



International Year for
HUMAN RIGHTS

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

First Committee
Agenda item 11(a)

FORMULATION AND PREPARATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME TO BE UNDERTAKEN SUBSEQUENT TO THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF UNIVERSAL RESPECT FOR, AND OBSERVANCE OF, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, COLOUR, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION, IN PARTICULAR

- (a) MEASURES TO ACHIEVE RAPID AND TOTAL ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN GENERAL AND OF THE POLICY OF APARTHEID IN PARTICULAR

Text of resolution (VI) adopted by the First Committee at its twelfth meeting on 8 May 1968

Establishment of a new, additional United Nations programme on racial discrimination

The International Conference on Human Rights

Considering that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaim the principle of non-discrimination,

Deeply concerned by the intensification of racial discrimination in various parts of the world and the need for effective measures to back up the demands of those struggling for racial equality and the elimination of racial discrimination,

Noting that the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Declaration and International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, are not being observed as a result of the various forms of racial discrimination practised in some parts of the world in the field of political, socio-economic and cultural rights,

Noting the role of the United Nations in the struggle against all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Considering that Article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination of 20 November 1963 (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII)) provides inter alia that the United Nations, the specialized agencies,

States and non-governmental organizations shall do all in their power to promote energetic action which, by combining legal and other practical measures, will make possible the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination and that they shall, in particular, study the causes of such discrimination with a view to recommending appropriate and effective measures to combat and eliminate it,

Recalling Article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination by which States Parties undertake inter alia to adopt immediate and effective measures, particularly in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information, with a view to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination and to promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and racial or ethnic groups,

Noting the preliminary report by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on its comparative study of policies and measures applied to combat different forms of racial discrimination in several national societies and the progress of the Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres which is being prepared by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Noting also UNESCO's programme in this field and, in particular, the Statement on Race and Racial Prejudice drawn up by eighteen experts,

Believing that it is imperative to eradicate all kinds of racial discrimination,

Believing that efforts should also be made towards the solution of those problems of racial discrimination and racial relations which exist in many countries whose governments wish to resolve them and to promote racial harmony and equality,

1. Urges the States which have not yet done so, and particularly those States in which inequality and racial discrimination are practised, to take immediate steps to ratify and give practical effect to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and to put an end to racist excesses and arbitrary action against people opposing racism and racial discrimination;

2. Recommends that the United Nations should develop constructive programmes designed to assist governments, organizations and individuals in their efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and to promote racial harmony and equality by all appropriate means, in particular by making available to them the results of research into the causes of racial discrimination and measures to eliminate them, as well as measures to promote inter-racial understanding and harmony;

3. Recommends further that

(a) the Secretary-General of the United Nations should be requested to prepare regular reports summarizing material from the studies of the problems of race relations and the creation and maintenance of racial attitudes prepared by the specialized agencies, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and other institutions, international and national, active in the field, and to make these available to the United Nations bodies concerned for use in their consideration of these problems;

(b) governments of Member States should be invited to make available to the United Nations Secretary-General and appropriate United Nations bodies reports of their experience in dealing with problems of race relations in particular fields so that these reports may be compared to mutual advantage;

(c) the possibility of using the resources of the Programme of Advisory Services in the field of human rights for seminars, fellowships and the provision of technical assistance in this field should be drawn to the attention of Member States.