



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 47

WORLD CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSAL LITERACY

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Georg REISCH (Austria)

1. At its 1415th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1966, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 47 entitled "World Campaign for Universal Literacy".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 1094th to 1096th meetings, held on 8 and 9 December. At the 1094th meeting, the Committee heard a statement by Her Imperial Highness Princess Achraf Pahlavi of Iran, and decided that it should be issued as an official document (A/C.2/L.934).
3. In considering this item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/6099), the text of a letter addressed to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Representative of Iran, transmitting the text of a message of His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/6323) and the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session.^{1/}
4. The Committee also had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.926 and Add.1), which was introduced by Her Imperial Highness Princess Achraf Pahlavi of Iran at the 1094th meeting, on behalf of Afghanistan, Bolivia, Denmark, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Yugoslavia, and which read as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/6303), chapter XIII, section IV.

"The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 2043 (XX) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twentieth session,

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the campaign against illiteracy and noting with concern that the absolute number of illiterates is nevertheless constantly increasing, thus aggravating the precarious economic and social situation of many developing countries,

Welcoming the initiative taken by Iran, Mali, Morocco and Tunisia, which have donated sums deducted from their defence budget to the fund established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the world campaign for universal literacy,

Considering that the magnitude of the problems is out of proportion to the financial means available to most of the countries concerned,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1128 (XLI) on the world campaign for universal literacy, adopted unanimously on 26 July 1966;
2. Invites, therefore, in the name of human solidarity, Member States, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, institutions and private enterprises to provide continuing financial, material and technical support for the world campaign for literacy;
3. Expresses the hope that additional resources for the fund established by UNESCO will be found according to different methods peculiar to each State;
4. Makes an urgent appeal to the conscience of the world to ensure that the necessary and indispensable means for this great work will be collected and put into operation so that illiteracy may be eliminated in the world."

5. At the 1096th meeting, the representative of Iran, on behalf of the sponsors, who were now joined by Algeria, Cameroon, Colombia, Guinea, Nigeria and the United States of America, introduced a revision (A/C.2/L.926/Rev.1) of the draft resolution, which contained the following changes:

(a) The first paragraph of the preamble was revised to read:

"Recalling its resolution 2043 (XX) of 8 December 1965, Economic and Social Council resolution 1128 (XLI) of 26 July 1966 and resolutions 1.441 and 1.442 of the Fourteenth General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,";

(b) A new paragraph was inserted after the first paragraph of the preamble, reading as follows:

"Noting that literacy has a direct bearing on economic and social progress,";

(c) The second paragraph of the preamble (now the third) was revised to read:

"Noting with satisfaction the progress which has been achieved in the campaign against illiteracy,";

(d) A new paragraph was inserted after the second (now the third) paragraph of the preamble, reading as follows:

"Welcoming the priority accorded already by many developing countries in their development programmes to the eradication of mass illiteracy,";

(e) The following two new paragraphs were inserted after the third (now the fifth) paragraph of the preamble:

"Noting with concern that the absolute number of illiterates is increasing, thus endangering the economic and social progress of many developing countries,

"Considering that, while the fight against mass illiteracy is the prime responsibility of each country, the magnitude of the problem makes it far beyond the means presently available to most of the countries concerned and requires the mobilization of considerable human, financial and technical resources, as well as concerted international action,";

(f) Operative paragraph 2 was revised to read as follows:

"2. Invites in the name of human solidarity, Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, institutions and private enterprises to provide continuing and effective financial, material and technical support for the world campaign for literacy;";

(g) Operative paragraph 3 was revised to read as follows:

"3. Expresses the hope that additional resources would be made available to UNESCO for the World Campaign for Universal Literacy in the manner which each State may deem appropriate;";

(h) Operative paragraph 4 was revised to read as follows:

"4. Makes an urgent appeal to the conscience of the world to support world-wide efforts to eliminate mass illiteracy by providing the necessary and indispensable means to this end."

6. The representative of Iran, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the fifth paragraph of the preamble to include Ecuador in the list of countries which have donated to the fund established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the World Campaign for Universal Literacy.

7. The draft resolution (A/C.2/L.926/Rev.1), as orally revised, was adopted unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

World Campaign for Universal Literacy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2043 (XX) of 8 December 1965, Economic and Social Council resolution 1128 (XLI) of 26 July 1966 and resolutions 1.441 and 1.442 of the fourteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting that literacy has a direct bearing on economic and social progress,

Noting with satisfaction the progress which has been achieved in the campaign against illiteracy,

Welcoming the priority accorded already by many developing countries in their development programmes to the eradication of mass illiteracy,

Welcoming further the initiative taken by Ecuador, Iran, Mali, Morocco and Tunisia, which have donated sums deducted from their defence budgets to the fund established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the World Campaign for Universal Literacy,

Noting with concern that the absolute number of illiterates is increasing, thus endangering the economic and social progress of many developing countries,

Considering that, while the fight against mass illiteracy is the prime responsibility of each country, the magnitude of the problem makes it far beyond the means presently available to most of the countries concerned and requires the mobilization of considerable human, financial and technical resources, as well as concerted international action,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1128 (XLI) on the World Campaign for Universal Literacy, adopted unanimously on 26 July 1966;

2. Invites, in the name of human solidarity, Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations,

institutions and private enterprises to provide continuing and effective financial, material and technical support for the World Campaign for Universal Literacy;

3. Expresses the hope that additional resources would be made available to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the World Campaign for Universal Literacy in the manner which each State may deem appropriate;

4. Makes an urgent appeal to the conscience of the world to support world-wide efforts to eliminate mass illiteracy by providing the necessary and indispensable means to this end.
