

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/727
21 March 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Twelfth session
Agenda item 3 (b)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE WIDER
OBSERVANCE OF, AND RESPECT FOR, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Resolution on studies of specific rights or groups of rights
adopted at the 535th meeting on 20 March 1956

The Commission on Human Rights,

Considering that by Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter the Members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets forth goals toward which all States Members of the United Nations should strive, both by their own efforts and through international co-operation, in the promotion of human rights,

Desiring to strengthen the work of the United Nations for wider observance of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Convinced that certain positive steps to promote respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms can be taken without prejudice to the adoption and ratification of the covenants on human rights, including the measures of implementation provided therein,

Having adopted as a part of its programme of future work, the undertaking of studies of specific rights or groups of rights, stressing general developments, progress achieved, and measures taken to safeguard human liberty, with such recommendations as may be necessary,

Recognizing that such studies are necessary for the purpose of ascertaining the existing conditions, the results obtained, and the difficulties encountered in the work of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies for the wider observance of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the specialized agencies as regards certain human rights,

1. Decides

(a) To undertake studies of specific rights or groups of rights in States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and to stress in these studies general developments, progress achieved and measures taken to safeguard human liberty, with such recommendations of an objective and general character as may be necessary; and

(b) To select, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council, specific subjects for study, provided that no subject shall be selected which can more appropriately be studied by another organ of the United Nations or by a specialized agency;

2. Decides to appoint a committee of the Commission consisting of four members to be elected by the Commission, which shall,

(a) Prepare the study, bearing in mind the terms of sub-paragraph (a) of operative paragraph 1 hereof, with such assistance from the Secretariat as it may require, utilizing published material and written statements necessary for the study, such material to be drawn from the following sources: (i) governments of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, (ii) the Secretary-General, (iii) specialized agencies, (iv) non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council, and (v) writings of recognized scholars and scientists;

(b) Proceed with the work of the study with a view to submitting a preliminary report at the session of the Commission following its appointment and, if possible, a complete report at the succeeding session;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to assist the committee in the study;
4. Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, in transmitting the reports requested under the resolution on annual reports, to deal in particular with the right or groups of rights currently selected for study under the terms of this resolution;
5. Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council to co-operate in carrying out this resolution; and
6. Decides to select, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council, as its first subject for study the right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile.
