

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assume the role of lead organization for the Year;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the preparation of the national and international programmes for the Year and to participate actively in the implementation of the activities to be organized within the framework of the Year;

5. *Invites* interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exert efforts in their respective fields to contribute adequately to the preparation of programmes for the Year;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare, in accordance with its General Conference resolution 5.6, a declaration on tolerance;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Preparation for and organization of the United Nations Year for Tolerance".

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/127. Decade for human rights education

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³

Reaffirming article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, according to which "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms",

Recalling the provisions of other international human rights instruments, such as those of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴ and article 20 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ that reflect the aims of the aforementioned article,

Convinced that human rights education is a universal priority in that it contributes to a concept of development consistent with the dignity of the human person, which must include consideration of the diversity of groups such as children, women, youths, persons with disabilities, the ageing, indigenous people, minorities and other groups,

Aware that human rights education involves more than providing information but rather is a comprehensive life-long process by which people at all levels of development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect within a democratic society,

Taking into account the efforts made by educators and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund, to promote education in accordance with the aforementioned principles,

Considering the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy,¹⁵¹ adopted by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Montreal from 8 to 11 March 1993, according to which education for human rights and democracy is itself a human right and a prerequisite for the realization of human rights, democracy and social justice,

Aware of the experience in human rights education of United Nations peace-building operations, including the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia,

Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/56 of 9 March 1993,³³ in which the Commission recommended that knowledge of human rights, both in its theoretical dimension and in its practical application, should be established as a priority in educational policies,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna on 25 June 1993, in particular section II, paragraphs 78 to 82,

1. *Appeals* to all Governments to step up their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Urges* governmental and non-governmental educational agencies to intensify their efforts to establish and implement programmes of human rights education, as recommended in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

3. *Takes note* of the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy and recommends that Governments and non-governmental organizations consider it in preparing national plans for human rights education;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with Member States, human rights treaty-monitoring bodies, other appropriate bodies and competent non-governmental organizations, to consider proposals for a United Nations decade for human rights education, which should be incorporated by the Secretary-General into a plan of action for such a decade and submitted, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, with a view to the proclamation of a decade for human rights education;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a voluntary fund for human rights education, with special provision for the support of the human rights education activities of non-governmental organizations, to be administered by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat;

6. *Invites* the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes to develop suitable activities in their respective fields of competence to further the objectives of human rights education;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights and education;

8. *Calls upon* international, regional and national non-governmental organizations, in particular those concerned with women, labour, development and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to increase their involvement in formal and non-formal education in human rights and to cooperate with the Centre for Human Rights in preparing for a United Nations decade for human rights education;

9. *Urges* the existing human rights monitoring bodies to place particular emphasis on the implementation by Member States of their international obligation to promote human rights education;

10. *Decides* to consider this matter at its forty-ninth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/128. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing that those rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

Reaffirming that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming also its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling its resolution 47/129 of 18 December 1992, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/25 of 5 March 1993,³³

Reaffirming the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/17 of 21 February 1992,³² in which the Commission decided to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures, as

appropriate, and recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 1992/226 of 20 July 1992,

Welcoming the appointment of Abdelfattah Amor as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, and calling upon all Governments to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur to enable him to carry out his mandate fully,

Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

Emphasizing that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief,

Conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

Alarmed that serious instances, including acts of violence, of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief occur in many parts of the world, as evidenced in the report of the former Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro,¹⁵²

Reaffirming the dismay and condemnation expressed by the World Conference on Human Rights at the continued occurrence of gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights, including religious intolerance,

Believing that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide full guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief;

3. *Recognizes* that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief;

4. *Urges* all States therefore to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, including those motivated by religious extremism, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

5. *Urges* States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

6. *Calls upon* all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and