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UNRESTRICTED

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THIRD COMMITTEE

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Recapitulation of amendments to the preamble
of the draft Declaration (E/800)

(In the chronological order of their submission to the Committee)

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS disregard and contempt for human rights resulted, before and during the Second World War, in barbarous acts which outraged the conscience of mankind and made it apparent that the fundamental freedoms were one of the supreme issues of the conflict; and

WHEREAS it is essential, if mankind is not to be compelled as a last resort to rebel against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by a regime of law; and

WHEREAS the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom; and

WHEREAS Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the Organization, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

NOW THEREFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROCLAIMS this Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly

* This document replaces documents A/C.3/314, A/C.3/339, A/C.3/351

in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

AMENDMENTS:

Netherlands (A/C.3/219)

Insert after the words "human family" the following text:

"based on man's divine origin and immortal destiny".

Dominican Republic (A/C.3/217 and A/C.3/217/Corr.1)

In paragraph 4, line 2, delete the word "and" and substitute a comma; line 3, after the words "human person", insert the words: "and in equality of rights as between men and women".

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/800)

(Draft Preamble)

"In accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations of respect for human rights and basic freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion and for the dignity and value of the individual;

"In order to ensure observance of all these rights and freedoms and with a view to promoting social progress and improving the living conditions of the peoples;

"With a view also to promoting the development of friendly relations between nations;

"The General Assembly recommends the following 'Declaration of Human Rights' to all States Members of the United Nations to be used at their discretion both in adopting appropriate legislative and other measures, and in their systems of upbringing and education and in extending the provisions of this Declaration to the peoples of States Members themselves and to the populations of all the territories in respect of which the States concerned discharge the function of the guiding and administering authorities (populations of Trust and other Non-Self-Governing Territories)."

Union of South Africa (A/C.3/226)

In paragraph 3, delete the words "protected by a regime of law" and substitute the words "respected and observed".

In paragraph 4, delete the words "and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

United Kingdom (A/C.3/253)

"By a regime of law" should be replaced by "by the rule of law".
This appears to apply only to the English text.

Egypt (A/C.3/264)

After the third paragraph of the Preamble add the following text:

"WHEREAS the fundamental rights of man are not derived from his status as a national of a particular State, but constitute inherent attributes of his person".

Australia (A/C.3/257)

Amend second paragraph to read:

"WHEREAS disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind and have made apparent the supreme importance of the recognition and guarantee of fundamental freedoms."

Amend fifth paragraph to read:

"WHEREAS Member States have pledged themselves to promote, in co-operation with the Organization, universal respect for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

New Zealand (A/C.3/267)

Substitute the following for the present text:

"WHEREAS faith in fundamental human rights has been reaffirmed in the Charter of the United Nations,

"And whereas the Charter further provides that the United Nations shall promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

"And whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization by progressive measures, national and international, of their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the peoples of the territories under their jurisdiction;

"Now, therefore, the General Assembly proclaims this Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard for achievement by all peoples and nations."

France (A/C.3/339)

I. Amendment to the title:

Substitute the word "universal" for the word "international".

II. Introductory clauses of the preamble:

Adopt the phraseology of the United Nations Charter

WE, THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

No. 1 (unchanged)

No. 2 Whereas ignorance of and contempt for human rights are one of the essential causes of human suffering; whereas, particularly before and during the Second World War, Nazism and Racialism engendered countless acts of barbarism which outraged the conscience of mankind;

No. 3 (unchanged)

No. 4 ...WHEREAS, in the Charter, we have once more
re-affirmed

III. Final operative clause of the preamble:

PROCLAIM

through our representatives in the General
Assembly, this Declaration etc....

Ecuador (A/C.3/351)

For the present text of the preamble substitute the following:

"WHEREAS the peoples of the United Nations consider that the Historic moment has arrived for proclaiming, across all frontiers, their faith in human freedom and dignity as the sole means of obtaining peace in the world,

"WHEREAS it rests with States to safeguard human freedom by recognizing and respecting, in full equality and by the same methods, those individual rights which are calculated to promote the progress of the human person and of society,

"WHEREAS a common understanding of human rights is indispensable for ensuring that they be universally respected, and the possession of a juridical standard to serve as the foundation of a social, free and peaceful existence and eliminate the causes of domestic and international disputes is essential to mankind,

"WHEREAS disregard and contempt for human rights are the main cause of wars and insurrections, since the oppressed ever seek to revolt against tyranny,

"WHEREAS the establishment of the reign of law can alone improve the living conditions of mankind in fullest freedom,

"The GENERAL ASSEMBLY

"Solemnly ADOPTS this Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society shall strive to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and to secure their universal recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Members States and among the peoples of territories of such other countries as may desire to subscribe to its principles."
