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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Seventeenth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General has drawn up, in consultation with the Chairman, the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

The seventeenth session will be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 6 to 31 March 1961. The first meeting will be convened at 11:00 a.m. Monday, 6 March.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Advisory services in the field of human rights
4. Study of the right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile
5. Periodic reports on human rights
6. Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities
 - (a) Draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices
 - (b) Discrimination in education
 - (c) Report of the thirteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
7. Freedom of information
8. Desirability of concluding an international convention on the right of arrested persons to communicate with those whom it is necessary for them to consult in order to ensure their defence or protect their essential interests
9. Yearbook on Human Rights
10. Communications concerning human rights
11. Review of the human rights programme
12. Report of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

According to rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall, each year, at the commencement of its first meeting elect its officers from among its members.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall adopt its agenda.

3. Advisory services in the field of human rights

The Secretary General will submit a report on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 926 (X) and Economic and Social Council resolution 684 (XXVI).

4. Study of the right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile

The report of the Committee on the right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile will be presented to the Commission.

5. Periodic reports on human rights

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 624 B (XXII), the Secretary-General will present a brief summary, on a topical basis, of the reports of governments on developments in the field of human rights during the years 1957-1959; specialized agencies will present similar reports in respect of rights coming within their purview.

6. Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities

- (a) Draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices

The Commission has requested governments to comment on the substance of the draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices, and the form in which such principles shall be embodied (resolution 4 (XVI) of the Commission).

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(b) Discrimination in education

The Commission will have before it a memorandum on measures taken by UNESCO for the preparation of international instruments relating to discrimination in education (resolution 9 (XVI) of the Commission), and the comments of the Sub-Commission on these measures.

(c) Report of the thirteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

The Commission will have before it the report of the thirteenth session of the Sub-Commission, which will meet from 10 to 27 January 1961 at United Nations Headquarters.

7. Freedom of information

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 718 (XXVII), UNESCO will present a survey of the problems of providing technical assistance for the development of information media in under-developed countries.

8. Desirability of concluding an international convention on the right of arrested persons to communicate with those whom it is necessary for them to consult in order to ensure their defence or protect their essential interests

This item is proposed by the Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the United Nations seminar on the protection of human rights in criminal procedure, Vienna, June 1960. The Secretary-General will submit a memorandum on this item.

9. Yearbook on Human Rights

The Secretary-General will present a memorandum on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 683 D (XXVI).

10. Communications concerning human rights

The Secretary-General will present a confidential list and a non-confidential list of communications in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII), and will also present a confidential document of a statistical nature in accordance with resolution 14 (XV) of the Commission. The replies of Governments to communications will be issued as confidential documents.

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11. Review of the human rights programme

The Secretary-General will prepare a note drawing the Commission's attention to Economic and Social Council resolutions 772 A (XXX) relating to the work programme in human rights and 791 (XXX) on programme appraisal in the economic, social and human rights fields.

12. Report of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall report to the Council on the work of its seventeenth session.
