

human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being that are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and that, in accordance with Article 56, all Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55,

Reiterating that Member States should continue to act in the human rights field in conformity with the provisions of the Charter,

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

Considering that such international co-operation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenants on Human Rights³³ and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that such co-operation should be based on a profound understanding of the economic, social and cultural realities and the variety of problems existing in different societies,

Recalling its resolutions 32/130 of 16 December 1977, 37/200 of 18 December 1982, 41/155 of 4 December 1986 and 43/155 of 8 December 1988,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and 36/103 of 9 December 1981,

Aware of the fact that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as legitimate concerns of the world community should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States in co-operation with the Organization to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the development of further international co-operation in this field, on the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³³ and other relevant international instruments and to re-

frain from activities that are inconsistent with this international legal framework;

4. *Considers* that international co-operation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights, to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. *Affirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as legitimate concerns of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international co-operation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Underlines*, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

8. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, as well as international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, to examine the content of the present resolution, including ways and means to strengthen United Nations action in this regard.

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

45/164. International Year for the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations set forth in the Charter is the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1990/248 of 25 May 1990, that the General Assembly proclaim 1993 as an international year for the world's indigenous people,

Taking into account the guidelines for international years and anniversaries adopted in its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980,

1. *Proclaims* 1993 as International Year for the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international co-operation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as

human rights, the environment, development, education and health;

2. *Invites* States to ensure that preparations are made for the Year;

3. *Recommends* that the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system consider in their respective forums the contributions that they can make to the success of the Year;

4. *Invites* organizations of indigenous people and other interested non-governmental organizations to consider the contributions they can make to the success of the Year, with a view to presenting them to the Commission on Human Rights;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its forty-seventh session possible United Nations activities in connection with the Year;

6. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to accept and administer voluntary contributions from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of funding programme activities for the Year;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a draft programme of activities based on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the specialized agencies;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "Preparation and organization of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People".

*69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990*

45/165. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons, and its resolution 44/160 of 15 December 1989 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Deeply concerned about the persistence, in certain cases, of the practice of enforced or involuntary disappearances, and about the fact that, in certain cases, the families of disappeared persons have been the target of intimidation and ill-treatment,

Expressing its profound emotion at the anguish and sorrow of the families concerned, who are unsure of the fate of their relatives,

Concerned by the growing number of reports concerning harassment of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of disappeared persons,

Convinced of the need to continue implementing the provisions of its resolution 33/173 and of the other United Nations resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, with a view to finding solutions for cases of disappearances and helping to eliminate such practices,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/30 of 2 March 1990,³

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work and to those Governments that have co-operated with it;

2. *Welcomes* the decision made by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session to extend for two years the term of the mandate of the Working Group, as defined in Commission resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980,¹⁷⁴ while maintaining the principle of annual reporting by the Working Group;

3. *Recalls* the provisions made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1986/55 of 13 March 1986¹⁸⁰ to enable the Working Group to fulfil its mandate with greater efficiency;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Working Group on Detention of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has completed preparation of the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances²⁶⁹ and that the Sub-Commission has decided to transmit the draft to the Commission on Human Rights;²⁷⁰

5. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, particularly those which have not yet replied to the communications addressed to them by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to co-operate fully with it so as to enable it, with respect for its working methods based on discretion, to perform its strictly humanitarian role, and in particular to reply more quickly to the requests for information addressed to them;

6. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to consider the wish of the Working Group, when such a wish is expressed, to visit their countries, thus enabling it to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

7. *Extends its warm thanks* to those Governments which have invited the Working Group and requests them to give all necessary attention to its recommendations;

8. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment of which they may be the target;

9. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any step it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its forty-seventh session;

10. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all necessary facilities.

*69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990*

²⁶⁹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/32, annex.

²⁷⁰ See E/CN.4/1991/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/59, chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1990/33.