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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 21

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Federal Republic of Germany, Senegal,
Sweden, Uruguay: draft resolution

The Commission on Human Rights,

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, form the heart of the International Bill of Human Rights,

Noting the forthcoming entry into force of article 41 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling its resolution 9 (XXXIV) of 24 February 1970 and General Assembly resolution 33/51 of 14 December 1970,

Mindful of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1933 (LX) of 11 May 1976 and 1970/20 of 5 May 1970,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General^{1/} on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Noting with appreciation that, following the appeals of the General Assembly and the Commission, more member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

^{1/} E/CN.4/1279 and Corr.1

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as reflected in its report;^{2/}

1. Reaffirms the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Expresses satisfaction at the serious manner in which the Human Rights Committee is continuing to undertake its functions;

3. Expresses the hope that the consideration of reports submitted under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council;

4. Again invites all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

5. Invites the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of that Covenant;

6. Appreciates that the Human Rights Committee continues to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol thereto and emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Covenant.

7. Draws the attention of States not yet parties to the Covenants to the reporting possibilities provided under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX) as amended by resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1978/20.

8. Takes note of paragraph 12 of resolution 33/51 in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the request of the Human Rights Committee for adequate secretarial assistance, having regard to the over-all needs for servicing the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol, and being informed of the shortage of staff and resources of the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat, to make appropriate suggestions

^{2/} Official records of the General Assembly, thirty-third session, Supplement No. 40 (A/33/40).

in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 with regard to adequate staff and resources needed for servicing the above-mentioned instruments, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976.

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to include in this report information on the work of the Economic and Social Council and its Working Group on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
