

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.