) Testing of acquired skills;
- (f) Guidance courses;
- (g) Guidance to immigrants at AMU courses;
- (h) Guidance in language schools;
- (i) More offers of lessons in Danish;
- (j) More immigrants should learn Danish;
- (k) Experiments with compensatory education;
- (l) Qualifying vocational training courses;
- (m) Experiment with AMU courses;
- (n) Special initiatives in technical and commercial schools;
- (o) "Pool of funds" for untraditional training and employment initiatives;
- (p) Evaluation of untraditional projects;
- (q) Fixed regional framework of coordination of measures;
- (r) Coordination of guidance activities in relation to immigrants and refugees.

68. Likewise, the introduction of a circular setting down guidelines for placement activities in relation to unemployed persons who belong to ethnic

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minority groups in connection with the handling of job offers in the public employment service was implemented.

69. Special temporary measures had been initiated on the basis of special appropriations, the "pool of funds". In 1996, 16,000,000 Danish kroner were allocated for that purpose. Vocational courses would be offered for immigrants in order to open up the labour market to ethnic minorities, in both the private and public sectors.

70. The Danish report stated that the Government was actively participating in relevant European Union and International Labour Organization initiatives.

B. Uruguay

71. The Government of Uruguay stated that an internal discussion had recently begun on two initiatives which demonstrated Uruguay's intention to adopt effective legislative and administrative measures to promote tolerance and eradicate practices involving discrimination and racism. First, the executive had placed before the Parliament a bill for the creation of an ombudsman with wide-ranging powers, including the power to deal with complaints about specific cases of racial discrimination.

72. Secondly, it was a matter of domestic policy to collect international suggestions, particularly from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for incorporation into the national statistical register, the Race Module (Modulo Raza). The Government of Uruguay noted that the new system would create an opportunity to gather official statistics on the social, economic and educational situation of the various races that lived in the country.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

73. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) serves as a framework for negotiating certain commitments in combating racism and racial discrimination.

74. The Declaration on Aggressive Nationalism, Racism, Chauvinism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism, adopted in 1993 by the Rome Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is of particular importance.

75. In the Declaration the Ministers focused attention on the need for urgent action to enforce the strict observance of the norms of international humanitarian law, including the prosecution and punishment of those guilty of war crimes and other crimes against humanity. The Ministers also agreed that OSCE must play an important role in those efforts. The clear standards of behaviour reflected in OSCE commitments include active support for the equal rights of all individuals, in accordance with international law, and for the protection of national minorities.

IV. ACTIVITIES FORESEEN IN 1996 AND 1997

76. UNHCR and the Centre for Human Rights will organize an inter-agency meeting on the work of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in the second half of 1996.

77. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade, UNHCR and the Centre for Human Rights are planning to organize a seminar on the topic "Evaluation of the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, with particular reference to articles 4 and 6". The seminar will take place in Geneva from 9 to 13 September 1996.

78. The Centre for Human Rights is in the process of finalizing the arrangements for a seminar on racism and immigration, to be held in late 1996/early 1997.

79. Lack of resources has prevented the implementation of the plan of activities to be carried out during the first third of the Third Decade (1994-1997). 4/ For the same reason, no action has been taken regarding the proposal, made in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action, 5/ to erect a memorial in honour of the victims of racism and racial discrimination.

80. There is need to establish a focal point for the Third Decade, as called for by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1996/8.

V. TRUST FUND FOR THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

81. The Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is a continuation of the fund established in 1973 by the General Assembly in application of paragraph 17 of the Programme of Action for the first Decade (contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973) and re-established in 1983 in the framework of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983).

82. Notwithstanding the commitments made by the international community, especially at the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993), at which the rapid and complete elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination was declared to be a priority task of the international community, contributions to the Fund have remained below the levels hoped for. It is therefore certain that, unless a supplementary financing effort is made, very few of the activities planned for the 1994-1997 period will be carried out. 4/ It is important to note that contributors can allocate their contributions to whatever particular activities they deem especially worthy of interest within the context of the effort to combat racism and racial discrimination. The current status of the Fund is reflected in the annex below.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

83. The contributions made by the various United Nations bodies and organizations, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to the work of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination illustrate global and concerted efforts to address the issues and to provide long-lasting solutions.

84. Through these efforts, the international community has been alerted to the eruption of new forms of racism, causing massive violations of human rights. However, the present report demonstrates that the Third Decade deserves more attention from the parties concerned in order to achieve its goals. The Council may wish to devote one of its sessions to the question of allocating financial and human resources to the Programme.

85. The Council should also reiterate its suggestion for the appointment of a focal point within the Centre on Human Rights to coordinate the activities of the Decade.

86. As for the proposal for a third world conference on racism and racial discrimination, the very limited number of replies received by the Secretary-General is the main reason for calling upon the General Assembly to determine whether further consultations are necessary with Governments.

87. Finally, Governments should continue to contribute, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, educators and the media, to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, the implementation of which is coordinated by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23) (to be issued).

2/ General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX).

3/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 429, p. 39 ff.

4/ See E/1994/97, paras. 66-69.

5/ Ibid., para. 75.

Annex

STATUS OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AS
AT 31 DECEMBER 1995

Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves
and fund balances for the biennium 1994-1995 ended
31 December 1995

(United States dollars)

	1995	1993
<u>Income</u>		
Voluntary contributions	172 025	85 642
Interest income	6 261	2 538
Other/miscellaneous income	<u>4 401</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>182 687</u>	<u>88 180</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Staff and other personnel costs	-	21 000
Travel	<u>-</u>	<u>28 549</u>
Total direct expenditure	-	49 549
Programme support costs	<u>(541)</u>	<u>5 441</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>(541)</u>	<u>55 990</u>
NET EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	183 228	32 190
Refunds to donors	-	(28 336)
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES BEGINNING OF PERIOD	<u>36 974</u>	<u>33 120</u>
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES END OF PERIOD	<u>220 202</u>	<u>36 974</u>
<u>Statement of assets, liabilities, reserves and fund balances as at 31 December 1995</u>		
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and term deposits	219 620	27 936
Pledged contributions receivable	-	13 000
Other accounts receivable	<u>582</u>	<u>196</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>220 202</u>	<u>41 134</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Unliquidated obligations	<u>-</u>	<u>4 160</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-</u>	<u>4 160</u>
<u>Reserves and fund balances</u>		
Cumulative surplus (deficit)	<u>220 202</u>	<u>36 974</u>
TOTAL RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>220 202</u>	<u>36 974</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>220 202</u>	<u>41 134</u>
