

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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2017 (XX). Measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, contained in General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII) of 20 November 1963,

Noting that racial discrimination continues to exist in some countries in spite of the decisive condemnation of it by the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction Economic and Social Council resolution 1076 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965, and in particular the decision of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake, in the light of the Declaration, a special study of racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres,

Recognizing that, in order to put into effect the purposes and principles of the Declaration, all States should take immediate and positive measures, including legislative and other measures, to prosecute and/or outlaw organizations which promote or incite to racial discrimination, or incite to or use violence for purposes of discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin,

1. *Calls upon* all States in which racial discrimination is practised to take urgent effective steps, including legislative measures, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

2. *Requests* the States where organizations are promoting, or inciting to, racial discrimination to take all necessary measures to prosecute and/or outlaw such organizations;

3. *Requests* the States which have not yet done so to inform the Secretary-General without delay of the measures they have taken to implement the Declaration;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, in time for consideration at its twenty-first session, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration;

5. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to recommend, in the light of the special study of racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural fields envisaged in Council resolution 1076 (XXXIX), any further measures which could be undertaken by the appropriate United Nations bodies with a view to eliminating all forms of racial discrimination, and to submit these recommendations to the General Assembly;

6. *Recommends* that a seminar on the question of the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination should be held under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and in the context of the programme for the International Year for Human Rights.

1366th plenary meeting,
1 November 1965.

2018 (XX). Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the family group should be strengthened because it is the basic unit of every society, and that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family, that they are entitled to equal rights as to marriage and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, in accordance with the provisions of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 843 (IX) of 17 December 1954,

Recalling further article 2 of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956,¹ which makes certain provisions concerning the age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages,

Recalling also that Article 13, paragraph 1 b, of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the General Assembly shall make recommendations for the purpose of assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling likewise that, under Article 64 of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council may make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence made by the General Assembly,

1. *Recommends* that, where not already provided by existing legislative or other measures, each Member State should take the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional processes and its traditional and religious practices, to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be appropriate to give effect to the following principles:

Principle I

(a) No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person, after due publicity and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of witnesses, as prescribed by law.

(b) Marriage by proxy shall be permitted only when the competent authorities are satisfied that each party has, before a competent authority and in such manner as may be prescribed by law, fully and freely expressed consent before witnesses and not withdrawn such consent.

Principle II

Member States shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage, which in any case shall not be less than fifteen years of age; no marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses.

Principle III

All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

2. *Recommends* that each Member State should bring the Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages contained in the present resolution before the authorities competent to enact legislation or to take other action at the earliest practicable moment and, if possible, no later than eighteen months after the adoption of the Recommendation;

3. *Recommends* that Member States should inform the Secretary-General, as soon as possible after the action referred to in paragraph 2 above, of the measures taken under the present Recommendation to bring it before the competent authority or authorities, with particulars regarding the authority or authorities considered as competent;

4. *Recommends further* that Member States should report to the Secretary-General at the end of three years, and thereafter at intervals of five years, on their law and practice with regard to the matters dealt with in the present Recommendation, showing the extent

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.XIV.2.