



Nineteenth sessionMEASURES TO ACCELERATE THE PROMOTION OF RESPECT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMSNote by the Secretary-General

1. This item has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since its seventeenth session in 1962. At that session the Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Third Committee,^{1/} adopted resolution 1776 (XVII) on the further promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this resolution, the General Assembly proposed that the Economic and Social Council should instruct the Commission on Human Rights to study and to encourage the adoption of measures designed to accelerate the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to devote special attention to this matter during the United Nations Development Decade. The Commission on Human Rights was also to submit a report and recommendations on this question at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly.
2. The Economic and Social Council at its resumed thirty-fourth session decided to forward the General Assembly resolution to the Commission on Human Rights.
3. The Economic and Social Council at its thirty-sixth session considered the first report and recommendations on this question submitted by the Commission on Human Rights at its nineteenth session.^{2/} The Council, on 12 July 1963, adopted resolution 958 D (XXXVI) on the further promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 12, document A/5314, paras. 68-78 and 93.

^{2/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-Sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/3743), chapter XIII.

4. In part I of this resolution the Council transmitted to the General Assembly, in accordance with the request made in the latter's resolution 1776 (XVII), the first report made by the Commission on Human Rights at its nineteenth session,^{3/} together with the records of the discussion on this subject at that session.^{4/} It further recommended that the General Assembly at its eighteenth session adopt the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recognizing the need, during the United Nations Development Decade, to devote special attention, both on the national and international level, to progress in the field of human rights and to encourage the adoption of measures designed to accelerate the promotion of respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"1. Urges all Governments to make special efforts during the United Nations Development Decade to promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and invites particularly the Governments of developing countries to include in their plans for economic and social development, to the extent of their available resources, measures directed towards the achievement of further progress in the implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

"2. Calls upon the technical assistance authorities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to give all possible assistance, within the framework of their programmes during the Development Decade, with a view to the achievement of progress in the field of human rights."

5. In part II of resolution 958 D (XXXVI), the Council expressed the hope that the Third Committee of the General Assembly would devote, at the eighteenth and subsequent sessions of the Assembly, the maximum possible time to the completion of its work on the draft Covenants; invited universities, institutes, learned societies, trade unions and other organizations to contribute to the advancement of human rights, through education, research, discussions and publications; and requested the Secretary-General to collect documentation on new ideas and recent experiments concerning the protection of human rights.

^{3/} Ibid., para. 88.

^{4/} Ibid., chapter VIII; E/CN.4/SR.753-756 and 769-770.

6. At its 1279th plenary meeting, on 12 December 1963, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Third Committee to postpone to the nineteenth session the consideration of the item entitled "Measures to accelerate the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".^{5/}

^{5/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/5515), p. 44.