

Expressing concern that some countries, notably Portugal, with the support of their North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, are waging war against the national liberation movement of the colonies and against certain independent States of Africa and Asia and the developing countries,

Confirming that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including the methods of neo-colonialism, constitutes a gross encroachment on the rights of peoples and on the basic human rights and freedoms,

Convinced that effective application of the principle of self-determination of peoples is of paramount importance for the promotion of friendly relations between countries and peoples, the guarantee of human rights and the maintenance of peace in the world,

Affirming that the future of Zimbabwe cannot be negotiated with an illegal régime and that any settlement must be made on the basis of "no independence before majority rule",

Reaffirming the inalienable rights of all peoples, and in particular those of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau) and the Palestinian people, to freedom, equality and self-determination, and the legitimacy of their struggles to restore those rights,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which elaborated the principle of self-determination of peoples,

Considering that the establishment of a sovereign and independent State freely determined by all the people belonging to the territory constitutes a mode of implementing the right of self-determination,

Further considering that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State established in accordance with the right of self-determination of its people is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Mindful that interference in the internal affairs of States is a violation of the Charter and can pose a serious threat to the maintenance of peace,

1. *Confirms* the legality of the peoples' struggle for self-determination and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably in southern Africa and in particular that of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau), as well as of the Palestinian people, by all available means consistent with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Affirms* man's basic human right to fight for the self-determination of his people under colonial and foreign domination;

3. *Calls upon* all States dedicated to the ideals of freedom and peace to give all their political, moral and material assistance to peoples struggling for liberation, self-determination and independence against colonial and alien domination;

4. *Believes* that the main objectives and principles of international protection of human rights cannot be effectively implemented while some States, particularly Portugal and South Africa, pursue the imperialist policy of colonialism, use force against independent African States and developing countries and peoples fighting for self-determination and support régimes that are applying the criminal policy of racism and *apartheid*;

5. *Condemns* the colonial and usurping Powers that are suppressing the right of peoples to self-determination and hampering the liquidation of the last hotbeds of colonialism and racism in the African and Asian continents and in other parts of the world;

6. *Condemns* the policy of certain States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that contribute to the creation in southern Africa of a military-industrial complex whose aim is to suppress the movement of peoples struggling for self-determination and to interfere in the affairs of independent African States;

7. *Recalls* that it is the duty of every State to contribute through joint and independent action to the implementation of the principle of self-determination, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, and to assist the United Nations in discharging the responsibilities vested in it by the Charter for the implementation of this principle;

8. *Urges* the Security Council as well as States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies to take effective steps to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions on the elimination of colonialism and racism, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session;

9. *Resolves* to devote constant attention to the question of flagrant large-scale violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms resulting from the denial to peoples under colonial and foreign domination of their right to self-determination;

10. *Calls upon* all States to observe the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and respect for their sovereign rights and territorial integrity.

2001st plenary meeting,
6 December 1971.

2788 (XXVI). Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The General Assembly,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁴

Firmly believing that the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol will greatly enhance the ability of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and will contribute to the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Desirous of making all possible efforts that may be appropriate to assist in hastening the process of ratification and, if possible, in bringing into force those instruments by the twenty-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 1973,

¹⁴ A/8390.

1. *Recommends* that Member States should give special attention to possibilities of accelerating as far as possible the internal procedures that would lead to the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, on the basis of communications from Governments, to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session and at such other times as he may consider appropriate on the progress of the ratification of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol.

2001st plenary meeting,
6 December 1971.

2789 (XXVI). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concerning his current activities¹⁵ and having heard his statement,¹⁶

Noting with appreciation the results obtained by the High Commissioner in the accomplishment of his humanitarian task of providing international protection to refugees within his mandate and promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

Considering the increasing and fruitful co-operation between the High Commissioner and the other members of the United Nations system in the field of rural settlement, education and training of refugees in developing countries, particularly in Africa, which results in a better co-ordination of action and a greater efficiency of the United Nations system as a whole,

Noting with satisfaction the recent decision of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to approve the participation of the High Commissioner in the new country programming system adopted by the United Nations Development Programme and his association, where necessary, with any efforts made by Governments, with the assistance of the Programme, to develop regions where large groups of refugees are being settled with the assistance of the High Commissioner,

Recognizing the importance of voluntary repatriation as a permanent solution to the refugee problem and the useful role that United Nations bodies and non-governmental agencies can play in facilitating the rehabilitation of groups of refugees who have voluntarily returned to their countries of origin,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's assistance programme and the substantial increase in some of these contributions,

Commending the growing number of accessions to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951¹⁷ and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967,¹⁸

¹⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/8412) and Supplement No. 12A (A/8412/Add.1).*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 1874th meeting, paras. 1-15.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189 (1954), No. 2545.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 606 (1967), No. 8791.

1. *Expresses its deep satisfaction* at the efficient manner in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff continue to accomplish their humanitarian tasks;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who are his concern, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

3. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote permanent and speedy solutions to the problems of refugees who are his concern through voluntary repatriation, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries;

4. *Urges* Governments to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian action by:

(a) Facilitating the accomplishment of his task in the field of international protection;

(b) Co-operating in the promotion of permanent solutions to refugee problems;

(c) Providing the necessary means to attain the financial targets established with the approval of the Executive Committee.

2001st plenary meeting,
6 December 1971.

2790 (XXVI). United Nations assistance to East Pakistan refugees through the United Nations focal point and United Nations humanitarian assistance to East Pakistan

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The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on his activities as the focal point in co-ordinating international relief assistance for refugees from East Pakistan in India,¹⁹

Noting also the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations programme of relief assistance to the people of East Pakistan,²⁰

Wishing to pay a tribute to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, and to their staffs, for the work they have done under difficult conditions,

Deeply concerned at the magnitude of the human suffering to which the crisis in East Pakistan has given rise and at its possible consequences,

Concerned also at the heavy burden imposed on India and at the disturbing influence of the general situation on the process of economic and social development in the area,

Noting with appreciation the prompt and generous response of the international community to the needs that have arisen from the crisis, including the efforts of non-governmental organizations to raise funds for the relief of the suffering,

Recognizing that voluntary repatriation is the only satisfactory solution to the refugee problem and that this is fully accepted by all concerned,

¹⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 1876th meeting.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 1877th meeting.