

taining information on the progress made by the Working Group in the accomplishment of its tasks;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first 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".

*116th plenary meeting  
13 December 1985*

#### 40/125. Development of public information activities in the field of human rights

*The General Assembly.*

*Reaffirming* that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights are necessary to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations set out in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>24</sup> including resolution 39/136 of 14 December 1984,

*Taking into account* the relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning the further promotion of human rights, including resolution 39/144 of 14 December 1984 relating to the activities of national institutions in the field of human rights,

*Welcoming* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/49 of 14 March 1985 on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights,<sup>30</sup>

*Recognizing* the fundamental importance of national and regional public information activities in the field of human rights and the catalytic effect that initiatives of the United Nations can have on these activities,

*Reaffirming* that programmes of teaching, education and information in the field of human rights are central to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Noting* the importance of making available United Nations materials on human rights in national and local languages, including in simplified form, and of making more effective use of the mass media and of new technologies in order to reach a wider audience, especially the less-educated and those in isolated areas,

*Believing* that the promotional activities of the United Nations system in the field of human rights should be enhanced and strengthened,

1. *Requests* all Member States to take appropriate steps, by all available means, including the mass media, to give publicity to the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights and to accord priority to the dissemination, in their respective national and local languages, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>6</sup> the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international conventions;

2. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, to assist further in the dissemination of United Nations material on human rights;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to issue a personalized version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the six official languages of the United Nations, having in mind the desirability of completing this task in 1986, and also welcomes the preparation of a list of

basic reference works on human rights for use by United Nations information centres and other interested bodies;

4. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Secretary-General, in its resolution 1985/49, to collect relevant material, including that prepared by specialized agencies, regional bodies, groups, non-governmental organizations and individuals, with a view to preparing a basic teaching booklet on human rights in the six official languages of the United Nations;

5. *Recommends* that all Member States consider including, in their educational curricula, material relevant to a comprehensive understanding of human rights issues;

6. *Urges* the Commission on Human Rights to give special attention at its forty-second session to the development of public information activities in the field of human rights and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, its views and recommendations on further action;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-first session under 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".

*116th plenary meeting  
13 December 1985*

#### 40/126. New international humanitarian order

*The General Assembly.*

*Recalling* its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982 and 38/125 of 16 December 1983,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>157</sup>

*Welcoming* the views and comments of Governments regarding the proposal to promote a new international humanitarian order contained in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>158</sup>

*Reiterating* that the work of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, established outside the framework of the United Nations, could be useful for further study of the proposal,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his report;

2. *Takes note* of the activities of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>159</sup> and looks forward to the outcome of its efforts and its final report;

3. *Invites* Governments that have not yet done so to communicate to the Secretary-General their views regarding the proposal to promote a new international humanitarian order;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of further views received, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session an addendum to his report, including a survey of specific humanitarian issues;

5. *Decides* to review at its forty-first session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

*116th plenary meeting  
13 December 1985*

<sup>157</sup> A/40/348 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>158</sup> See A/40/348/Add.1 and 2.

<sup>159</sup> See A. 40/348, annex II.