



Twentieth session
Agenda item 66

DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION AMONG YOUTH OF THE IDEALS
OF PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

VIEWS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES ON THE PROPOSED DECLARATION

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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

Her Majesty's Government have given close consideration to the question of the proposed Declaration on the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. It is their conviction that this question should be considered in relation to the actual needs of the youth of the world. Any proposals for United Nations action in this field should be based on a clear view of the type of measures which are likely to have the maximum impact on youth. In the view of Her Majesty's Government the prime need, which was also stressed in the report prepared by the secretariat of UNESCO (UNESCO/E.D./139), is to emphasize the importance of practical steps. Young people will not necessarily respond to slogans derived in an abstract way from broad moral imperatives; their sympathies are much more likely to be actively enlisted for projects such as World Refugee Year and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, which are of real benefit for individual human beings.

2. On the national level success in promoting worthy ideals among youth must to a large extent depend on the foundations laid in formal education. There is also an urgent need to find more ways to help young people in the process of adjustment to the stresses, complexities and rapid pace of modern life. To this end it is necessary to raise the professional level of all youth work. Further efforts are needed to see that youth services and organizations are adequately financed and equipped and that trained teachers and leaders are available.

3. In the international plane there is much to be gained by pooling ideas and experience. In this connexion Her Majesty's Government wish to draw attention to the continued success in the United Kingdom of such projects as Voluntary Service Overseas, which provides constructive opportunities for school-leavers, apprentices and university graduates to give temporary help in the social service projects in developing countries. Here is one practical way in which the youth of one country can be brought to a greater understanding of, and respect for, peoples living in many different parts of the world. If international co-operation can be improved in this way and if Member States will expand their programmes of activities and opportunities for young people, basing them on the pursuit of truth, tolerance, and objectivity, the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples will automatically prosper.

4. It is with this conviction - that the best way to foster the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples is to develop practical programmes both at the national and at the international level - that Her Majesty's Government have approached the proposal for a United Nations Declaration. It is their belief that the United Nations should couch its proposals in the form of a recommendation to Member States. This would, in their view, strike the proper balance between a lack of concern for the problems of youth and an excessive preoccupation with broad statements of principle, which by their very generality are unlikely to have the effective impact on youth that can be achieved by concrete measures.

5. Nevertheless, if it should now be the opinion of the majority of States Members of the United Nations that there is an advantage in drawing up a declaration of principles on this subject, Her Majesty's Government for their part would be prepared to accept the will of the majority and to co-operate actively in producing the best possible text.

6. Her Majesty's Government have the following improvements to suggest in the draft Declaration (A/C.3/L.1183/Rev.3/Corr.1 and Rev.3/Add.1) which was discussed in the Third Committee at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly.

Preambular paragraph 3

For "reaffirming" substitute "recalling".

Article 1

After "disarmament" delete "and" and insert "under conditions which ensure".

Article 2

Replace "peoples" in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article by "nations and individuals" and for "ideas" substitute "ideals". For "humanism" substitute "respect for personal beliefs".

Article 3

Insert "or beliefs" after "ethnic origins".

Article 4

After the word "visits" add "including individual tourism".

Article 5

In sub-paragraph 1 delete all after "promote" and substitute "the ideal of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples and the final abolition of all oppression of one people by another and of racial discrimination".

For sub-paragraph 2 substitute "youth organizations should take all appropriate measures within their respective fields of activity to educate the young in accordance with these ideals".

For sub-paragraph 3 substitute "all organizations which have aims contrary to the principles of this Declaration should be strongly condemned".

Article 6

Substitute "a major aim" for "the aim" and "ideals" for "ideas".
