

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,<sup>60</sup>

*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,<sup>61</sup> 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 Secretariat<sup>62</sup> 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

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

<sup>61</sup> E/1979/21.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.

volume and proportion of documentation produced at the request of each of the Council's subsidiary bodies;

5. *Decides* to issue its report to the General Assembly in separate fascicles and that the report on each agenda item should reflect the chronological sequence of consideration by the Council of the item concerned during the year, and that a single consolidated and bound report containing all the separate item reports should be prepared soon after the Council has concluded its work for the year, including the resumed second regular session;

6. *Further decides* to review the new format of both its own report to the General Assembly and the reports of its subsidiary bodies at its organizational session for 1980;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General systematically to bring to the attention of all subsidiary bodies, including expert bodies, the relevant provisions of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Council regarding the control and limitation of documentation, and to ensure that the work of the Secretariat shall be organized so that documentation can be issued in due time in all working languages.

*15th plenary meeting  
10 May 1979*

#### **1979/42. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 645 G (XXIII) of 26 April 1957, 724 C (XXVIII) of 7 July 1959, 871 (XXXIII) of 10 April 1962, 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963, 1110 (XL) of 7 March 1966, 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, 1744 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, 1973 (LIX) and 1974 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 and 2050 (LXII) of 5 May 1977,

*Recognizing* the importance of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods and on the question of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods,

*Noting* the programme of work for the period 1979-1981 proposed by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in paragraphs 111 to 113 of the report on its tenth session,<sup>63</sup>

*Noting also* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>64</sup> bringing to the attention of the Council the report of the Committee of Experts,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;

2. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its tenth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the contents of the report of the Committee of Experts:

(a) To incorporate in the revised recommendations prepared by the Committee of Experts<sup>65</sup> the

<sup>63</sup> ST/SG/AC.10/4 and Add.1-4.

<sup>64</sup> E/1979/12.

<sup>65</sup> *Transport of Dangerous Goods* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.VIII.1).

amendments set forth in the report of the Committee of Experts on its tenth session, together with the consequential changes necessary to eliminate inconsistencies;

(b) To publish the recommendations in the most cost-effective manner possible, preferably in a form permitting of easy reference and amendment;

(c) To circulate the recommendations as soon as possible to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

4. *Invites* the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned to transmit to the Secretary-General such comments as they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

5. *Urges* the Governments of Member States and international organizations concerned to take account of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods when developing both national and international codes and regulations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene meetings of the Committee of Experts and its subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the calendar of meetings proposed in paragraph 113 of the Committee's report, with a view to making satisfactory progress on the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods as well as on the studies on the possibility of drafting an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods.

*18th plenary meeting  
11 May 1979*

#### **1979/43. Methods of work of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the recommendations concerning methods of work made by the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>66</sup>

*Approves* the methods of work of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights set forth below:

##### **METHODS OF WORK OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

1. The Working Group is composed of fifteen members appointed in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978.

2. The Working Group shall meet annually during the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council.

3. At the beginning of each session the Working Group shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen

<sup>66</sup> See E/1979/64.