

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/2540/Add.3
12 April 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventeenth session
Item 15 (a)

SLAVERY

CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THE DESIRABILITY OF A SUPPLEMENTARY
CONVENTION ON SLAVERY AND ITS POSSIBLE CONTENTS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has the honour to communicate to the Economic and Social Council herewith, in connexion with his report on consultations concerning the desirability of a supplementary convention on slavery and its possible contents (E/2540), the following communication, dated 6 April 1954, from the International Labour Organisation:

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Letter dated 6 April 1954, to the Secretary-General
of the United Nations from the Director-General
of the International Labour Office

"I have the honour to refer to Mr. Katzin's letter (SOA 321/02 (2)) of 16 July 1953, drawing attention to resolution 475 (XV) of the Economic and Social Council and particularly to those paragraphs of it which invited the Specialized Agencies to submit to you their comments and suggestions concerning the desirability of a supplementary Convention on Slavery and its possible contents; to collect and submit to you all the material available to them relating to the problem of slavery, the slave trade, and other forms of servitude; and to make suggestions as to measures which might be taken in order to eliminate slavery and conditions similar to slavery.

"The Governing Body has now had an opportunity of considering the matter and has requested me:

- (1) to call your attention to the precedents established at the time of the Slavery Convention of 1926 as to the respective roles of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation in the regulation of forced labour and to suggest that the terms of any new Supplementary Convention on Slavery might be approached with that background in mind.
- (2) to emphasize the desirability of the closest collaboration between the United Nations and the I.L.O. in the elaboration of any proposals relating to the terms of any new Supplementary Convention on Slavery in view of the series of detailed international instruments on forced labour and particular aspects of possible compulsion to labour adopted by the I.L.O. since the Slavery Convention of 1926 and the methods of continuous supervision of the application of these instruments operated under I.L.O. constitutional machinery.
- (3) to suggest that preliminary consideration, in the working out of the details of the contents of any Supplementary Convention on Slavery, should be given to defining further the real nature and impact of each of the institutions and practices which the Ad Hoc Committee on Slavery suggested as being appropriate for inclusion in such a Convention so as to establish whether they might eventually best be tackled internationally in their manifestations as forced labour practices or more generally.

"As regards new material in the possession of the I.L.O. relating to slavery or servitude or practices analogous thereto or which might be of value to the United Nations in connection with its study of these matters, the officials concerned have already been in touch with each other on this matter and such new material as the I.L.O. possesses has been placed at the disposal of the United Nations."