

antagonisms and deep unrest in society, aggravated by the existence of conditions of economic and social inequality,

Aware that discriminatory prejudices must be combated and eliminated by means of education and information as well as by the adoption of positive legislative or other measures designed to bring about a climate of understanding and co-operation among the various ethnic and cultural groups of society,

Convinced that the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which the General Assembly has proclaimed for the year 1971, will not achieve its objective unless effective measures are taken in all fields to combat attitudes and laws contrary to the principles of the Charter and the norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and noting with satisfaction the first report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,⁵

1. *Solemnly reiterates* its condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination wherever they may occur, and particularly of *apartheid*, as a flagrant contradiction of the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and deplores the persistence of such practices;

2. *Appeals* to the Governments of countries where forms of racial discrimination still persist and to the Governments which officially apply such policies as *apartheid* to take without delay all the legislative, educational and social measures necessary to end them and to ensure respect for human rights in accordance with the Charter;

3. *Vehemently affirms* the need for all men to be given an equal chance and to be enabled to live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and tolerance, without discrimination and with full respect for the national and cultural identity of peoples or distinct ethnic groups;

4. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to eliminate all racial discrimination in education, employment, housing and other fields of community life, and to encourage the development of multiracial activities with a view to removing obstacles to understanding among the various racial groups;

5. *Invites* all peoples of the world and all men of goodwill to condemn unrelentingly the evils of racial policies and to disseminate all information calculated to combat such policies;

6. *Invites* countries which are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take any steps necessary to ratify it or accede to it if possible in 1971, on the occasion of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work being done by the United Nations, in particular the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and by the specialized agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, and the non-governmental organizations asso-

ciated with their efforts towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

8. *Reaffirms* its intention to take the opportunity of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to promote throughout the world social justice based on absolute respect for the dignity of the individual.

*1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.*

2648 (XXV). Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Noting that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination entered into force on 4 January 1969 and that, as at 22 October 1970, forty-four States had deposited their instruments of ratification or accession to the Convention,

Noting also the meetings of the States parties to the Convention in 1969 and the election by them of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Convention,

Having received the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,⁶

1. *Stresses* the significance, for the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations in the field of human rights, of the coming into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the bringing into being of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was created by that Convention and which should play an effective role in the achievement of its purposes;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, on the first year of its activities;

3. *Requests* all States parties to the Convention to give full co-operation to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in order that it may fulfil its mandate under the Convention.

*1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.*

2649 (XXV). The importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights,

Concerned that many peoples are still denied the right to self-determination and are still subject to colonial and alien domination,

⁵Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/8027).

⁶Ibid.

Regretting that the obligations undertaken by States under the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions adopted by United Nations bodies have not proved sufficient to attain respect for the right of peoples to self-determination in all cases,

Recalling its resolution 2588 B (XXIV) of 15 December 1969 and resolution VIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968,⁷

Considering that it is necessary to continue the study of ways and means of ensuring international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination,

Noting the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,⁸ which elaborated the principle of self-determination of peoples,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 on the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

1. *Affirms* the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial and alien domination recognized as being entitled to the right of self-determination to restore to themselves that right by any means at their disposal;

2. *Recognizes* the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination in the legitimate exercise of their right to self-determination to seek and receive all kinds of moral and material assistance, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments that deny the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial and alien domination to recognize and observe that right in accordance with the relevant international instruments and the principles and spirit of the Charter;

4. *Considers* that the acquisition and retention of territory in contravention of the right of the people of that territory to self-determination is inadmissible and a gross violation of the Charter;

5. *Condemns* those Governments that deny the right to self-determination of peoples recognized as being entitled to it, especially of the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine;

6. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to study, at its twenty-seventh session, the implementation of the United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination, and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, as soon as possible.

1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.

2650 (XXV). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations

⁷ *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), ¶. 9.

⁸ Resolution 2625 (XXV).

High Commissioner for Refugees⁹ and having heard his statement,¹⁰

Noting with appreciation the results obtained by the High Commissioner in the accomplishment of his humanitarian task of providing international protection to refugees within his mandate and promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

Noting the constant efforts being made to this end by the High Commissioner, in co-operation with United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote the voluntary repatriation, the integration in countries of asylum or the resettlement in other countries of refugees who are his concern—whether groups of refugees or individual refugees—whose problems are causing increasing concern, especially in Africa,

Commending the encouraging progress obtained in the field of interagency co-operation, which, particularly as far as the rural settlement of refugees in developing countries is concerned, is essential in order to achieve durable solutions that are closely linked with the economic and social development of these countries,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's assistance programme and the substantial increase in some of these contributions,

Expressing its appreciation of the growing number of accessions to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951¹¹ and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967,¹² and expressing the hope that this trend will continue,

1. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who are his concern, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular those relating to the new groups of refugees in Africa, and with the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to achieve, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the specialized agencies and other members of the United Nations system, speedy and satisfactory solutions to the problems of refugees;

3. *Urges* Governments to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian and constructive task by:

(a) Facilitating his efforts in the field of international protection;

(b) Continuing to co-operate in the promotion of permanent solutions for refugees, including in particular individual cases in Africa;

(c) Providing the necessary means to enable the financial targets, established with the approval of the Executive Committee, to be reached.

1915th plenary meeting,
30 November 1970.

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/8012) and Supplement No. 12A (A/8012/Add.1).*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fifth Session, Third Committee, 1789th meeting.

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189 (1954), No. 2545.

¹² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 11A (A/6311/Rev.1/Add.1)*, part one, para. 2.