

2450 (XXIII). Human rights and scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of paragraph 18 of the Proclamation of Teheran adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights⁴⁴ and of resolution XI concerning human rights and scientific and technological developments adopted by the Conference on 12 May 1968,⁴⁵

Sharing the concern expressed by the Conference that recent scientific discoveries and technological advances, although they open up vast prospects for economic, social and cultural progress, may nevertheless endanger the rights and freedoms of individuals and peoples and consequently call for constant attention,

Endorsing the idea that these problems require thorough and continuous interdisciplinary studies, both national and international, which may serve as a basis for drawing up appropriate standards to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance, *inter alia*, of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and in co-operation with the executive heads of the competent specialized agencies, a study of the problems in connexion with human rights arising from developments in science and technology, in particular from the following standpoints:

(a) Respect for the privacy of individuals and the integrity and sovereignty of nations in the light of advances in recording and other techniques;

(b) Protection of the human personality and its physical and intellectual integrity, in the light of advances in biology, medicine and biochemistry;

(c) Uses of electronics which may affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on such uses in a democratic society;

(d) More generally, the balance which should be established between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, on a preliminary basis, a report comprising a summary account of studies already made or in progress on the aforementioned subjects, emanating in particular from governmental and intergovernmental sources, the specialized agencies and the competent non-governmental organizations, and a draft programme of work which might be undertaken in fields in which subsequent surveys would be necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the said report to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-sixth session for consideration and transmittal, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

1748th plenary meeting,
19 December 1968.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

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Other decisions

Draft Declaration on Social Development

(Item 50)

At its 1735th plenary meeting, on 6 December 1968, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁴⁶ decided to consider the draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development⁴⁷ at its twenty-fourth session, as a matter of high priority, with a view to completing it at that session.

Housing, building and planning

(Item 52)

Town twinning as a means of international co-operation

(Item 53)

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

(Item 54)

Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

(Item 61)

At its 1748th plenary meeting, on 19 December 1968, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁴⁸ decided to postpone the

⁴⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 50, document A/7374, para. 134.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 133.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, agenda items 52, 53, 54 and 61, document A/7452.