

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 1988,⁷

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 group⁶⁹ 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.

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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,⁷⁰

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*,

⁶⁹ E/CN.4/1988/28.

⁷⁰ 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,⁶ 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

of the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 42/105 of 7 December 1987, concerning reporting obligations of States parties to international instruments on human rights,

1. *Appeals strongly* to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to international instruments on human rights;

2. *Emphasizes* the interest and responsibility of States parties to the various human rights instruments in ensuring that legal, financial and administrative difficulties affecting the functioning of the relevant treaty bodies are appropriately addressed;

3. *Urges* all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁴⁴ and all States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment⁷¹ to comply fully with their financial obligations under these conventions;

4. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations has an interest in ensuring that difficulties affecting the functioning of the relevant treaty bodies are appropriately addressed;

5. *Affirms* its commitment to the relevant provisions of various resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, addressing such issues as:

(a) The importance of effective systems of periodic reporting by States parties to international instruments on human rights for reviewing and assisting efforts to promote and protect the rights and freedoms elaborated in those instruments;

(b) The need for the United Nations to ensure that financial difficulties, which may increasingly impede the functioning of certain human rights treaty bodies and deter universal acceptance of certain international instruments on human rights, are appropriately addressed;

(c) The importance of the application of universally recognized criteria in the implementation of provisions of the international instruments on human rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General fully to inform the General Assembly at its forty-third session, the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1989 and the Commission on Human Rights, as its subsidiary body, at its forty-fifth session, as well as the second meeting of chairmen of human rights treaty bodies, of further developments concerning the effective functioning of treaty bodies established in accordance with the international instruments on human rights.

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⁷¹ General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

1988/43. Realization of the right to adequate housing

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1986/41 of 23 May 1986 and 1987/62 of 29 May 1987,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 41/146 of 4 December 1986,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 42/146 of 7 December 1987, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council and its appropriate functional commissions to keep the question of the right to adequate housing under periodic review.

Bearing in mind that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ provide that all persons have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate housing, and that States should take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of that right,

Recognizing that the provision of housing for the homeless is an integral part of national economic and social development in all countries and an important step towards the realization of the right to development,

Recalling the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,⁷²

Noting with appreciation the measures and action taken and the renewed commitments made during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by Member States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to advance the realization of the right to adequate housing,

Recognizing the importance of sustaining the momentum generated by the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* that millions of people do not enjoy the right to adequate housing;

2. *Reaffirms* the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/146 and the need to take appropriate measures, at the national and international levels, to promote the right of all persons to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate housing;

3. *Calls upon* all States and international organizations concerned to pay special attention to the realization of the right to adequate housing in carrying out measures to develop national shelter strategies and settlement improvement programmes within the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;⁷³

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the social aspects of the situation of homeless people to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

5. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of the realization of the right to adequate housing at its forty-third session under the agenda

⁷² See General Assembly resolution 37/221.

⁷³ See General Assembly resolution 42/191.