

rights materials within the Commission at Bangkok, the functions of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials in the Asian and Pacific region;

3. *Renews its invitation* to States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific that have not yet done so to communicate to the Secretary-General as soon as possible their comments on the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region and, in particular, to address themselves to the conclusions and recommendations in the report concerning the development of regional arrangements in Asia and the Pacific;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure a continuing flow of human rights material to the library of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok for appropriate dissemination in the region;

5. *Notes* the efforts of United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the human rights dimension more actively and systematically in their development activities;

6. *Encourages* United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to co-ordinate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific their efforts to promote the human rights dimension in their activities;

7. *Notes* that an Asia-Pacific workshop on international human rights issues, including regional and national institutions and arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, was held at Manila from 7 to 11 May 1990, within the framework of the advisory services and technical assistance programme and the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, incorporating information on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its forty-seventh session.

*69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990*

45/169. International co-operation in solving international problems of a social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/155 of 4 December 1986 and 43/155 of 8 December 1988, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1987/42 of 10 March 1987¹⁸¹ and 1989/49 of 7 March 1989,¹⁸³

Conscious that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character

and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that special emphasis should be put on the effective implementation of the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³³ and other relevant international instruments,

Convinced that the effectiveness of United Nations human rights instruments would be enhanced by universal adherence to them as well as by strict compliance of States parties with their obligations,

Considering that existing regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field, as well as the teaching of human rights, could be further improved,

Emphasizing the necessity for the international community to continue its efforts to take practical measures to prevent mass and flagrant violations and all other violations of human rights, including all forms of discrimination based on distinctions of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, which continue to take place in many parts of the world, contrary to the provisions of international instruments in the field of human rights,

Noting the importance that the promotion and protection of human rights have secured on the international agenda and in relations between States,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to implement fully the universally recognized international standards for the promotion and protection of human rights enshrined, in particular, in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments;

2. *Urges* all States to co-operate fully with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world;

3. *Considers* that such co-operation will make an effective and practical contribution to the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

4. *Expresses its conviction* that the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the implementation of universally recognized human rights standards, are particularly important for all countries;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the various international instruments in the field of human rights;

6. *Recognizes* the value of common efforts by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at international, regional, bilateral and national levels in the field of human rights;

7. *Considers* that the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights would contribute to the promotion and improvement of understanding of human rights;

8. *Emphasizes* that the wide dissemination of information on human rights and the teaching of human rights are important tasks and would contribute to the implementation of universally recognized international human rights standards;

9. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-seventh session under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

45/170. The situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenants on Human Rights³³ and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,²⁸⁴

Aware of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and resolved to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Condemning the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 by the military forces of Iraq,

Noting with grave concern that the Iraqi forces in occupied Kuwait continue to commit acts of violence, leaving large numbers of victims and causing enormous human suffering to the civilian population,

Noting also with grave concern that the treatment of prisoners of war and detained civilians in occupied Kuwait does not conform to the internationally recognized principles of humanitarian law,

Expressing grave concern at the continued refusal of Iraq to receive representatives of humanitarian organizations, especially representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and a representative of the Secretary-General, to help in extending humanitarian assistance to the Kuwaiti people under occupation,

1. *Condemns* the Iraqi authorities and occupying forces for their serious violations of human rights against the Kuwaiti people and third-State nationals and, in particular, the continued and increasing acts of torture, arrests, summary executions, disappearances and abduction in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenants on Human

Rights, other relevant human rights instruments and the relevant instruments of humanitarian law;

2. *Affirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,²⁸⁵ applies to Kuwait and that as a high contracting party to the Convention Iraq is bound to comply fully with all its terms and in particular is liable under the Convention in respect of the grave breaches committed by it, as are individuals who commit or order the commission of such breaches;

3. *Expresses its serious concern* about the systematic dismantling and pillaging of and attacks on the economic infrastructure of Kuwait, which seriously undermine the present and future enjoyment by the Kuwaiti people of their economic, social and cultural rights;

4. *Expresses its grave concern* at the living conditions in occupied Kuwait, especially those of women, children, elderly and third-State nationals, which are becoming increasingly difficult;

5. *Expects* Iraq to guarantee respect for international standards applicable under international law, in particular with reference to the protection of the civilian population, and demands that Iraq co-operate fully with and give access to Kuwait to representatives of humanitarian organizations, especially the International Committee of the Red Cross, working to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in occupied Kuwait;

6. *Also expects* Iraq to comply with its obligations under the Charter and international law in respect of third-State nationals, and demands that Iraq release all nationals of third States;

7. *Urges* Iraq to treat all prisoners of war and detained civilians in accordance with the internationally recognized principles of humanitarian law and to protect them from all acts of violence, including ill-treatment, torture and summary execution;

8. *Condemns* the rejection by Iraq of the offer of the Government of Kuwait to send humanitarian assistance, especially medicine, to the Kuwaiti people under occupation;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session to consider the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait;

10. *Decides* to keep under consideration the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait.

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

45/171. Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/157 of 15 December 1989, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from South Africa and Namibia who had been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

²⁸⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 973.