

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:

- (a) (i) That the provisional agenda for the Conference and the documentation related thereto shall be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its second session;
- (ii) That the draft rules of procedure for the Conference shall be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its second session;
- (iii) That the Conference shall be convened at Berlin, for a period of two weeks in 1993;
- (iv) That the Secretary-General shall give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system;
- (b) That the Preparatory Committee shall meet for three further sessions at Geneva, twice in 1992 and once in 1993, the next session to last two weeks and the two further sessions one to two weeks each, if necessary, and decides also that no more than two meetings shall take place simultaneously during the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and that no inter-sessional working group shall be established;
- (c) To reiterate its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the preparatory meetings, including regional meetings, and the Conference itself, and to request the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in this regard;
- (d) That, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/155, regional meetings shall be convened for each region that so desires within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions and that these meetings shall be financed as part of the preparatory work for the Conference, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 1991/30;
- (e) To request the Secretary-General to prepare the following documentation as soon as possible and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its next session on the progress made in this regard:
- (i) A limited number of short, analytical and action-oriented studies on issues referred to in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, in particular, paragraph 2 of the annex thereto, bearing in mind documentation prepared for, as well as statements made at, the first session of the Preparatory Committee;
- (ii) Reports of meetings that have been organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155;
- (iii) A reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights or related aspects;
- (iv) An update of the publication entitled *United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights*;
- (v) An update of the publications entitled *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* and *Human Rights: Status of International Instruments*, including also texts of regional instruments on human rights;

and to note that the Preparatory Committee decided that the experts and consultants employed for this purpose should be selected with due regard to equitable geographical distribution;

(f) To encourage the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the chairmen or other designated members of human rights bodies, including the chairmen of bodies established under international human rights instruments or their designated representatives, as well as special rapporteurs and the chairmen or designated members of working groups, to participate as observers, as appropriate, in the work of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference;

5. *Renews its request* to Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights to assist the Preparatory Committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee through the Secretary-General and to participate actively in the Conference;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage initiatives at the national, regional and international levels designed to make the Conference process a success;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance;

8. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress of its work.

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46/117. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Charter of the United Nations the peoples of the United Nations declared their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter to achieve international cooperation 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,

Emphasizing the significance and validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁸ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights²⁶ in promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

Noting with concern that many of the principles enunciated