

and protection of human rights, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46.

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁶ the International Covenants on Human Rights²⁴ and other international human rights instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Conscious of the significant role that institutions at the national level can play in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness and observance of those rights and freedoms,

Welcoming the organization at Geneva, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a seminar on the experience of different countries in the implementation of international standards on human rights, held from 20 June to 1 July 1983,¹⁵³ and a seminar on community relations commissions and their functions, held from 9 to 20 September 1985,¹⁵⁴

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁵⁵
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing, in accordance with national legislation, effective national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, and of maintaining their independence and integrity;
3. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps for the establishment or, where they already exist, the strengthening of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights;
4. *Draws attention* to the constructive role that national non-governmental organizations can play in the work of such national institutions;
5. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment of such national institutions;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give due attention to the role of national institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights and to provide all necessary assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of paragraphs 3 and 5 above, according high priority to the needs of developing countries;
7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide and, as appropriate, to enhance assistance in the field of human rights to Governments, at their request, within the framework of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;
8. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly, through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, a consolidated report, for eventual publication as a United Nations handbook, on national institutions for the use of Governments, including information on the various types and models of national and local institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, taking into account differing social and legal systems;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/124. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling 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 of nations large and small and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter 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,

Emphasizing the significance and validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights²⁴ in promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to the future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 34/46 of 23 November 1979, 35/174 of 15 December 1980, 36/133 of 14 December 1981, 38/124 of 16 December 1983 and 39/145 of 14 December 1984,

Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/43 of 14 March 1985,³⁰

Underlining the fact that the right to development is an inalienable human right,

Recognizing that the human being is the main subject of development and that everyone has the right to participate in, as well as to benefit from, the development process,

Reiterating once again that the establishment of the new international economic order is an essential element for the effective promotion and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reiterating also its profound conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political and economic, social and cultural rights,

Reaffirming the importance of furthering the activities of the existing organs of the United Nations system in the field of human rights in conformity with the principles of the Charter,

Underlining the need for the creation of conditions at the national and international levels for the promotion and full protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Recognizing that international peace and security are essential elements for the full realization of human rights, including the right to development,

Considering that the resources that would be released by disarmament could contribute significantly to the development of all States, in particular the developing countries,

¹⁵³ See ST/HR/SER.A/15.

¹⁵⁴ See ST/HR/SER.A/17.

³⁰ A/40.469.

Recognizing that co-operation among all nations on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of each people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system and to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources, subject to the principles referred to in article 1, paragraph 2, and article 25 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ is essential for the promotion of peace and development,

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

Acknowledging the progress so far achieved by the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned, however, at the occurrence of violations of human rights in the world,

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

Affirming that the ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population, on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom,

Emphasizing that Governments have the duty to ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Taking note of the work done by the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development, as reflected in its reports to the Commission on Human Rights,¹⁵⁶

1. *Reiterates its request* that the Commission on Human Rights continue its current work on the overall analysis with a view to further promoting and improving human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the Commission's programme and working methods, and on the overall analysis of the alternative approaches and ways and means for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the provisions and concepts of General Assembly resolution 32/130 and other relevant texts;

2. *Affirms* that a primary aim of international co-operation in the field of human rights is a life of freedom, dignity and peace for all peoples and 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;

3. *Affirms its profound conviction* that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political and economic, social and cultural rights;

4. *Reaffirms* that it is of paramount importance for the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms that Member States should undertake specific obligations through accession to, or ratification of, international instruments in this field and, consequently, that the standard-setting work within the United Nations system in the field of human rights and the universal acceptance and

implementation of the relevant international instruments should be encouraged;

5. *Reiterates once again* that the international community should accord, or continue to accord, priority to the search for solutions to mass and flagrant violations of human rights of peoples and individuals affected by situations such as those mentioned in paragraph 1 (e) of General Assembly resolution 32/130, paying due attention also to other situations of violations of human rights;

6. *Reaffirms* its responsibility for achieving international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and expresses its concern at serious violations of human rights, in particular mass and flagrant violations of these rights, wherever they occur;

7. *Expresses concern* at the present situation with regard to the achievement of the objectives and goals for establishing the new international economic order and its adverse effects on the full realization of human rights, in particular the right to development;

8. *Reaffirms* that the right to development is an inalienable human right;

9. *Reaffirms also* that international peace and security are essential elements in achieving the full realization of the right to development;

10. *Recognizes* that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent;

11. *Considers* it necessary that all Member States promote international co-operation on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of each people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system and to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources, subject to the principles referred to in article 1, paragraph 2, and article 25 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, with a view to resolving international problems of an economic, social and humanitarian character;

12. *Expresses concern* at the disparity existing between the established norms and principles and the actual situation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the world;

13. *Urges* all States to co-operate with the Commission on Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14. *Reiterates* the need to create, at the national and international levels, conditions for the full promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples;

15. *Reaffirms once again* that, in order to facilitate the full enjoyment of all rights and complete personal dignity, it is necessary to promote the rights to education, work, health and proper nourishment through the adoption of measures at the national level, including those that provide for workers' participation in management, as well as the adoption of measures at the international level, including the establishment of the new international economic order;

16. *Again requests* the Commission on Human Rights to take the necessary measures to promote the right to development, and welcomes the decision of the Commission, in its resolution 1985/43, concerning the future work of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a report con-

¹⁵⁶ E/CN.4/1983/11, E/CN.4/1984/13 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/CN.4/1985/11.

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,²⁴ 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,³⁰

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,⁶ 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,¹⁵⁷

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,¹⁵⁸

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,¹⁵⁹ 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*

¹⁵⁷ A/40/348 and Add.1 and 2.

¹⁵⁸ See A/40/348/Add.1 and 2.

¹⁵⁹ See A. 40/348, annex II.