

X. Model rules of procedure for bodies dealing with violations of human rights

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Recalling Economic and Social Council Resolution 1164 (XLI) of 1966 under which the Commission on Human Rights was requested to give annual consideration to the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of *apartheid*, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2144 (XXI) which confirmed the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1102 (XL); and Economic and Social Council Resolution 1235 (XLII) of 1967,

Noting the action taken by United Nations bodies in particular those taken by the Commission on Human Rights pursuant to its resolutions 2 (XXIII) and 2 (XXIV) in appointing an *ad hoc* working group and in enlarging the mandate of this group,

Taking into account the experience of this working group and of other similar bodies of the United Nations and the problems they have encountered in the discharge of their functions,

Taking into account further the report of the Secretary-General on the methods of fact-finding (Doc. A/5694),

Recognising the importance of well defined rules of procedure for the orderly and efficient discharge of their functions by the United Nations bodies concerned with the field of human rights,

Noting that no such procedural rules exist to guide them,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it request the Commission on Human Rights to prepare at its earliest opportunity model rules of procedure for the guidance of the United Nations bodies concerned.

25th plenary meeting
12 May 1968

XI. Human rights and scientific and technological developments

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Considering that scientific discoveries and their technological applications open up vast prospects for economic, social and cultural progress and for raising the level of living, and that they can by that token constitute a decisive factor in the effective application of human rights for all individuals and all peoples,

Considering, however, that these discoveries and technological developments may entail certain dangers for the rights of the individual or of the group and for human dignity and that, in any event, their utilization raises complex ethical and legal problems with respect to human rights,

1. *Is of the opinion* that these problems require thorough and continuous interdisciplinary studies at

both the national and the international level, so that they may serve as a basis for drawing up appropriate standards, should the need arise;

2. *Recommends* that the organizations of the United Nations family should undertake a study of the problems with respect to human rights arising from developments in science and technology, particularly with regard to:

(a) Respect for privacy in view of recording techniques;

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

(c) The uses of electronics which may affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on its 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.

25th plenary meeting
12 May 1968

XII. Illiteracy

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Considering that literacy is one of the essential conditions for the effective enjoyment of human rights, both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights,

Noting with regret that, despite efforts made by States and international organizations over 700 million persons in the world are still illiterate,

Considering that illiterate adults are defenceless in a society whose workings they cannot understand, in which they have no means of making a place for themselves; and in which they are unable effectively to exercise or to defend their rights as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration,

Considering that the right to education is solemnly proclaimed in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in many other international instruments, including the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling the conclusions of the World Congress of Ministers of Education held at Teheran in 1965,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Consultative Liaison Committee for Literacy set up under the auspices of UNESCO, and the solemn appeal made by its Chairman,

Invites

(a) The Governments of all countries in which illiteracy is still widespread to increase the intellectual and material resources marshalled to combat illiteracy, with a view to expediting the gradual elimination of this evil;

(b) The Governments of all countries, including those not faced with the problem of illiteracy, to intensify their co-operation with and support for programmes for the education of the millions of illiterate men and women;

(c) The General Assembly of the United Nations to draw the attention of organs having responsibilities