CHAPTER XV

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY

Declaration on Social Progress and Development

On 11 December 1969, the General Assembly adopted a Declaration on Social Progress and Development and called for national and international action to use it as a common base for social development policies.

The President of the General Assembly stated that, in adopting the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Assembly had taken a significant step in pursuance of the objective of promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, as set out in the United Nations Charter. The Declaration, he said, was the first international instrument to provide clear guidelines not only for social policies but also for the integration of economic and social action for the improvement of the social environment and the well-being of the individual. The President expressed his confidence that the impact of the Declaration would go far beyond the period of the Second United Nations Development Decade and that its influence would be felt at both the international and the national levels for a long time to come.

A draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development was prepared by the Commission for Social Development in pursuance of a General Assembly resolution of 19 December 1966. Following directions given by the Economic and Social Council on 6 June 1967, the Commission completed the draft of the Declaration at its nineteenth session (5 February-2 March 1968). This draft text consisted of a preamble and three parts, dealing, respectively, with principles, objectives, and means and methods. The text was entitled "Draft Declaration on Social Development."

The Economic and Social Council considered the draft Declaration at its forty-fourth session (6-31 May 1968) and decided to transmit the text without modifications, together with observations made during the Council’s debate and amendments proposed by various members of the Council, to Members of the United Nations for their comments and, subsequently, to the General Assembly.

Later in 1968, the General Assembly’s Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee amended the title of the draft Declaration to "Draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development." On 29 October 1968, the Committee unanimously approved the preamble to the draft Declaration. On 12 November 1968, it adopted the following text:

E/4768, E/4768 (Summary) and Corr.1. Report of 15th session of Population Commission, 3-14 November 1969 and summary. (For list of documents before Commission, including reports of expert groups, see Annex III.)

OTHER DOCUMENTS


Population Newsletter, Nos. 4-7 (February, May, September, December 1969).

