

PRESS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA CANADA

INTERNATIONAL TREATY), AND "MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION" (OUTLINING THE MANNER IN WHICH BOTH THE DECLARATION AND THE COVENANT COULD BE MADE EFFECTIVE).

ON DECEMBER 10, 1948, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION. BETWEEN 1949 AND 1954, THE COMMISSION DEVOTED ITS ATTENTION TO THE PREPARATION OF THE COVENANTS. AT ITS NINTH SESSION, IN 1954, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EMBARKED ON THE FIRST READING OF THESE COVENANTS, WHICH ARE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION.

THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROCLAIMS MAN'S PERSONAL, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. IT PROVIDES FOR THEIR ENJOYMENT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AS TO RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION, SUBJECT ONLY TO SUCH LIMITATIONS AS ARE DEFINED BY LAW SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING DUE RECOGNITION AND RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF OTHERS AND OF MEETING THE JUST REQUIREMENTS OF MORALITY, PUBLIC ORDER AND THE GENERAL WELFARE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE ITS ADOPTION, THE DECLARATION HAS BECOME WIDELY KNOWN. IT HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ALL THE MAIN LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD AND THE DATE OF ITS ADOPTION IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY IN MANY COUNTRIES AS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. THE DECLARATION IS FREQUENTLY QUOTED IN U.N. RESOLUTIONS. INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES APPEAR AS PROVISIONS IN SOME NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS DRAFTED SINCE 1948, AND IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS.