

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.