

39/18. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,²² as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their conditions,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth,²³ thirty-seventh,²⁴ thirty-eighth,²⁵ thirty-ninth²⁶ and fortieth sessions,²⁷

Reiterating its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982 and 38/16 of 22 November 1983,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²⁸

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, particularly the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of these acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted by the aforementioned acts and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting

from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the General Assembly at its fortieth session under the item entitled "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights".

*71st plenary meeting
23 November 1984*

39/19. Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3068 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, by which it adopted and opened for signature and ratification the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, and its subsequent resolutions on the status of the Convention,

Reaffirming its conviction that *apartheid* constitutes a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, a gross violation of human rights and a crime against humanity, seriously threatening international peace and security,

Convinced that the implementation of the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination proclaimed by its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983 and of the Programme of Action adopted by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination²⁹ will contribute to the final eradication of *apartheid* and all other forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Strongly condemning South Africa's continued policy of *apartheid* and its continued illegal occupation of Namibia, as well as its repeated acts of aggression against sovereign African States, which constitute a manifest breach of international peace and security,

Condemning the continued collaboration of certain States and transnational corporations with the racist régime of South Africa in the political, economic, military and other fields as an encouragement to the intensification of its odious policy of *apartheid*,

Underlining that the strengthening of the existing mandatory arms embargo and the application of comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter are vital in order to compel the racist régime of South Africa to abandon its policy of *apartheid*,

Firmly convinced that the legitimate struggle of the oppressed peoples in southern Africa against *apartheid*, racism and colonialism and for the effective implementation of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence demands more than ever all necessary support by the international community and, in particular, further action by the Security Council,

Underlining that ratification of and accession to the Convention on a universal basis and the implementation of its provisions without any delay are necessary for its

²² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980. Supplement No. 3* (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 1981, *Supplement No. 5* (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 1982, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 1983, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 1984, *Supplement No. 4* (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

²⁸ A/39/505 and Add.1.

²⁹ See *Report of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1-12 August 1983* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIV.4 and corrigendum), chap. II.