

United Nations, to consider, as a matter of highest priority:

(a) The further action that it might itself take with a view to the speedy elimination of racial discrimination throughout the world;

(b) The action that it might suggest to its subsidiary organs, to States and to international and national bodies for this purpose;

(c) The follow-up measures required to ensure full and effective implementation of its decisions in this matter;

6. *Endorses* the invitation addressed by the Economic and Social Council to the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to provide the Commission on Human Rights with reports on the nature and effect of any racial discrimination of whose existence they have knowledge in their sphere of competence and requests that such reports should be submitted annually, and also endorses the invitation addressed by the Council to the non-governmental organizations in consultative status referred to in paragraph 5 above which have a special interest in the elimination of racism and racial discrimination to communicate biennially to the Council, and for the information of any interested organ of the United Nations, their endeavours and progress in the struggle against racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination in all its forms;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) In conformity with the conclusions stated in paragraphs 52 and 57 of his report on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities,<sup>9</sup> to study information programmes on all questions relating to racial discrimination, taking into account the views of the Economic and Social Council and its competent subsidiary bodies with a view to intensifying the realization of such programmes;

(b) To pursue, as a major feature of action to combat racism and racial discrimination after the International Year, a world-wide programme intended to build up public opinion, especially through radio and television broadcasts, and the distribution of appropriate literature such as the Statement on Race and Racial Prejudice,<sup>10</sup> adopted by a committee of experts on the subject convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris in September 1967, and the special study on racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,<sup>11</sup> with a view to eradicating once and for all false racial beliefs based upon distortion or lack of scientific knowledge and showing how the different races complement one another;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session a report on the measures taken by United Nations organs, which would make possible a detailed assessment and formulation of further new methods and measures to combat racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

*2001st plenary meeting,  
6 December 1971.*

<sup>9</sup> A/C.5/1320/Rev.1.

<sup>10</sup> UNESCO document SHC/CS/122/8, appendix 4.

<sup>11</sup> *Racial Discrimination* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.XIV.2).

## 2786 (XXVI). Draft convention on the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid*

*The General Assembly,*

*Firmly convinced* that *apartheid* constitutes a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and is a crime against humanity,

*Recognizing* the need to take further effective measures with a view to the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid*,

*Recognizing* that the conclusion of a convention on the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid* under the auspices of the United Nations would be an important contribution to the struggle against *apartheid*, racism, economic exploitation, colonial domination and foreign occupation,

*Considering* that there has been no opportunity at the current session of the General Assembly to consider fully the draft convention submitted to the Third Committee,<sup>12</sup>

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights the draft convention on the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid*, together with the relevant records of the discussion;

2. *Recommends* that the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-eighth session and the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-second session should consider this item, in co-operation with the Special Committee on *Apartheid*, as a matter of priority, and should submit the text of the draft convention on the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid* to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

*2001st plenary meeting,  
6 December 1971.*

## 2787 (XXVI). 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,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, 1904 (XVIII) of 20 November 1963, 2200 (XXI) of 16 December 1966, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, 2649 (XXV) of 30 November 1970 and 2672 C (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and resolution VIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968,<sup>13</sup>

*Solemnly reaffirming* that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and colonial exploitation is a violation of the principle of self-determination as well as a denial of basic human rights and is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations,

*Concerned* that many peoples continue to be denied the right to self-determination and are living under conditions of colonial and foreign domination,

<sup>12</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 54, document A/8542, para. 32.

<sup>13</sup> *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 9.

*Expressing concern* that some countries, notably Portugal, with the support of their North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, are waging war against the national liberation movement of the colonies and against certain independent States of Africa and Asia and the developing countries,

*Confirming* that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including the methods of neo-colonialism, constitutes a gross encroachment on the rights of peoples and on the basic human rights and freedoms,

*Convinced* that effective application of the principle of self-determination of peoples is of paramount importance for the promotion of friendly relations between countries and peoples, the guarantee of human rights and the maintenance of peace in the world,

*Affirming* that the future of Zimbabwe cannot be negotiated with an illegal régime and that any settlement must be made on the basis of "no independence before majority rule",

*Reaffirming* the inalienable rights of all peoples, and in particular those of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau) and the Palestinian people, to freedom, equality and self-determination, and the legitimacy of their struggles to restore those rights,

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

*Considering* that the establishment of a sovereign and independent State freely determined by all the people belonging to the territory constitutes a mode of implementing the right of self-determination,

*Further considering* that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State established in accordance with the right of self-determination of its people is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

*Mindful* that interference in the internal affairs of States is a violation of the Charter and can pose a serious threat to the maintenance of peace,

1. *Confirms* the legality of the peoples' struggle for self-determination and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably in southern Africa and in particular that of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau), as well as of the Palestinian people, by all available means consistent with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Affirms* man's basic human right to fight for the self-determination of his people under colonial and foreign domination;

3. *Calls upon* all States dedicated to the ideals of freedom and peace to give all their political, moral and material assistance to peoples struggling for liberation, self-determination and independence against colonial and alien domination;

4. *Believes* that the main objectives and principles of international protection of human rights cannot be effectively implemented while some States, particularly Portugal and South Africa, pursue the imperialist policy of colonialism, use force against independent African States and developing countries and peoples fighting for self-determination and support régimes that are applying the criminal policy of racism and *apartheid*;

5. *Condemns* the colonial and usurping Powers that are suppressing the right of peoples to self-determination and hampering the liquidation of the last hotbeds of colonialism and racism in the African and Asian continents and in other parts of the world;

6. *Condemns* the policy of certain States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that contribute to the creation in southern Africa of a military-industrial complex whose aim is to suppress the movement of peoples struggling for self-determination and to interfere in the affairs of independent African States;

7. *Recalls* that it is the duty of every State to contribute through joint and independent action to the implementation of the principle of self-determination, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, and to assist the United Nations in discharging the responsibilities vested in it by the Charter for the implementation of this principle;

8. *Urges* the Security Council as well as States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies to take effective steps to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions on the elimination of colonialism and racism, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session;

9. *Resolves* to devote constant attention to the question of flagrant large-scale violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms resulting from the denial to peoples under colonial and foreign domination of their right to self-determination;

10. *Calls upon* all States to observe the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and respect for their sovereign rights and territorial integrity.

2001st plenary meeting,  
6 December 1971.

**2788 (XXVI). 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**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having noted* the report of the Secretary-General on the 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,<sup>14</sup>

*Firmly believing* that the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol will greatly enhance the ability of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and will contribute to the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Desirous* of making all possible efforts that may be appropriate to assist in hastening the process of ratification and, if possible, in bringing into force those instruments by the twenty-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 1973,

<sup>14</sup> A/8390.