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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND  
DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1988/16, paragraph 7, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to inform it annually of the progress made in carrying out the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 (A/39/167-E/1984/33 and Add.1 and 2) so that the Commission could make its contribution thereto. This report has been prepared pursuant to that request.
2. In that resolution, the Commission also urged all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 and appealed to all Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, so as to enable the Secretary-General to implement the various programme elements outlined in the plan of activities.
3. The Commission further took note with satisfaction of General Assembly resolution 42/47, in which the Assembly had requested the Economic and Social Council to submit annual reports to the Assembly on the activities undertaken to achieve the objectives of the Decade.
4. It also reiterated its decision to give thematic consideration, each year, to a selected topic within the plan of activities for 1985-1989 and decided that the topic for 1990 would be "The human rights of individuals belonging to ethnic groups in countries of immigration".

5. In addition, the Commission emphasized the importance of adequate recourse procedures for victims of racism and racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General, in the light of the results of the seminar held on that topic, to prepare and finalize, with the appropriate assistance of qualified experts if possible, a handbook of recourse procedures, and invited all Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils.

6. The Commission finally encouraged the Secretary-General to make every effort to proceed with the implementation of the activities planned for the period 1990-1993 and listed in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/47.

7. At its fortieth session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities examined the question of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and adopted resolution 1988/6, in which it expressed its appreciation to Mr. Asbjørn Eide for the presentation of his progress report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/5) on the achievements of, and obstacles encountered during, the first Decade and the first part of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It further endorsed Mr. Eide's decision to make a renewed call for additional information required to complete his study and requested him to submit his final report to the Sub-Commission at its forty-first session in 1989. The Sub-Commission also requested Mr. Eide to include in his report recommendations on specific steps that could be taken in the performance of its future role in the prevention of discrimination.

8. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission also recommended that effective mechanisms for the eradication of racism should be established in all countries, and where they already existed, should be further strengthened if required with the assistance of the United Nations advisory services. It further recommended that public awareness of the dangers of new racist manifestations and ways to counteract them should be strengthened through a wider dissemination of international instruments against racism and that appropriate printed and audio-visual materials should be developed for use in this field. With a view of protecting vulnerable groups against discrimination, the Sub-Commission recommended that a series of seminars should be held to identify the nature of the pressures to which these groups were subjected, and ways in which to counteract such threats; each of the seminars should deal with one category of vulnerable groups, such as indigenous populations, migrant workers or aliens. The Sub-Commission also recommended that the Secretary-General, within the framework of the Second Decade, should seek to convene a seminar on current manifestations of racism and that among the participants to be invited to the seminar there should be outstanding scholars in the field of the study of modern forms of racism from throughout the world.

9. During its first regular session of 1988, the Economic and Social Council considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination". The Council examined the reports of the Secretary-General in connection with its consideration of that item:

(a) Analysis of the replies received from Governments on action taken under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (E/1988/8); this document, based on a questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General, is presented to the Council every two years pursuant to paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 39/16;

(b) Annual report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Second Decade (E/1988/9 and Add.1-2); this report, in addition to information supplied by Governments, includes information about activities within the United Nations system and information submitted by regional organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status;

(c) Report on the United Nations training course on the preparation of national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination (E/1988/10).

10. The Council adopted resolution 1988/6, in which it reaffirmed the importance of achieving the objectives of the Second Decade and the necessity of co-ordinating the full range of programmes being implemented by the United Nations system as they related to the objectives of the Second Decade. The Council invited all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, to participate fully in the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989.

11. The Council further invited all Governments to take or continue to take all necessary measures to combat all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to support the work of the Second Decade by making contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Council also decided, as a matter of priority, to give particular attention to the specific activities of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade that were directed towards the elimination of apartheid, in view of the present explosive situation in southern Africa.

12. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of those activities proposed for the first half of the Decade that had not yet been undertaken and invited him to proceed with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47, and, in that context, to accord the highest priority to measures to combat apartheid. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to organize in 1989 a seminar on cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers and emphasized the importance of public information activities in combating racism and racial discrimination and in mobilizing public support for the objectives of the Second Decade and, in that context, commended the efforts of the Co-ordinator for the Second Decade.

13. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to present, in his future annual reports to it on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, more detailed information on the activities of all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status and to continue to pay special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families. Finally, the

Council requested the Secretary-General, when reporting on the activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to assess the impact of the actions and decisions taken on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

14. Furthermore, the Council adopted resolution 1988/35 entitled "Study of the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations", in which it requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to organize in 1988, as part of the programme of advisory services on human rights, a seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States. The seminar is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 16 to 20 January 1989. The draft agenda of the seminar is as follows: (a) realization of indigenous social rights; (b) indigenous participation in national economic life and the role of traditional indigenous economies; and (c) effective protection and comprehensive development of the social and economic sectors in indigenous communities through international standard-setting activities.

15. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly, in connection with its consideration of the agenda item on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade had before it the three reports originally submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988 (see para. 9). In addition, the Assembly had before it the following documents:

(a) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (A/43/644);

(b) Study on the role of private group action to combat racism and racial discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (A/43/631);

(c) Global compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (A/43/637);

(d) Global consultation on racism and racial discrimination, held at Geneva from 3 to 6 October 1988 (A/C.3/43/CRP.1).

16. After consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, the Assembly adopted resolution 43/91. The Assembly decided that the international community, in general, and the United Nations, in particular, should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and to intensify their efforts, during the Second Decade, to provide assistance and relief to the victims of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, especially in South Africa and Namibia and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination. It appealed to all Governments and to international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils.

17. The Assembly took note of the holding at Geneva, from 3 to 6 October 1988, of a meeting on the global consultations on racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to transmit the recommendations of the global consultations to the organs of the

United Nations and to the specialized agencies concerned with a view to their implementation. It also welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council contained in resolution 1988/6 to organize in 1989 a seminar on cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers. The Assembly affirmed once again the need for the implementation of the plan of activities proposed for the period 1990-1993 contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47 and invited the Secretary-General to proceed without delay with the preparations for the activities scheduled for the biennium 1990-1991. It requested the Secretary-General to accord the highest priority, in executing the plan of activities, to measures for combating apartheid and to continue to accord special attention in his reports to the situation of migrant workers and their families. The Assembly invited all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate fully in the implementation of the plans of activities for the periods 1985-1989 and 1990-1993 by intensifying and broadening their efforts to bring about the speedy elimination of apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

18. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment on the children of minorities in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492) and to submit specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination. It also requested him to transmit his study on the role of private group action to combat racism and racial discrimination (A/41/550) to Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in order to obtain their views and an indication from them of further relevant materials, and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session a final report on the topic. The Secretary-General was also requested to prepare and issue as soon as possible a collection of model legislation of the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination, and to prepare and finalize, with the appropriate assistance of qualified experts if possible, a handbook of recourse procedures, in the light of the results of the seminars held on that topic.

19. In addition, the Assembly renewed its invitation to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education. It requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to update the study on racial discrimination <sup>1/</sup> and to complete as soon as possible the study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/6) and the first half of the Second Decade.

20. The Assembly strongly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and, to that end, requested the Secretary-General to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

21. In connection with the Commission's consideration of the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination", and in order to provide it with as much information as possible on the wide range of activities carried out within the Second Decade, the Commission will have before it at its present session, in addition to the present report, the documents submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988 and the documents submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-third session. These documents contain information on the activities of 10 organs and Secretariat units of the United Nations, three specialized agencies, 24 Governments and 14 non-governmental organizations.

22. To assist the members of the Commission, the following consolidated list is provided:

(a) Information on activities of United Nations organs and Secretariat units (E/1988/9): General Assembly (forty-second session); Commission on Human Rights (forty-fourth session); Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Group of Three under the Apartheid Convention; Co-ordinator for Decade activities within the United Nations system; Training course for legislative draftsmen; Centre against Apartheid and the Special Committee against Apartheid; Trusteeship Council; Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

(b) Information submitted by specialized agencies; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (E/1988/9); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/1988/9 and Add.2); International Civil Aviation Organization (E/1988/9).

(c) Information submitted by Governments: Algeria (E/1988/8); Argentina (E/1988/8 and E/1988/9/Add.1); Bangladesh (E/1988/9/Add.1); Burundi (E/1988/9/Add.2); Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/1988/8 and E/1988/9/Add.1); Canada (E/1988/8 and E/1988/9/Add.1); Colombia (E/1988/8); Costa Rica (E/1988/8); Cyprus (E/1988/8); Czechoslovakia (E/1988/9/Add.2); Equatorial Guinea (E/1988/8); Finland (E/1988/9/Add.1); France (E/1988/8); Holy See (E/1988/9/Add.1); Lesotho (E/1988/9/Add.1); Mali (E/1988/9/Add.1); Malta (E/1988/9/Add.2); Mexico (E/1988/8); Panama (E/1988/8); Philippines (E/1988/9/Add.1 and Add.2); Romania (E/1988/9/Add.1); Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/1988/9/Add.2); Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/1988/9/Add.1); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (E/1988/8 and E/1988/9/Add.2).

(d) Information from the Council of Europe (E/1988/9/Add.1).

(e) Information from non-governmental organizations as well as the Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization of the Special Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Rights (Geneva) (E/1988/9/Add.1-2); Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights; Christian Peace Conference; International Association of Lions Clubs; International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; International

Planned Parenthood Federation; Inter-Parliamentary Union; OXFAM; Socialist International; Women's International Democratic Federation; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; World Conference on Religion and Peace; World Federation of Trade Unions; World Young Women's Christian Association.

23. Finally, the Commission will have before it for consideration the annual reports on racial discrimination, submitted by the International Labour Organisation (E/CN.4/1989/35), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/CN.4/1989/36), in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1588 (L) and General Assembly resolution 2785 (XXVI).

Note

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XIV.2.