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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Seventh session  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEASURES  
OF IMPLEMENTATION

Co-operation Between the Commission on Human Rights and the Specialized  
Agencies and other organs of the United Nations in the  
consideration of economic, social and  
cultural rights

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

1. The desirability of co-operation between the Commission on Human Rights and the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations in the consideration of economic, social and cultural rights was emphasized by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixth session in a draft resolution which it submitted to the Economic and Social Council for the latter's consideration (E/1681, Annex IV, draft resolution IV). The Council at its eleventh session adopted resolution 303 D (XI) which endorsed the desirability of such co-operation expressed by the Commission and requested the Secretary-General to take certain steps with a view to making the necessary arrangements for obtaining the collaboration of the other organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in particular the International Labour Organisation, and instructed him to submit a report on the information and observations thus obtained together with any documentation he might consider relevant to the seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/513, paragraph 6). This decision of the Council was also connected with its adoption of resolution 303 C (XI) by which the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights regarding the Commission's intention to proceed at its seventh session with the consideration of additional covenants and measures dealing with economic, social, cultural, political and other categories of human rights (see E/1880, paragraphs 2-4). Subsequently, the General Assembly in its resolution 421 E (V) decided to include

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economic, social and cultural rights in the Covenant on Human Rights and called upon the Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to include such rights in the draft Covenant and to take such steps as were necessary to obtain the co-operation of other organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in the consideration of such rights. The General Assembly also requested the Council to consider the methods by which the specialized agencies might co-operate with the Commission with regard to these rights (see E/CN.4/513, paragraphs 20-21).

2. It may be noted that the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization submitted a report on regulations concerning economic and social rights in the International Covenant on Human Rights to the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council (E/1752 and Corr.1).

3. The Secretary-General, in accordance with instructions in resolution 303 D (XI) of the Council, communicated with the administrative heads of specialized agencies concerned. After the adoption of resolution 421 E (V) by the General Assembly, he also invited the administrative heads of specialized agencies to communicate to him for transmission to the Council, at its twelfth session, the views of their organizations regarding possible methods for co-operation with the Commission on Human Rights in the consideration of economic, social and cultural rights (see E/1880, paragraphs 5, 6 and 7). Texts of replies received from specialized agencies mentioned below to the two communications of the Secretary-General were circulated to the Council in documents E/1880, annex, and E/1880/Add.1 to Add.7:

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Civil Aviation Organization

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

International Monetary Fund

Universal Postal Union

World Health Organization

International Refugee Organization

International Telecommunication Union

Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

World Meteorological Organization

4. The Council at its twelfth session adopted a resolution on 23 February 1951 (E/1927) transmitting the resolution of the General Assembly to the Commission on Human Rights for appropriate action.<sup>1/</sup> The Council invited such of the specialized agencies as felt directly concerned with the problem of the inclusion in the Covenant of economic, social and cultural rights to send representatives to the seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights to participate in the work of the Commission relating to those rights. The Council also called upon the Commission to take such steps as were necessary in order to obtain the fullest co-operation of the specialized agencies in the consideration of these rights and to consider for this purpose the setting up of one or more joint working groups consisting of representatives of the Commission and of the specialized agencies interested, which would report on its work to the Commission.

5. In the course of a statement made at the twelfth session of the Council, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization proposed that the Council should suggest to the Commission on Human Rights the inclusion in the draft Covenant of articles incorporating four principles relating to various aspects of food and to the rights of food producers (see document E/SR.439, pages 10-12).

6. The Secretary-General communicated with the administrative heads of specialized agencies on 24 February 1951 drawing their attention to those parts of the resolution adopted by the Council at its twelfth session on 23 February 1951, which are mentioned in paragraph 5 above. Relevant parts of communications received from specialized agencies will be found in the annex to this document. Information on subsequent communications will be circulated to the Commission in addenda to the present document.

7. A communication received from the High Commissioner for Refugees on the subject of co-operation with the Commission on Human Rights in the task of drafting provisions concerning economic, social and cultural rights will be found in document E/CN.4/526.

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<sup>1/</sup> For text of resolution see E/CN.4/525.

ANNEX

Extracts from communications from administrative heads  
of specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Letter dated  
7 March 1951 from the Director-General

I regret that it will not be possible for FAO to be represented at this meeting since the Organization will be in the process of moving its headquarters from Washington to Rome at this time.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Letter dated  
14 March 1951 from the Assistant Director-General

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture ne manquera pas de se faire représenter à la septième session de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme, afin de participer à ses travaux dans le domaine des droits sociaux, économiques et culturels.

Je vous transmettrai ultérieurement les noms des représentants qui auront été désignés à cet effet.

International Civil Aviation Organization - Letter dated 14 March 1951 from the  
Secretary-General

This Organization is not one of those specialized agencies directly concerned with the Commission's activities and will therefore not be represented at the seventh session of the Commission, which opens in Geneva on 16 April 1951.

In thanking you for your invitation I would like to assure you of ICAO's willingness to cooperate with the Commission in any aspect of its work in which ICAO's special competence could be of assistance.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - Letter dated 20 March 1951  
from the President

Since the activities of the International Bank do not bear directly upon the work of the Commission, the Bank does not plan to send a representative to attend the Commission's forthcoming meeting.

International Monetary Fund - Letter dated 14 March 1951 from the Managing Director

While the work of the Commission on Human Rights is of great interest to the Fund, the limits set on our activities by our Articles of Agreement do not appear to cover this field of work. It will therefore not be possible to send a representative to the seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights opening in Geneva on April 16, 1951.

International Refugee Organization - Letter dated 12 March 1951 from the Director-General

As you know, it has been the practice hitherto for representatives of the International Refugee Organization to participate in the work of the United Nations relating to human rights insofar as they concerned the status of refugees. Now that this latter question has passed the competence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, I do not believe the IRO is in a position to make a contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights. The Organization will not be represented, therefore, at the Seventh Session.

International Telecommunication Union - Letter dated 9 March 1951 from the Secretary-General

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que, bien qu'elle suive avec un vif intérêt tous les efforts effectués dans le domaine des droits de l'homme, notre organisation ne s'occupe pas directement des questions relatives aux droits économiques, sociaux et culturels.

Dans ces conditions, il ne me paraît pas indispensable de déléguer un représentant à la 7e session de la Commission des droits de l'homme.

Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization - Letter dated 5 March 1951 from the Assistant Director, Transport and Communications Division

Du fait que l'Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime en est actuellement à un stade purement préparatoire et en raison de la nature provisoire des dispositions prises pour son secrétariat, je regrette vivement qu'il ne soit pas possible à la Commission préparatoire de l'Organisation intergouvernementale de la navigation maritime de se faire représenter à cette session.

/Interim Commission

Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization - Letter dated 6 March 1951 from the Executive Secretary

I regret that due to the attendance of part of my staff at the Torquay Conference, it will not be possible to send a representative to this session (seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights).

International Meteorological Organization - Letter dated 9 March 1951 from the President of the International Meteorological Committee

I have studied the two resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, referred to in your letter, but it seems to me unlikely that the International Meteorological Organisation can be of much assistance to the forthcoming meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. Since, moreover, the date of this meeting occurs at a time when the International (World) Meteorological Organisation will be meeting in plenary session in Paris, it would be difficult to find representatives to go to Geneva. I therefore wish to thank you for your invitation, and to express the opinion that circumstances do not justify the IMO (WMO) being represented at this meeting.

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