

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>20</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>20</sup>

Reaffirming that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Recalling the fundamental importance of the right to life,

Conscious that it is only the creative genius of man that makes progress and the development of civilization possible in a peaceful environment, and that human life must be recognized as supreme,

Recalling its resolution 42/99 of 7 December 1987,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/60 of 9 March 1988,<sup>27</sup>

1. Reaffirms that all people have an inherent right to life;
2. Recalls the historic responsibility of the Governments of all countries of the world to preserve civilization and to ensure that everyone enjoys his inherent right to life;
3. Calls upon all States to do their utmost to assist in implementing the right to life through the adoption of appropriate measures at both the national and international level;
4. Calls upon all States, appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress, the material and intellectual potential of mankind, are used for the benefit of mankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
5. Emphasizes the importance of promoting international understanding based on tolerance, friendship and peaceful co-operation;
6. Calls upon Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to strengthening mutual understanding and trust in the spirit of peace and respect for human rights;
7. Decides to consider this question at its forty-fifth session under the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

*75th plenary meeting  
8 December 1988*

#### **43/112. Question of a convention on the rights of the child**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its previous resolutions, as well as Commission on Human Rights and Economic and Social Council resolutions, on the question of a convention on the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of unsatisfactory social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger and disability and

convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced of the positive contribution that an international convention on the rights of the child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, would make to protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being,

Noting with appreciation that the first reading of a full text of a draft convention on the rights of the child has been completed by the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind that 1989 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child<sup>81</sup> and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child,

Considering that these anniversaries could constitute an appropriate target date for completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child and for its adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989,

Bearing in mind the necessity of taking due account of the cultural values and needs of developing countries in the second reading of the draft convention on the rights of the child, in order to achieve the universal recognition of those rights in the future convention,

1. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/40 of 27 May 1988, in which the Council authorized a meeting of the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of up to two weeks in November-December 1988, with a view to completing the second reading of the draft convention on the rights of the child prior to the forty-fifth session of the Commission;
2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to the draft convention on the rights of the child and to make every effort at its session in 1989 to complete it and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;
3. Invites all Member States to offer their active support to the completion of the draft convention on the rights of the child in 1989, the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all the support and facilities necessary for the successful completion and adoption of the draft convention on the rights of the child;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "Adoption of the convention on the rights of the child".

*75th plenary meeting  
8 December 1988*

#### **43/113. Indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights**

*The General Assembly,*

Mindful of the obligations of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better

<sup>81</sup> Resolution 1386 (XIV).

standards of life in larger freedom and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>20</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>20</sup> and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>80</sup>

*Recalling* that in the preambles to the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>20</sup> it is recognized that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby persons may enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights,

*Recalling* its resolutions 40/114 of 13 December 1985, 41/117 of 4 December 1986 and 42/102 of 7 December 1987,

*Reaffirming* the provisions of its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977 that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights can never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

*Convinced* that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

*Desirous* of removing all obstacles to the full realization of human rights, in particular colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination in all its forms, *apartheid*, foreign intervention, occupation, aggression and domination,

*Recognizing* the fundamental rights of every people to exercise full sovereignty over its natural wealth and resources,

*Reaffirming* that there is a close and multidimensional relationship between disarmament and development, that progress in disarmament would considerably promote progress in development and that resources released through disarmament measures could contribute to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

*Recognizing* that the realization of the right to development may help to promote the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/42 of 14 March 1985,<sup>59</sup> 1986/15 of 10 March 1986,<sup>60</sup> 1987/19 and 1987/20 of 10 March 1987<sup>61</sup> and 1988/22 and 1988/23 of 7 March 1988,<sup>27</sup> in which the Commission stated that the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights have not received sufficient attention within the framework of the United Nations system,

*Requesting* the Secretary-General to enhance his efforts under the programme of advisory services to States in the implementation, promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other United Nations instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Notes* the essential importance of national efforts and international co-operation to achieve the full and effective realization of all human rights recognized in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international instruments;

2. *Appeals* to all States to pursue policies directed towards the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights recognized in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international instruments;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give more attention to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights under the relevant agenda items;

4. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take determined steps, within existing resources, to give publicity to the Human Rights Committee and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to ensure that they receive full administrative support in order to enable them to discharge their functions effectively;

5. *Affirms* the importance and relevance, to programmes and activities being undertaken throughout the United Nations system in the field of human rights, of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

6. *Decides* to consider the question of the indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights at its forty-fourth session under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

75th plenary meeting  
8 December 1988

#### 43/114. International Covenants on Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 33/51 of 14 December 1978, 34/45 of 23 November 1979, 35/132 of 11 December 1980, 36/58 of 25 November 1981, 37/191 of 18 December 1982, 38/116 and 38/117 of 16 December 1983, 39/136 and 39/138 of 14 December 1984, 40/115 and 40/116 of 13 December 1985, 41/32 of 3 November 1986, 41/119 and 41/121 of 4 December 1986 and 42/103 and 42/105 of 7 December 1987,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>82</sup>

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>20</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>20</sup> and reaffirming 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 other,

*Recognizing* the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>20</sup>

*Also recognizing* the important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

<sup>82</sup> A/43/518.