

States in advance of the next meeting of the working group.

*16th plenary meeting  
27 May 1988*

**1984/40. Question of a convention on the rights of the child**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 42/101 of 7 December 1987, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child, to make every effort at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions to complete it, and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989,

*Considering* that it was not found possible to complete the work on the draft convention at the forty-fourth session of the Commission,

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/75 of 10 March 1988,<sup>7</sup>

1. *Authorizes*, within existing resources, the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of up to two weeks in November-December 1988, with a view to completing the second reading of the draft convention on the rights of the child prior to the forty-fifth session of the Commission so that it may be submitted, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide to the working group all the support and facilities necessary for the successful completion of its task, to circulate to all States the report of the working group<sup>69</sup> and the text of the draft convention as adopted during its first reading, and to provide the resources necessary for the technical review requested by the working group and for the meeting of the working group in November-December 1988.

*16th plenary meeting  
27 May 1988*

**1988/41. Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1987/63 of 29 May 1987,

*Having examined* the relevant section of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>70</sup>

*Noting with indignation* that dehumanizing conditions imposed on black workers by the Government of South Africa and police intervention in industrial disputes, including mass arrests, banning and even killing of trade unionists, continue,

*Aware* of the ever-growing importance of the role of the independent black trade union movement in the struggle against *apartheid*,

<sup>69</sup> E/CN.4/1988/28.

<sup>70</sup> E/1988/27, annex.

*Gravely concerned* at the recent escalation of the repression against the independent black trade union movement, in particular the severe restrictions placed on the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and efforts to impose further restrictions on trade unions through legislative changes,

1. *Takes note* of the relevant section of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on southern Africa;

2. *Condemns* the increased repression of the independent black trade union movement by the Government of South Africa;

3. *Demands once again* that the persecution of trade unionists and repression of the independent black trade union movement cease;

4. *Requests once again* immediate recognition of the right of the entire population of South Africa to exercise freedom of association and to form and join trade unions without impediment or discrimination of any kind;

5. *Demands* the immediate unconditional release of all trade unionists imprisoned for exercising their legitimate trade union rights;

6. *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;

7. *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;

8. *Decides* to consider at its first regular session of 1989 the question of allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa as a sub-item of the item entitled "Human rights."

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**1988/42. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Affirming* that the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights is of major importance to the efforts made by the United Nations, pursuant to the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>6</sup> to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Considering* that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established in accordance with the relevant provisions of international instruments on human rights plays a fundamental role in this connection and hence represents an important continuing concern of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the many resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights that have affirmed this concern and addressed various aspects