

## **DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

At its twenty-eighth session (September to December 1973), the General Assembly of the United Nations designated "the ten-year period beginning on 10 December 1973 as the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination". On that occasion, the General Assembly approved a programme for the Decade and invited Governments, United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to participate in the observance of the Decade by intensifying and expanding their efforts during that period.

The major principles of the draft programme for the Decade are to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind. Measures should therefore be taken at national, regional and international levels to apply United Nations instruments and decisions on the elimination of racial prejudices, racism and racial discrimination. Ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the enactment of national legislation in keeping with international norms; assistance to the victims of racial injustice and to liberation movements; boycott régimes which practise racial discrimination; efforts in the sphere of education, training and information; research into and study of the various aspects of racial discrimination, its causes and effects—such are the main recommendations put forward in the programme for the Decade.

Moreover, a world conference for action to combat racial discrimination should be convened by 1978 at the latest. Lastly, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to report to it every year on the implementation of the proposed programme.