

States under such instruments as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination or the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and from the periodic reports submitted by States under the reporting procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX);

2. *Decides* that States will no longer be invited to submit separate contributions either directly or through correspondents for inclusion in the *Yearbook*; however, individual States wishing to provide a contribution intended specifically for the *Yearbook* shall be free to do so;

3. *Further decides* that, beginning as soon as possible, the *Yearbook* shall be issued annually in accordance with the guidelines annexed to the present resolution;

4. *Recommends* that an appropriate date should be adopted for the issuance of the *Yearbook* and that the same date should be adhered to thereafter.

*15th plenary meeting
10 May 1979*

ANNEX

Guidelines for the contents and format of the *Yearbook on Human Rights*

INTRODUCTION

The introduction would refer to the legislative authority for the publication and would give a brief description of the organization and contents of the *Yearbook*. It would also give the sources of information, including a list of States from which reports had been received during the period covered.

PART ONE. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Part one would consist of material reflecting legislative, administrative, judicial and other national measures and court decisions. The material would be selected from government reports submitted under the international human rights instruments, periodic reports submitted by States under the reporting procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX) of 28 July 1975, or contributions submitted by States intended specifically for the *Yearbook*. The material would be arranged under country headings with subheadings by subject and would include information on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Appropriate documentary references would be given in foot-notes.

PART TWO. ACTIVITIES OF THE SUPERVISORY BODIES

Part two would consist of two separate sections:

Section A would reflect the practice of the supervisory bodies concerning the examination of government reports and, as appropriate, reports from specialized agencies, and other tasks entrusted to those bodies under the relevant international instruments. This section would consist of extracts of the reports of supervisory bodies to the respective parent organs, with appropriate documentary references given in foot-notes.

Section B would include relevant decisions, general recommendations, general comments and observations made by the supervisory bodies in connexion with their examination of reports submitted by Governments and the specialized agencies concerned, and other tasks entrusted to those bodies under the international instruments. The relevant decisions and resolutions of the parent bodies, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, could also be included.

PART THREE. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Part three would consist of an account of other international developments and activities in the field of human rights

in the United Nations system drawn up along the lines of part three of the *Yearbook on Human Rights for 1973-1974*,⁵⁸ but excluding activities that would be covered in part two. Part three would also include extracts from important documents adopted by the relevant organs of the United Nations system or submitted in accordance with decisions of such organs, selected with a view to their wider dissemination, and statements of policy or principle by the Secretary-General on questions of human rights.

ANNEXES

Selected material could be included as annexes, such as: (a) texts of general guidelines adopted in connexion with various reporting procedures; (b) the status of the ratifications and accessions and reservations to international human rights instruments; (c) a list of documents of the United Nations system of interest within the field of human rights.

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A subject index is to be included.

1979/38. Disappeared persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed deep concern at reports from various parts of the world relating to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons,

Noting that the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fifth session was unable, for lack of time, to take a decision on the matter,

1. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session to consider as a matter of priority the question of disappeared persons, with a view to making appropriate recommendations;

2. *Requests* the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to consider the subject at its thirty-second session, with a view to making general recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session;

3. *Also requests* the Sub-Commission to consider communications on disappeared persons in accordance with the relevant resolutions.

*15th plenary meeting
10 May 1979*

1979/39. Report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights on allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1978/28 of 5 May 1978 concerning allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa,

Expressing grave doubts whether the recently proposed reforms will achieve fundamental changes in the situation of African workers in South Africa,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts⁵⁹ submitted pursuant to the above-mentioned decision;

⁵⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XIV.1.

⁵⁹ E/1979/19.

2. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts to continue to study the question and to report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council at such times as it may consider appropriate;

3. *Demands* the immediate and complete abolition of all restrictions on the trade union rights of African workers in southern Africa, including migrant workers, and the immediate and unconditional recognition of all existing African trade unions.

*15th plenary meeting
10 May 1979*

1979/40. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-fifth session,⁶⁰

Taking note of the decisions of the Commission concerning the flagrant violation by Israel of human rights in the occupied Arab territories,

1. *Commends* the Commission on Human Rights for its vigilance and its decisions for the protection of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to pursue its efforts for the protection of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and to continue to take the appropriate measures in this respect.

*15th plenary meeting
10 May 1979*

1979/41. Control and limitation of documentation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/1 of 9 February 1979 on control and limitation of documentation, particularly the concern expressed about the volume of documentation, the consequent delays in its circulation, and the fact that documents are too often not issued in due time in all the working languages of the Council,

Aware of the heavy burden therefore placed on the Secretariat and delegations, as well as the increasing financial costs involved,

Recalling also General Assembly decision 33/417 of 14 December 1978, in which the Assembly welcomed the intention of the bureaux of the Committee on Conferences and of the Economic and Social Council to consult closely in the preparation of the calendar of conferences,

Anxious to improve the current situation in order to facilitate and make more effective the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretariat,⁶¹ which contains a number of useful sug-

gestions with regard to the volume of documentation, summary records, reports of subsidiary bodies, the form of presentation of documents and the report of the Council to the General Assembly;

2. *Decides:*

(a) That the Council should continue to review, at each organizational session, the documentation requested under existing legislative authority with respect to items in its biennial programme of work, in order to determine whether any of it is redundant;

(b) That, with respect to recurrent and other documents prepared in pursuance of existing legislative authority, a determination should be made, in the context of their substantive consideration by the Council, of their continuing justification, including whether any of them have lost their usefulness or could be issued at less frequent intervals;

(c) That restraint should be exercised both in the Council and in its subsidiary bodies in making new requests for documents and that recurrent documents should be requested only when the nature of the subject makes this indispensable;

(d) That, prior to the close of each regular session of the Council, the Secretariat shall submit to the Council a consolidated list of the documentation requested in decisions of the Council under items of its agenda, in order to permit a final review of these requests to establish the legislative authority for the production of such documentation;

(e) That, in future, the provisional agenda for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for its review in order, *inter alia*, to establish greater consistency between the documentation of those bodies and the over-all documentation requested by the Council and other subsidiary bodies and greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget;

(f) That the provision of summary records of all subsidiary bodies of the Council should be reviewed at the second regular session of 1979, with a view to reducing the number of instances when summary records are provided;

(g) That, for that purpose, the Secretariat should submit for consideration by the Council revised guidelines concerning the format of the reports of the Council's subsidiary bodies, which should also contribute to greater uniformity and higher standards of presentation;

3. *Approves* the modifications in the form and presentation of documents contained in the note by the Secretariat⁶² and emphasizes that the 32-page rule for secretariat reports should apply to the documents as a whole, including any annexes and appendices that may be required;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1979 a report showing the actual capacity of the technical services of the United Nations Secretariat to issue documentation simultaneously in all the working languages, in conformity with the six-week rule and the foreseeable calendar of meetings and the consequent need for documentation, together with a breakdown showing the

⁶⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36).*

⁶¹ E/1979/21.

⁶² *Ibid.*, para. 20.