

a duration of two or three weeks, and the establishment of a pre-sessional working group for a preliminary review of reports from States parties;

10. *Decides* to take appropriate action at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of the Committee in its biennial report to be submitted to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to article 44, paragraph 5, of the Convention;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to convene a brief meeting of the States parties to the Convention, preferably during the forty-seventh session, to determine the duration of the future meetings of the Committee, prior to the consideration of the question by the Assembly;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider favourably the possibility of enabling a working group of the whole of the Committee to meet in 1992, as recommended by the Committee;¹²⁹

13. *Invites* United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

15. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-seventh session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991

46/113. International covenants on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/135 of 14 December 1990 and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/16 of 22 February 1991,³⁸

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights²⁶ 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,⁸ 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-General¹³⁰ 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 the entry into force on 11 July 1991 of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,¹³¹

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 Rights²⁶ and the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights,²⁶ 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 rights,

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,¹³²

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 Committee¹³³ and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifth session,¹³⁴

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 satisfaction the ongoing efforts of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to improve their methods of work,

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

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its fortieth, forty-first and forty-second sessions;¹³³

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifth session,¹³⁴ 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 protection and promotion of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, taking into consideration their indivisible and interrelated character and the fact that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights;

5. *Urges* those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with that request;

6. *Also urges* States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* that the majority of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and an increasing number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have been represented by experts in the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the respective monitoring bodies in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in the future;

8. *Again urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

9. *Invites* the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

11. *Stresses* the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification for and appropriateness of measures taken in these circumstances can be assessed;

12. *Appeals* to States parties to the Covenants that have exercised their sovereign right to make reservations in accordance with relevant rules of international law to consider whether any such reservations should be reviewed;

13. *Urges* States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations bodies to extend their full support and cooperation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights informed of the relevant activities of the other treaty bodies, the Commission on Human Rights, the functional commissions concerned, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and, as appropriate, the specialized agencies, and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to those bodies;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates;

16. *Again urges* the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

17. *Encourages* all Governments to publish the texts 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 in as many languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions", report 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.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991

46/114. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once more the permanent validity of the principles and standards set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ the International Covenants on Human Rights,²⁶ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,³⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹³⁵

Bearing in mind the principles and standards established within the framework of the International Labour Organisation and the importance of the task carried out in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles and standards, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Recalling its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, in which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention;¹³⁶

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

5. *Invites* United Nations agencies and organizations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention;

7. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General