

4. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, in its discussion of the world social situation, to pay increasing attention to the effects of science and technology on the processes of social welfare and development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when elaborating the next report on the world social situation, to take due account of the effects of science and technology on processes of social welfare and development on the basis of information available from Governments and from organizations of the United Nations system;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General or interested Governments to consider convening in the near future, within existing resources, a seminar of experts on the effects of science and technology on social welfare and development.

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/55. Achievement of social justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/46 of 27 May 1988, and taking note of Council resolution 1989/71 of 24 May 1989,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,²⁸ social progress and development shall be founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and shall ensure the promotion of human rights and social justice,

Convinced that more extensive international and regional co-operation is important for promoting social progress at the national level,

Mindful of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,²⁹

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to develop a comprehensive approach to developmental social welfare, including better integrated and mutually supportive economic and social development policies, aimed at the achievement of social justice,

1. *Considers* that the common purpose of the international community must be to forge from varied economic, social and political conditions a global environment of sustained development, full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and social justice and peace;

2. *Recognizes* that social justice is one of the most important goals of social progress;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of co-operation among countries in promoting a climate conducive to the achievement by individual countries of the goals of development and social justice and progress;

4. *Considers* that such co-operation should continue to be a major focus of activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in elaborating their national policy in the field of social development, to take into consideration the importance of achieving social justice for all;

6. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General, in preparing studies and reports on social problems and, in particular, the report on the world social situation, should examine questions concerning the achievement of social justice and ways in which it could be realized;

7. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its next regular session, to continue to consider the question of achieving social justice.

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/56. World social situation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1392 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/98 and 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and 43/113 of 8 December 1988 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/39, 1987/40, 1987/46 and 1987/52 of 28 May 1987, and taking note of Council resolution 1989/72 of 24 May 1989 and Council decision 1989/113 of 28 July 1989,

Bearing in mind the objective of improving the well-being of the world's population on the basis of the full participation of all members of society in the process of development and the fair distribution to them of the benefits therefrom, and recognizing that the pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve this objective, especially to meet the basic needs for food, housing, education, employment and health care,

Concerned about the worsening economic situation in the developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, as evidenced by, *inter alia*, a significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of countries and the decrease of the main social and economic indicators of those countries,

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 the primary role of ensuring the social progress and well-being of the people,

Convinced of the urgent need to eradicate policies and practices that hinder social progress, including racism and racial discrimination, in particular *apartheid*,

Convinced also of the crucial need to eradicate dangerous trends and habits that debilitate individuals and incapacitate society, in particular drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Bearing in mind the importance of the 1989 *Report on the World Social Situation*³⁰ for increasing awareness of the advances made towards the goals of social progress and better standards of living, established in the Charter of the United Nations, and of the obstacles to further progress,

Believing that there is a need for greater efforts by the United Nations system to study and disseminate data on the existing world social situation, in particular in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the important contribution of the 1989 *Report on the World Social Situation* to the preparation of

²⁸ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

²⁹ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

³⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E 89.IV.1.

an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Taking note of the deliberations on the question of the world social situation by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session³¹ and by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1989,³²

Having considered the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation,

Concerned about certain shortcomings in the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation,

1. *Takes note* of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation, including the information on the critical social situation in Africa provided in the annex thereto;

2. *Urges* the timely issue of future reports on the world social situation in order to enable the Commission for Social Development to consider them;

3. *Notes with deep concern* the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation in the developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, as well as in the low-income countries;

4. *Notes also with deep concern* that the situation faced by the developing countries has been worsened by sharp fluctuations in exchange rates, high real rates of interest, fluctuations in commodity prices, a serious deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries, increased protectionist pressures, the net transfer of resources from developing countries, crushing debt burdens, the restrictive adjustment process demanded by financial and development institutions, the decline in official development assistance in real terms and the severe inadequacy of resources experienced by multilateral development and financial institutions;

5. *Notes further with deep concern* the critical social situation in Africa resulting from structural imbalances and weaknesses of the African economy and a hostile international economic environment, in spite of the efforts of the Governments of African countries to undertake measures, with the support of the international community, to stabilize and adjust their economies;

6. *Reaffirms* the principles and objectives of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development²⁸ and calls for their effective realization as a means of attaining a more equitable world social situation;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States to promote economic development and social progress by the formulation and implementation of an interrelated set of policy measures to achieve the goals and objectives established within the framework of national plans and priorities for employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aging, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mobilize the necessary resources to undertake measures aimed at improving social conditions world wide;

9. *Endorses* the request made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1989/72 that the Secretary-General should submit an expanded version of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation to the Council at its first regular session of 1990, as well as the

other requests made of him in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same resolution;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and to submit the next full report on the world social situation, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly in 1993, for consideration at its forty-eighth session, and also requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Assembly in 1991, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the wider dissemination of the reports on the world social situation;

12. *Invites* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of future reports by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence;

13. *Decides* to include the item entitled "World social situation" in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session for the purpose of considering the expanded version of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation, in that of its forty-sixth session for the purpose of considering the interim report, and in that of its forty-eighth session for the purpose of considering the next full report in 1993.

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/57. Twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, by which it solemnly proclaimed the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, and resolutions 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 32/117 of 16 December 1977, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 and 41/142 of 4 December 1986 on the implementation of the Declaration,

Reaffirming, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of its proclamation, the importance of the Declaration as a source of inspiration for national and international efforts for the promotion of social progress and development,

Recalling its resolutions 40/98 of 13 December 1985 on the improvement of the role of the United Nations in the field of social development, 42/49 of 30 November 1987 on the achievement of social justice, and 43/113 of 8 December 1988 on the indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Recalling also that in its resolution 42/48 of 30 November 1987 it decided to observe in 1989 the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration,

Desirous of achieving effective application of the provisions of the Declaration,

Noting the continuing validity and importance of the principles and objectives proclaimed in the Declaration,

1. *Invites* all Governments to take into consideration the provisions of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development in their developmental policies, plans and programmes, as well as in their bilateral and multilateral co-operation;

³¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 7 (E/1989/25)*, chap. II.

³² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/44/3/Rev.1)*, chap. V, sect. C.