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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR
ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to paragraph 18 (f) of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex), the Secretary-General submitted the following reports to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1981: E/1981/15 and Add.1 and 2. These reports were based on information received by the Secretary-General as at 10 March 1981.
2. Paragraph 18 (h) of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination provides that the General Assembly shall consider annually the item entitled "Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" on the basis of the report of the Council and of other relevant reports which it may receive from the Secretary-General.
3. The present report has been prepared on the basis of information received after 15 March 1981 from the Governments of Bulgaria and Greece under paragraph 18 (e) of the aforementioned Programme for the Decade. In response to the Secretary-General's earlier request for information under paragraph 18 (f) of the Programme, one additional reply was received from a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

II. INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 18 (e) OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE

A. Legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures adopted to prohibit or prevent any manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, regardless of whether or not discriminatory practices prevail

4. The Greek Government notes that the Greek Parliament, in response to the adjuration of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted specific legislation in 1979 (Act No. 927/1979, the text of which appears in document CERD/C/50/Add.2 of 2 August 1979) which prohibits all acts of racial discrimination.

B. Legislative, administrative and other measures which have been, or are being, taken to guarantee the right of everyone to equality before the law without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin

5. The Greek Government notes that the 1975 Constitution establishes the general principle of equality of all persons on Greek territory without any distinction as to nationality, race, religion or language.

6. The Bulgarian Government notes that the supreme objective of the State and society in Bulgaria is the full implementation of the principle of complete equality of all citizens, the basis for which is provided by article 35 of the Constitution, which stipulates, inter alia, that "All citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria are equal before the law". The Government further notes that the equality of all citizens before the law is also guaranteed in accordance with provisions embodied in civil, penal and administrative legislation, and that particular attention is paid to provisions aimed at ensuring effective respect for the equality of citizens and the prevention of any manifestations of discrimination on the basis of race or nationality.

C. Legislative, administrative and other measures which have been, or are being taken to guarantee the right of everyone to equality in respect of economic, social and cultural rights without distinction of any kind or on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin

7. The Greek Government notes that the Constitution, in articles 4 to 25, guarantees economic, social and cultural rights without any distinction.

8. The Bulgarian Government notes that the 1971 Constitution and current legislation proclaim and guarantee equal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all nationals of the People's Republic of Bulgaria without privilege or restriction. The Government further notes that the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by Bulgarian nationals is founded in the Constitution and is governed by normative instruments.

D. Specific machinery and recourse procedures of a judicial and/or administrative character which can be effectively resorted to by individuals complaining of racial discrimination

9. The Greek Government notes that domestic legislation makes ample legal and administrative provision for recourse for any person who is on Greek territory or affected by any act of the Greek authorities. Further, the Government notes that Act No. 927/1979 provides for specific recourse to criminal courts.

10. The Bulgarian Government notes that, under articles 125 and 133 of the Constitution, the defence of legitimate rights and interests is entrusted to the courts and the Prokuratura (Office of the Public Prosecutor). The court operates through actions at law, while the Prokuratura has general responsibility for ensuring strict compliance with the law by State organs. The Government further notes that article 55 of the Constitution gives citizens the right to submit petitions, appeals and suggestions according to the procedure established by law. The Government notes that another extra-judicial procedure available to defend the rights of citizens is established by the law on administrative procedure, which allows interested parties to appeal against an administrative act in two stages, to the higher administrative organ and to the courts.

E. Measures which have been, or are being, taken to include in school curricula questions relating to racism and racial discrimination

11. The Greek Government notes that secondary education includes civic education on equality, respect for human dignity and non-discrimination. At the university level, the Faculty of Law and Political Science gives appropriate attention to analysis of the Convention.

12. The Bulgarian Government notes that the education of young people in a spirit of respect for human dignity and of struggle against racism and racial discrimination is carried out at all levels. The Government notes that children in the seventh grade study a separate subject entitled "Morals and rights", and those in the ninth grade take a course which introduces them to the problems of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It further notes that the struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid occupies an important place in political education courses for higher classes.

F. Legislative, administrative and other measures which have been, or are being, taken to declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and to prohibit the establishment of organizations based on racial prejudice

13. The Greek Government notes that Act No. 927, articles 2 and 1 (2), punishes any dissemination of racist ideas and participation in organizations propagating such ideas.

14. The Bulgarian Government notes that article 35 of the Constitution prohibits all propagation of hate or humiliation of man because of race or national or religious affiliation, and that any such act is punishable. The Government adds that article 162 enumerates such crimes, which are all those aimed at propaganda or incitement to enmity, hatred or racial discrimination as well as the use of violence against others, or the misappropriation of the property of others for reasons of race, nationality, religion or political belief.

G. Initiating or participating in regional and international activities in line with the goals and objectives of the Programme for the Decade, such as international and regional seminars, conferences and other similar activities

15. The Greek Government notes that Greece has always participated in the activities of the Programme for the Decade.

- H. Steps taken with a view to ensuring the prohibition of any kind of racial discrimination in laws and in administrative and other measures regulating immigration

16. The Greek Government notes that so far there have never been any difficulties in areas relating to complete equality and lack of racial discrimination with respect to immigration.

- I. Steps taken to ensure that migrant workers and their families are given treatment which is no less favourable than that accorded to nationals of the host country in matters such as education, employment, the acquisition of property, health and housing facilities, travel within and outside the country, etc.

17. The Greek Government notes that article 4 of the Civil Code guarantees equality of Greeks and aliens in civil matters, labour relations, social insurance, etc.

- J. Co-operation of parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination with the Committee operating under the Convention, in particular in the preparation of full and comprehensive reports under article 9 of the Convention; consideration of the possibility of making the declaration envisaged in article 14, paragraph 1, of that Convention, by which a State party to the Convention recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of violations by the State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention

18. The Greek Government notes that Greece is a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and co-operates regularly with the Committee.

19. The Bulgarian Government notes that Bulgaria has ratified all the United Nations conventions aiming at the complete and final elimination of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Further, the Government indicates that Bulgaria will continue to play an active part in the future in all international efforts aimed at eradicating all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

- K. States parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

20. The Greek Government notes that Greece is not a party to the Convention.

L. Countries not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and/or the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid:

- (a) Considerations which may have prevented ratification of or accession to the Conventions;
- (b) Steps that have been taken with a view to ratifying or acceding to the Conventions, such as bringing them before the authority or authorities within whose competence the matter lies for the enactment of legislation or other action.

21. The Greek Government notes that the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid is under detailed study by the relevant legal authorities.

M. Assistance provided to peoples who are victims of racial discrimination

22. The Greek Government notes that Greece has granted and continues to grant financial assistance to the victims of racial discrimination through the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa

N. Denial of support to Governments or régimes which practice racial discrimination, with a view to isolating them and preventing them from perpetuating racist policies and practices

23. The Greek Government notes that it strongly condemns all policies of racial discrimination and does not support any racist régime in any way.

24. The Bulgarian Government notes that Bulgaria has always strictly and unconditionally complied with Security Council and General Assembly resolutions which condemn racism, colonialism and the policy of apartheid and call for the isolation of the racist South African régime. The Government notes in this respect that the People's Republic of Bulgaria maintains no political, economic, trade or other links with the Republic of South Africa.

- O. Support and assistance provided in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations declarations and resolutions, to liberation movements struggling against colonialism and racial discrimination, and/or support to Governments that wish to embark on concrete programmes to eradicate racial discrimination

25. The Greek Government notes that it offers support to liberation movements struggling against foreign occupation and racial discrimination, in accordance with the relevant declarations and resolutions of the United Nations.

26. The Bulgarian Government notes that Bulgaria supports those peoples which are still under colonial domination and conducting a just and legitimate struggle for national liberation, self-determination, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity. The Government notes that Bulgaria will in the future continue to offer, as it has to date, its assistance in every field to peoples struggling for the liberation of southern Africa as well as to their liberation movements.

- P. Measures that have been, or are being, taken to initiate and support campaigns aimed at mobilizing national public opinion against the evils of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid such as:

- (a) Adequate programmes in the mass media, publishing activities, research seminars, students' and youth organizations, trade unions, employers' organizations and religious and professional organizations;
- (b) The dissemination of educational material against racism and racial discrimination;
- (c) Consideration of ways and means through which communication media and non-governmental organizations may be encouraged to propagate the goals and objectives of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the relevant resolutions of United Nations organs on racism

27. The Greek Government notes that communications media and specialized institutions in the country frequently mobilize public opinion against acts of discrimination and racism.

28. The Bulgarian Government notes that the mass media accord particular attention to the struggle for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The Government reports that every year the Bulgarian people celebrates the International

Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa, etc., and that the press, radio and television in Bulgaria publicize the activities of the United Nations aimed at implementing the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

III. INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION UNDER
PARAGRAPH 18 (f) OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE

All Pakistan Women's Association

29. The All Pakistan Women's Association reports that its Governing Body Meeting and Seminar, held at Hyderabad, in November 1981, discussed the Association's Future Plan of Action as adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women at Copenhagen. The meeting adopted a number of resolutions which focused, among other things, on better opportunities for female employment at all levels and women's rights and responsibilities. One such resolution urged the Government of Pakistan to amend the Pakistan Citizenship Act (under which discrimination against women exists in law and practice) so that existing discrimination against women is eliminated. In the field of employment, the Association states that there remains active prejudice against the employment of women in all public and private sectors where merit alone should be the criterion. The meeting, therefore, demanded that the Government take immediate steps to enforce implementation of constitutional rights by directing all Government, semi-autonomous and private employment agencies to consider women applicants on the basis of merit.
