



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7239/Add.1
28 November 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 38

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION YEAR

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In his note of 24 September 1968 on the International Education Year (A/7239), the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that he would report further on the subject during the twenty-third session on the basis of his continuing consultations with the specialized agencies and the resolution which the General Conference of UNESCO might adopt.
2. At its meeting in October 1968, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) expressed warm support for the objectives and modes of action for the International Education Year and noted that most of the organizations of the United Nations system had already conveyed to UNESCO indications of their plans. These varied considerably in nature and scope, ranging from the development of new ideas and methods in education and vocational training (ILO) to the preparation of navigational manuals (IMCO) and including intensification of training of middle and higher level personnel in specialized fields (ICAO, WMO) and the possibility of concerted action between educational and health authorities (WHO) as well as various projects designed to assist refugees (UNHCR, UNRWA) to promote human rights and access of women and youth to education (United Nations, UNICEF) and generally the development of human resources, particularly in rural areas (FAO). ACC was informed that the newly created Centre for Economic and Social Information at United Nations Headquarters would devote special attention to this programme and would take measures, in co-ordination with UNDP, UNCTAD and with the various United Nations divisions concerned, to disseminate information on the International Education Year. The importance of identifying specific tasks which would involve the man in the street in the programme was stressed.

3. As regards the United Nations itself, ACC was informed that after an initial review of work programmes of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights field, a number of projects and activities which might have a direct bearing on a concerted programme for the International Education Year had already been identified. Full account has been taken of the proposals contained in the document for the UNESCO General Conference on International Education Year. A particularly helpful feature of the document is that it contains a list of proposed objectives subsequently endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference which served as points of reference for identifying studies and operational and other activities of the United Nations work programme which are relevant to International Education Year. Related aspects in the field of human rights will be included. It is also expected that some assistance will be received from the regional economic commissions and regional training institutes. Experts in the operational programmes in the field of social development have been approached with a view to deciding how their respective projects might be linked more closely to the International Education Year programme.

4. The objectives of the International Education Year, the modes of action and the roles and activities of UNESCO were discussed at the General Conference of UNESCO at its fifteenth session (15 October-20 November 1968). In a resolution which the Conference adopted unanimously (see annex), UNESCO declared its readiness to provide the framework within which co-operation would be invited. Member States would be invited, should the General Assembly of the United Nations declare 1970 as International Education Year, to take stock of the situation with respect to education in their countries and to plan and initiate or stimulate studies and operational programmes that would aim at improving the conditions. This would be carried out with particular reference to the objectives and themes adopted for special attention under the International Education Year. The Director-General would assume primary responsibility, in collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system, for the preparation and execution of an international concerted programme and would advise Member States on themes and objectives for concerted effort in a global strategy for education for the second United Nations Development Decade. Specific projects provided for in the programme and budget of UNESCO for 1969-1970 would be oriented to the eight objectives and four major themes proposed. The Director-General would also

transmit to the General Assembly of the United Nations the text of the present resolution and would report to the General Conference at its sixteenth session on UNESCO's participation in the International Education Year and the general outcome of the activities undertaken in that connexion.

5. In accordance with the decision taken in ACC, the organizations of the United Nations system will meet again to discuss in specific terms, the manner in which individually they will propose a programme for the International Education Year and, subject to the views of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would propose to report further to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session and to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on the progress achieved by the organizations of the United Nations system in preparing for the Year.

ANNEX

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION YEAR

Text of resolution adopted unanimously by the General Conference
of UNESCO

- I. Member States are invited, should the General Assembly of the United Nations declare 1970 as International Education Year:
- (i) To take stock of the existing situation in their respective countries with respect to education in its broad sense;
 - (ii) To initiate or stimulate studies on problems relating to improving the situation with particular reference to the objectives and themes which will have been adopted for special attention under the International Education Year;
 - (iii) To encourage educational authorities, public and private, to initiate such new activities as may be needed for the same purpose;
 - (iv) To make a special effort in order to increase financial resources for educational development;
 - (v) To participate effectively in the international programmes to be conducted by the United Nations system under the auspices of the International Education Year;
 - (vi) To launch a programme of action comprising practical measures for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and for the promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment in education, and to integrate it in their educational development plans.
- II. The Director-General is authorized:
- (i) To assume primary responsibility, in collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system and taking into account the suggestions presented by them as set forth in annex II, for the preparation and execution of an international concerted programme;
 - (ii) To advise member States, in co-operation, as appropriate, with other agencies, bodies and organs of the United Nations system, on themes and objectives on which they should focus their attention and

concentrate their efforts, so as to contribute to the framing of a global strategy for education for the second United Nations Development Decade;

- (iii) To propose for this purpose to member States, the international organizations of the United Nations system and the other governmental and non-governmental international organizations the following major themes and objectives:

(a) Objectives

- (i) Functional literacy for adults;
- (ii) Equal access of girls and women to education;
- (iii) Training of middle and higher level personnel for development;
- (iv) Democratization of secondary and higher education;
- (v) Transition from selection to guided choice in secondary and higher education;
- (vi) Adaptation of education (both general and technical) to the needs of the modern world, especially in rural areas;
- (vii) Development of educational research;
- (viii) Pre-service and in-service training of teachers.

(b) General concepts and practices

- (ix) Educational technology - the new methods and media;
 - (x) Life-long integrated education;
 - (xi) Reconciliation in education of a spirit of tradition and preservation of the intellectual and moral heritage with a spirit of renewal;
 - (xii) Promotion of ethical principles in education, especially through the moral and civic education of youth, with a view to promoting international understanding and peace;
- (iv) To orientate specific projects provided for in the Programme and Budget for 1969-1970, such as studies, operational programmes, regional international conferences and public information activities, so as to make them contribute fully towards the realization of the above-mentioned objectives of the International Education Year;

- (v) To turn to account the studies conducted on the occasion of the International Education Year for defining the principles of long-term educational planning;
- (vi) To transmit to the General Assembly of the United Nations the text of the present resolution;
- (vii) To report to the General Conference at its sixteenth session on UNESCO's participation in the International Education Year and the general outcome of the activities undertaken in that connexion.
