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ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS  
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

National institutions for the protection and promotion of  
human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 39/144 of 14 December 1984, the General Assembly, inter alia, encouraged all Member States to take appropriate steps for the establishment or, where they already exist, the strengthening of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights; and requested the Secretary-General, in the light of his reports and of further information received, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, a consolidated report, for eventual publication as a United Nations handbook on national institutions for the use of Governments, including information on the various types and models of national and local institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, taking into account differing social and legal systems, and to report to the Assembly at its fortieth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General dispatched, on 27 February 1985, communications to all Member States, drawing their attention to resolution 39/144 and requesting them to furnish any relevant information they might wish to submit under this resolution in order to facilitate the preparation of a consolidated report. As at 15 June 1985, information had been received from the Governments of Barbados, Cyprus and France.

\* A/40/50/Rev.1.

3. As was done in the previous reports on this subject (A/36/440 and A/38/416), the Secretary-General will take into account the Government's periodic reports under various international instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. The material for the consolidated report will also include relevant data in United Nations studies by Special Rapporteurs and the Secretariat as well as the reports and background papers of United Nations conferences and seminars.

4. Relevant information and reports of the specialized agencies, especially the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO, will also be drawn upon in the preparation of the consolidated report.

5. Information from intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system will also be taken into account, as well as relevant material from non-governmental organizations in consultative status. Finally, in keeping with the method adopted for the preparation of many United Nations studies on human rights, 1/ the writings of recognized scholars and scientists will be taken into account, as subsidiary sources.

6. It is envisaged at this stage that the structure of the consolidated report will be similar to that of the first study (A/36/440), which had been commented upon favourably by the Third Committee at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. However, modifications and rearrangement of text might be appropriate in the light of new information.

#### Notes

1/ See United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV (1982), chap. XV.A (3).

ANNEX

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