

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*111th plenary meeting  
18 December 1982*

**37/200. Further promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

*The General Assembly,*

*Aware* that in the Charter of the United Nations the peoples of the United Nations declared their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

*Conscious* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the duty of all Member States to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Convinced* that a primary aim of such international co-operation must be the achievement by each human being of a life of freedom and dignity,

*Aware* that efforts to promote and protect human rights at the international level should be accompanied by efforts to establish a new international economic order,

*Aware also* that the promotion and protection of human rights are necessary conditions for the development of the human personality, whether in its individual or its social aspects, and that social development must be based on respect for the dignity of man from which all human rights derive their justification,

*Considering* that the advancement of development objectives is related to the promotion of harmonious relations within and among States,

*Considering also* that the great resources which would be released by disarmament could contribute significantly to the development of all States, especially those which are at present least developed,

*Bearing in mind* that the maintenance of international peace and security is vital for social and economic progress and for the full realization of human rights,

*Bearing in mind also* that mass and flagrant violations of human rights in one State may threaten the peace and development of neighbouring States, of a region or of the international community as a whole,

*Recognizing* that violations of human rights, wherever they exist, are of concern to the United Nations,

*Emphasizing* that the absence of peace or development can never exempt a State from its obligation to ensure respect for the human rights of its nationals and of other persons within its jurisdiction,

*Reaffirming* that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>166</sup> without distinction of any kind, as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Reaffirming also* that nothing in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth therein,

*Considering* that regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights can make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field among the regions and within the United Nations system could be improved,

*Underlining* the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under various international instruments in the field of human rights,

*Acknowledging* the progress achieved by the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly with respect to the setting of standards,

*Acknowledging also* the valuable efforts of the Commission on Human Rights in the study of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world,

*Aware* of the need to allocate additional resources, including staff, to the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,

*Recalling* its resolutions on this question, in particular its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977.

1. *Affirms* that a primary aim of international co-operation in the field of human rights is a life of freedom and dignity for each human being, that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the others;

2. *Notes* that mass and flagrant violations of human rights in one State may threaten the peace and development of neighbouring States, of a region or of the international community as a whole;

3. *Emphasizes* that foreign occupation, colonialism, *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination and the denial of the right to self-determination of peoples and of all universally recognized human rights are serious impediments to peace and development;

4. *Reaffirms* that violations of human rights, wherever they exist, are of concern to the United Nations;

5. *Considers* that efforts to promote and protect human rights at the international level should be accompanied by efforts to establish a new international economic order;

6. *Recognizes* that the realization of the potentialities of the human person in harmony with the community should be seen as the central purpose of development;

7. *Affirms* that everyone has the right to participate in, as well as to benefit from, the development process;

8. *Commends* the Commission on Human Rights and its *ad hoc* working group, established by the Commission pursuant to its resolution 36 (XXXVII) of 11 March 1981, for their continuing efforts in the study of the right to development;

9. *Stresses* that Governments have a duty to take special measures to secure the human rights of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups of individuals;

10. *Requests* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the various conventions in the field of human rights;

11. *Urges* all States to co-operate with the Commission on Human Rights in its study of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world;

12. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-ninth session to continue its efforts to improve the capacity of the United Nations system to take urgent action in cases of serious violations of human rights, bearing in mind the proposals submitted by the Sub-Commission on

Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on possible terms of reference for the draft mandate of a High Commissioner for Human Rights;<sup>170</sup>

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to strengthen the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to include in the updated study on international conditions and human rights, which the General Assembly, in its resolution 36/133 of 14 December 1981, requested him to submit to it at its thirty-eighth session, an overview of trends in the field of human rights with emphasis on the problems still being encountered;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*111th plenary meeting  
18 December 1982*

### **37/201. New international humanitarian order**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 36/136 of 14 December 1981,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>171</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report, all Governments that provided their views on

the proposal for the promotion of a new international humanitarian order supported the intentions underlying the proposal and the need for developing greater international awareness of humanitarian issues and more effective means of dealing with such issues,<sup>172</sup>

*Recognizing* the need for again seeking the views of Governments that have not yet provided them to the Secretary-General,

*Noting* the proposal for the establishment, outside the framework of the United Nations, of an independent commission on international humanitarian issues, composed of leading personalities in the humanitarian field or having wide experience of government or world affairs,<sup>173</sup>

*Recognizing further* that the deliberations of such a commission, if established, could be useful for further study of the proposal,

1. *Requests* Governments that have not yet done so to communicate their views on the proposal for the promotion of a new international humanitarian order to the Secretary-General;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide a more comprehensive report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

3. *Decides* to review at its thirty-eighth session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

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<sup>170</sup> See E/CN.4/1983/4-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/43 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A, resolution 1982/27.

<sup>171</sup> A/37/145.

<sup>172</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>173</sup> See A/36/245, annex, para. 10.