

45/134. Follow-up to the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, and the negative social consequences of alcohol use

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, in which, *inter alia*, it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,¹³ adopted by the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/49 of 24 May 1989 concerning the follow-up to the Guiding Principles, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to carry out a study on the negative social consequences of alcohol use, based on the report of an expert meeting to be convened on the question,

Convinced that the dangerous dimension of alcohol use requires sustained action for the implementation of a comprehensive international response, based on a common effort by all States,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the holding of the Expert Meeting on the Negative Social Consequences of Alcohol Use at Oslo from 27 to 31 August 1990, which was convened by the Government of Norway with the substantive support of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Expert Meeting¹⁹⁰ and requests the Secretary-General to make the report available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session;

3. *Invites* Member States to submit their comments on the report of the Expert Meeting to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session;

4. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to report on its discussions of the report and the comments from Member States to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991 with proposals for future action.

*68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990*

45/135. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/129 of 15 December 1989 and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/20 of 23 February 1990,³

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights³³ constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ form the core of the International Bill of Human Rights,

Considering that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Covenants on 16 December 1991 provides an appropriate occasion to focus on the fundamental importance and special status of these basic human rights instruments of the United Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁹¹ on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Noting, in this regard, that a number of States Members of the United Nations have yet to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³³ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³³ 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 Protocols thereto,¹⁹²

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,

Welcoming the submission to the General Assembly of the annual report of the Human Rights Committee¹⁹³ and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fourth session,¹⁹⁴

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established in accordance with the relevant provisions of international instruments on human rights plays a fundamental role and hence represents an important continuing concern of the United Nations,

Noting with concern the critical situation with regard to overdue reports from States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Taking note with appreciation of the recommendations and conclusions of the third meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990,⁸

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions,¹⁹³ including the suggestions and recommendations of a general nature approved by the Committee;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fourth session, including its suggestions and recommendations;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the serious and constructive manner in which both Committees are carrying out their function;

4. *Urges* States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights to pay active attention to the

¹⁹¹ A/45/403.

¹⁹² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex, and resolution 44/128, annex.

¹⁹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 40, vols. I and II (A/45/40)*.

¹⁹⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 3 (E/1990/23)*.

¹⁹⁰ A/C.3/45/3, annex.