

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.1/161  
6 March 1952

19

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information  
and of the Press  
Fifth session

TEXT OF RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADOPTED BY  
WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

(Submitted in accordance with Economic and Social  
Council resolution 288 B (XI) (Part V))

The World Federation of United Nations Associations which has consultative status (Category A) with the Economic and Social Council has submitted for circulation to members of the Sub-Commission, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 288 B (XI) (Part V), the text of the following resolution which was adopted at the Sixth Plenary Assembly of the Federation (Stockholm, August 1951):

"NOTING that the United Nations General Assembly already at its first session in 1946 unanimously adopted resolution 59 (I) stating that 'freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated'

That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims in Article 19: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers' and

That in spite of repeated efforts by the United Nations to take measures for the protection of this unanimously agreed-upon 'right to freedom of opinion and expression' by establishing a Convention on Freedom of Information, these efforts have not yet met with success,

BELIEVING that the enactment and implementation of a convention on freedom of information would be an important contribution to peace and international understanding,

THE SIXTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF WFUNA,

REQUESTS all national Associations to do their utmost to awaken public  
/understanding  
E/CN.4/Sub.1/161

understanding in their respective countries of the issues involved and of the urgency of the adoption of such a convention and to recommend to their governments to increase their efforts to reach agreement on this matter within the United Nations,

BELIEVING that it is essential that machinery be established within the United Nations to examine allegations of infringements of the fundamental rights of freedom of information recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council consider the immediate establishment of an independent committee to examine such allegations."

oOo