

Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988

43/129. New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985 and 42/120 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987 relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹³⁰ and the comments made by various Governments regarding the humanitarian order and the work done in this regard by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues,

Noting the actions being taken by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system with regard to the humanitarian issues, examined by the Independent Commission, that fall within their respective mandates,

Recognizing with concern the continuing need further to strengthen international responses to growing humanitarian challenges and to adjust actions of governmental and non-governmental organizations to new realities in a fast-changing world,

Bearing in mind the importance of creative humanitarian action at the international as well as the regional and national levels to alleviate human suffering and to promote durable solutions to humanitarian problems,

Convinced of the need for an active follow-up to the recommendations and suggestions made by the Independent Commission and of the importance of the role being played in this regard by the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues set up for the purpose,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing active support for the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;
2. Encourages Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to provide their comments and expertise to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian order and the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues;
3. Invites the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its essential role in following up the work of the Independent Commission;
4. Invites Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the progress made by them;

6. Decides to review at its forty-fifth session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

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43/130. Promotion of international co-operation in the humanitarian field

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/121 of 7 December 1987,

Noting that one of the purposes of the United Nations, set forth in its Charter, is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² which proclaims, *inter alia*, that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Guided by universally accepted human values and common aspiration for a better, more just, safe and humane world,

Noting that international co-operation in the humanitarian field could contribute to attaining the ideals of a new international humanitarian order,

Mindful of the significance of the existing workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate humanitarian activities carried out by Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues¹³¹ and the efforts of the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to promote public awareness of humanitarian problems and to identify alternative approaches for resolving humanitarian problems,

1. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations further to develop international co-operation in the humanitarian field;
2. Reiterates that international co-operation in the humanitarian field will facilitate better understanding, mutual respect, confidence and tolerance among countries and peoples, thus contributing to a more just and non-violent world;
3. Invites Governments to promote, within existing mechanisms, regular exchanges of information and of national experience in addressing humanitarian problems;
4. Encourages the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to international humanitarian activities;
5. Invites all non-governmental organizations concerned with the humanitarian issues examined by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues and working with strictly humanitarian motives to bear in mind the recommendations and suggestions made in the report of the Independent Commission in the context of their policies and actions in the field;
6. Invites Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to forward to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, their comments con-

¹³⁰ A/43/734.

¹³¹ *Winning the Human Race? The Report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues* (London and New Jersey, Zed Books Ltd., 1988).