

FINAL ACT
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Teheran, 22 April to 13 May 1968



UNITED NATIONS

4. *Appeals* for greater support to international activities in the interest of the child.

*25th plenary meeting
12 May 1968*

XVI. Disarmament

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Recognizing the world-wide economic and social consequences which a general and complete disarmament could have in the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting that the arms race as it prevails absorbs those resources urgently needed for the implementation of man's most elementary economic and social rights,

Noting also that a large part of scientific research is directly or indirectly undertaken for purposes aimed towards war,

Bearing in mind the enormous importance which these resources if released as a result of an agreement reached on general and complete disarmament could have for the attainment of accelerated economic and social progress throughout the world and international implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Appeals* to all States to co-operate actively with the competent organs of the United Nations towards an immediate conclusion of an agreement on general and complete disarmament;

2. *Requests* the United Nations to urge that resources thus released be employed for economic and social progress throughout the world.

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12 May 1968*

XVII. Economic Development and Human Rights

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Believing that the enjoyment of economic and social rights is inherently linked with any meaningful enjoyment of civil and political rights and that there is a profound inter-connexion between the realization of human rights and economic development,

Noting that the vast majority of mankind continues to live in poverty, suffer from squalor, disease and illiteracy and thus leads a sub-human existence, constituting in itself a denial of human dignity,

Noting with deep concern the ever widening gap between the standards of living in the economically developed and developing countries,

Recognizing that universal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms would remain a pious hope unless the international community succeeds in narrowing this gap,

Considering the close relationship between the terms of international trade and other economic, fiscal and monetary measures, national or international, on the one hand, and the possibility of narrowing this gap by rapid economic development, on the other,

Believing that such a situation is not conducive to international peace and understanding,

Recognizing the collective responsibility of the international community to ensure the attainment of the minimum standard of living necessary for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons throughout the world,

Taking note of the study prepared by Mr. José Figueres entitled "Some Economic Foundations of Human Rights" (A/CONF.32/L.2),

Noting also the efforts made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development drawing the attention of all the members of the international community to the need for a readjustment of their economic and financial policies to meet their international obligations under Articles 55 and 56 of the United Nations Charter,

1. *Invites* all members of the international community to comply with their Charter obligations by regarding implementation of the Charter provisions on human rights and fundamental freedoms not only as a matter of national obligation but also as a matter of international obligation;

2. *Calls upon* all the economically developed countries to adjust their economic and financial relations with other countries in a manner which would facilitate transfer of adequate development resources and technology to the developing countries;

3. *Calls upon* all the economically developed countries to make at least one per cent of their Gross National Product available as international aid on equitable terms which do not entail additional burdens for the emerging national economies;

4. *Calls upon* the developing States to continue to make every effort to raise the standard of living of their people through effective use of all available resources and to reduce economic disparities within their jurisdiction;

5. *Calls upon* all members of the international community to assume their full responsibility in the field of economic and social development and to take immediate effective action with a view to establishing economic and social justice;

6. *Calls urgently* for the preparation of a global strategy of development by the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* competent organs of the United Nations to give high priority to assistance programmes having a direct bearing on a universal realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Requests* the United Nations General Assembly to invite the Secretary-General to transmit this resolution to States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and to the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies concerned.

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XVIII. Human rights aspects of family planning

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Recalling the determination of the peoples of the United Nations, as expressed in the Charter, to reaffirm

faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Considering that article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states *inter alia* that men and women of full age have the right to marry and found a family and that the family is the natural and fundamental group of society,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, which recognized *inter alia* the sovereignty of nations in formulating and promoting their own population policies, with due regard to the principle that the size of the family should be the free choice of each individual family,

Recalling also UNESCO resolution 3.252 of 14 December 1966, the World Health Assembly's resolution WHA 20.41 of 25 May 1967 and the conclusions of the World Population Conference held at Belgrade in September 1965 on the subject of family planning,

Noting with interest that the Commission on the Status of Women has begun to study the relationship between family planning and the status of women,

Noting also the Declaration on Population of 10 December 1966, now signed by 30 Heads of State or Government,

Believing that it is timely to draw attention to the connexion between population growth and human rights,

1. *Observes* that the present rapid rate of population growth in some areas of the world hampers the struggle against hunger and poverty, and in particular reduces the possibilities of rapidly achieving adequate standards of living, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, social security, education and social services, thereby impairing the full realization of human rights;

2. *Recognizes* that moderation of the present rate of population growth in such areas would enhance the conditions for offering greater opportunities for the enjoyment of human rights and the improvement of living conditions for each person;

3. *Considers* that couples have a basic human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and a right to adequate education and information in this respect;

4. *Urges* Member States and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned to give close attention to the implications for the exercise of human rights of the present rapid rate of increase in world population.

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XIX. Legal aid

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that "everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law",

Recalling that Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides in part that everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be entitled to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing and to be informed if he does not have legal assistance of this right and to have legal assistance assigned to him in any case where the interests of justice shall require and without payment by him in any such case if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it,

Believing that there are cases where the individual's recourse to competent tribunals to which he has a right of access is denied or hindered because of lack of financial resources to bear the expenses involved,

Believing further that it is not sufficient that an individual have merely a legal right to bring his complaint before some court but that such court should be governed by efficient procedures and processes so that the individual's complaint may be disposed of promptly and fairly,

Convinced that the provision of legal aid to aggrieved individuals would strengthen the observance and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recommends:

(a) That Governments encourage the development of comprehensive legal aid systems for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) That standards be devised for granting financial, professional and other legal assistance in appropriate cases to those whose fundamental rights appear to have been violated;

(c) That Governments consider ways and means of defraying the expenses involved in providing such comprehensive legal aid systems;

(d) That Governments take all possible steps to simplify laws and procedures so as to reduce the burdens on the financial and other resources of individuals who seek legal redress;

(e) That Governments co-operate to the extent appropriate in extending the availability of competent legal assistance to aggrieved individuals who need it;

(f) That the United Nations provide the necessary resources, within the limits of the human rights advisory services programme, to facilitate expert and other technical assistance to Member States seeking to extend the availability of competent legal aid.

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XX. Education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

(ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE)

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Considering that the promotion, respect and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms are a significant aspiration for the contemporary world, the fulfilment of which implies changes in ways of thinking, the outlook of peoples and the stand they take towards the rights of man,

Recalling that, in the Charter, the United Nations has affirmed its faith in fundamental human rights, in