

at its forty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

*75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991*

46/115. Non-discrimination and protection of minorities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that one of the main purposes of the United Nations, as proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Noting the importance of the effective implementation of international human rights instruments with regard to the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities,

Welcoming the increased attention given by the human rights treaty bodies to the non-discrimination and protection of minorities,

Aware of the provisions of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²⁶ concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Considering that the United Nations has an important role to play regarding the protection of minorities,

Bearing in mind the work done so far within the United Nations system, in particular by the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Noting the important achievements in this regard in regional, subregional and bilateral frameworks, which can provide a useful source of inspiration for future United Nations activities,

Stressing the need to ensure for all, without discrimination of any kind, full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in particular, to accomplish the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Recalling its decision 45/434 of 18 December 1990 and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/61 of 6 March 1991,³⁸ as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/30 of 31 May 1991, in which the Council authorized the holding of an intersessional session of the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to enable the working group to complete its second reading of the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, with a view to submitting the text to the Commission at its forty-eighth session,

1. *Encourages* the Commission on Human Rights to complete the final text of the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as soon as possible and to transmit it for adoption to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session of the work done

by the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the draft declaration;

3. *Decides* to keep the issue of the elaboration of the draft declaration on its agenda under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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46/116. World Conference on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the goal of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸

Recognizing 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 another,

Noting that violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms continue to occur,

Bearing in mind that all Member States have pledged themselves to achieve the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in conformity with relevant articles of the Charter,

Noting the progress made by the United Nations towards this goal and the fact that there are areas in which further progress should be made,

Recalling its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 in which it decided, *inter alia*, to convene at a high level a World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 and to establish a Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991 entitled "World Conference on Human Rights",³⁸ and in particular the recommendations contained in the annex to that resolution,

Taking note also of the views and recommendations of Governments, specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,¹³⁷

Welcoming the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights as Secretary-General of the Conference,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights on its first session;¹³⁸

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments, United Nations bodies and organs and non-governmental organizations for their contributions to the preparatory meetings;

3. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee, at its second session, will base the elaboration of the provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 on the objectives stated in paragraph 1 of resolution 45/155;

4. *Decides*, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee: