

*Conscious* of the importance of teaching, education, research, training and information in the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Reiterating* its belief that progress in the promotion of respect for and protection of human rights is assisted by a favourable world public opinion,

1. *Urges* all Governments to consider action to facilitate publicity regarding United Nations activities in the field of human rights, with particular reference to the work of the Commission on Human Rights;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance of encouraging the dissemination of international instruments on human rights as widely as possible, including texts in their own languages;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation, to draw up and implement a world-wide programme for the dissemination of international instruments on human rights in as many languages as possible and to report on the implementation of this programme to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-seventh session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Committee on Information of its strong hopes that the Committee will make suitable recommendations for developing public information activities in the field of human rights;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Governments, regional governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and United Nations information centres with a view to inviting their comments on its implementation;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure in the interim that adequate resources are available to permit the speedy preparation and distribution of the existing United Nations publications concerned with human rights;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-seventh session on the measures taken to enhance public information activities in the field of human rights, including any proposals made to this end by the Committee on Information, and to include in his report information on the implementation of the plans mentioned in his report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session,<sup>62</sup> as well as information received pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 5 above.

*22nd plenary meeting  
2 May 1980*

**1980/31. Study of situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights as provided in Commission on Human Rights resolution 8 (XXIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII)**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that the Commission on Human Rights has been examining since its thirty-third session, in 1977, the situation regarding the alleged persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Malawi,

*Considering further* that the Government of Malawi has not co-operated with the Commission on Human

Rights or replied to the communications addressed to it regarding this matter,

1. *Regrets* the failure of the Government of Malawi to co-operate with the Commission on Human Rights in the examination of a situation said to have deprived thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses in Malawi of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms between 1972 and 1975, which constrains the Economic and Social Council to publicize the matter;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the human rights of all citizens of Malawi have been fully restored and, in particular, that adequate measures are being taken to provide a remedy to those who may have suffered injustices.

*22nd plenary meeting  
2 May 1980*

**1980/32. Draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 32/62 of 8 December 1977, by which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and Council resolution 1979/35 of 10 May 1979, by which it authorized an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of one week prior to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission to complete the work on a draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Considering* that it was not found possible to complete the work on the draft convention during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,

*Taking note* of resolution 34 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980 of the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>63</sup>

1. *Authorizes* a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the thirty-seventh session of the Commission to complete the work on a draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-seventh session all the material relevant to the draft convention.

*22nd plenary meeting  
2 May 1980*

**1980/33. Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1979/39 of 10 May 1979 on the 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,

*Noting with grave concern* that recent reforms in South African labour legislation were cosmetic in nature and not aimed at producing fundamental changes in the

<sup>63</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3 (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI.*

situation of African workers, and that the legislation continues to deny them full and equal trade union rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the *Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights*,<sup>64</sup> submitted pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution;

2. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts* to continue to study the situation and to report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate;

3. *Also requests* the *Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts*, in the discharge of its mandate, to consult with the International Labour Organisation and the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, as well as with international and African trade union confederations;

4. *Reiterates* its demand for the immediate and complete abolition of all restrictions on the trade union rights of all African workers in South Africa, including migrant workers from neighbouring countries, and the immediate and unconditional recognition of all existing African trade unions;

5. *Deplores* the manoeuvres of the Government of South Africa and companies, including transnational corporations operating in South Africa, to weaken the existing African trade union movement through the establishment of so-called parallel trade unions and the harassment of officials of independent African trade unions;

6. *Demands* the release of all trade unionists in prison and the lifting of all banning orders imposed on persons engaged in trade union activities.

22nd plenary meeting  
2 May 1980

#### **1980/34. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Affirming* that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and the welfare of society and that women and men should participate on a basis of equality in the social, economic and political processes of the development of their countries,

*Recognizing* the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as an important step towards the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/180, requested the Secretary-General to present the text of the Convention to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace for its information,

1. *Expresses the hope* that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will come into force at an early date;

2. *Urges* Governments to take the necessary steps in order to sign, ratify and/or accede to the Convention;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to promote, by all means at his disposal, the signing and ratification of the Convention;

<sup>64</sup> See E/1980/25.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange a ceremony for signing the Convention, which will take place during the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

5. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to study and make known the provisions of the Convention.

22nd plenary meeting  
2 May 1980

#### **1980/35. National machinery for the monitoring and implementation of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the provisions of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year,<sup>65</sup> recommending the establishment within government of national commissions, women's bureaux and similar machinery, with adequate staff and budget, for the achievement of the goals of the World Plan of Action,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action: national planning, national machinery and legislation",<sup>66</sup>

*Affirming* the crucial role of national mechanisms in promoting the integration of women into the whole development process.

*Affirming also* the important role of women's groups and organizations in the identification of problems, in the monitoring of programmes of special interest to women and in the provision of special services to women, as well as their role as a mobilizing force at the local level and as a means of instilling in women confidence in their capacity to influence the processes of change,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen women's groups and organizations to enable them to carry out their functions effectively,

1. *Recommends* that national machinery should be:

(a) Established wherever it has not already been established;

(b) Given adequate human, financial and technical resources;

(c) Given, wherever possible, an appropriate central location within the governmental structure, having effective links with national planning units;

(d) Supported by special units, where necessary, within the relevant departments and agencies, especially those concerned with health, education, employment, labour, rural development, credit and marketing;

(e) Provided with adequate arrangements for linkages at subnational and local levels;

2. *Also recommends* that national mechanisms should be strengthened by means of a network arrangement within women's groups and organizations;

3. *Further recommends* that women's groups and organizations, especially at the local level, should be given adequate financial and technical resources to

<sup>65</sup> *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>66</sup> E/CN.6/622.