

Convinced of the need for further co-ordinated and concerted action in promoting respect for human rights in the administration of justice,

1. *Reiterates its call upon* Member States to bring to an end the continued use of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, prohibited under international law, and strongly condemns the practice of summary or arbitrary executions;

2. *Urges* Member States to spare no effort in providing for effective legislative and other mechanisms and procedures and adequate resources to ensure more effective implementation of existing international standards relating to human rights in the administration of justice;

3. *Welcomes* the recommendations made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1987/33 on more effective implementation of existing international standards relating to human rights in the administration of justice and the need for strengthening co-ordinated national and international action in this regard;

4. *Encourages* the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, as well as regional and interregional human rights, crime prevention and criminal justice institutes and other entities of the United Nations system concerned to intensify their co-operation in matters relating to human rights in the administration of justice and invites the Economic and Social Council to co-ordinate such efforts;

5. *Encourages* the continuing development of strategies for the practical implementation of United Nations standards and norms on human rights in the administration of justice and of measures to assist Member States, at their request, in this implementation, as well as in evaluating their impact and effectiveness, in particular under the advisory services of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the steps initiated by the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to ensure closer co-operation in this field, including preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

7. *Recognizes* the important role of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in promoting human rights in the administration of justice and invites them to continue to co-operate with the Secretary-General to this effect;

8. *Decides* to consider at its forty-third session the question of human rights in the administration of justice.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/144. Human rights and mass exoduses

The General Assembly,

Mindful of its general humanitarian mandate under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in

many regions of the world and by the human suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons,

Conscious of the fact that human rights violations are one of the multiple and complex factors causing mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, as indicated in the study of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on this subject¹⁷⁰ and also in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,¹⁷¹

Aware of the recommendations concerning mass exoduses made by the Commission on Human Rights to its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to special rapporteurs to be taken into account when they are studying violations of human rights in any part of the world,

Deeply preoccupied by the increasingly heavy burden being imposed, particularly upon developing countries with limited resources of their own and upon the international community as a whole, by these sudden mass exoduses and displacements of population,

Stressing the need for international co-operation aimed at averting new massive flows of refugees in parallel with the provision of durable solutions to actual refugee situations,

Taking note once again of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses,¹⁷¹

Recalling that the General Assembly at its forty-first session took note of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,¹⁷²

Recalling its resolutions 35/196 of 15 December 1980, 37/186 of 17 December 1982, 38/103 of 16 December 1983, 39/117 of 14 December 1984, 40/149 of 13 December 1985, 41/70 of 3 December 1986 and 41/148 of 4 December 1986, and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 30 (XXXVI) of 11 March 1980,⁵⁵ 29 (XXXVII) of 11 March 1981,⁵⁶ 1982/32 of 11 March 1982,⁵⁷ 1983/35 of 8 March 1983,⁵⁸ 1984/49 of 14 March 1984,⁵⁹ 1985/40 of 13 March 1985,⁶⁰ 1986/45 of 12 March 1986⁶¹ and 1987/56 of 11 March 1987,²⁶

Welcoming the steps taken by the Secretary-General to establish an early warning system, as mentioned in his report on the work of the Organization¹⁷² submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session,

1. *Welcomes* the steps taken so far by the United Nations to examine the problem of massive outflows of refugees and displaced persons in all its aspects, including its root causes;

2. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees that the principal organs of the United Nations should make fuller use of their respective competencies under the Charter for the prevention of new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

3. *Invites* all Governments and international organizations concerned to intensify their co-operation and assistance in world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses;

4. *Requests* all Governments to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant international instruments, in

¹⁷⁰ E/CN.4/1503.

¹⁷¹ A/38/538.

¹⁷² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/41/1).

particular in the field of human rights, as this would contribute to averting new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

5. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to keep the question of human rights and mass exoduses under review with a view to making appropriate recommendations concerning further measures to be taken in this matter;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on any developments relating to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees;

7. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of human rights and mass exoduses at its forty-third session.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/145. Improvement of social life

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the Members of the United Nations have undertaken in the Charter to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling the principles proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,¹⁴

Mindful of the need to establish a harmonious balance between scientific, technological and material progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of mankind,

Considering that the improvement of social life must be based on respect for and the promotion of all human rights and particularly on the elimination of all forms of discrimination,

Recognizing that social progress and development are founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person,

Considering that healthy recreational, cultural and sports activities contribute to the achievement of a proper level of physical and mental health,

Considering also that the improvement of social life must take place in a continuous and uninterrupted manner,

Mindful that the existing inequalities and imbalances in the international economic system are widening the gap between developed and developing countries and thereby constitute a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries and adversely affect international relations and the promotion of world peace and security,

Conscious that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has a primary role in ensuring the social progress and well-being of its people,

Convinced of the urgent necessity rapidly to eradicate colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination, *apartheid*, foreign aggression, occupation and domination and all forms of inequality, exploitation and subjugation of peoples, which constitute major obstacles to economic and social progress as well as to the promotion of world peace and security,

Recalling its resolutions 40/100 of 13 December 1985 and 41/152 of 4 December 1986

1. *Acknowledges* that the progress achieved in the world social situation is still inadequate despite the efforts made and that efforts should therefore be redoubled;

2. *Notes with great concern* the slow progress in the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;

3. *Reaffirms* that the social aspects and goals of development are an integral part of the overall development process and that it is the sovereign right of each State freely to determine and implement appropriate policies for social development within the framework of its development plans and priorities;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance, for the achievement of social progress, of the establishment of the new international economic order;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to make all efforts to promote the speedy and complete elimination of such fundamental elements hindering economic and social progress and development as colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination, *apartheid*, foreign aggression, occupation and domination and all forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples, and also to undertake effective measures to lessen international tensions;

6. *Reiterates* that it is the right of everyone to enjoy the greatest possible degree of physical and mental health;

7. *Emphasizes* that participation in cultural, sports and recreational activities and the use of leisure without discrimination of any kind promotes the improvement of social life;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the improvement of social life in the world, taking into account the observations made by Member States in accordance with the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to resume consideration of the question of the improvement of social life at its forty-third session.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/146. Realization of the right to adequate housing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which it proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recognizing the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Bearing in mind that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹³ provide that all persons have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate housing, and that States should take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right,

Noting that the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless are closely related to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling its resolution 41/146 of 4 December 1986,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/62 of 29 May 1987,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* that millions of people do not enjoy the right to adequate housing;