

no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Recalling also* the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, unanimously adopted by its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, as well as its resolution 31/85 of 13 December 1976,

*Recognizing* the necessity for further international action in the form of a convention for the elimination of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Recognizing also* the importance of action by Member States to develop and utilize their national machinery to eliminate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to reinforce their support of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by making unilateral declarations against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, along the lines of the text which is annexed to the present resolution, and depositing them with the Secretary-General;

2. *Urges* all Member States to give maximum publicity to their unilateral declarations against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly, in annual reports, of such unilateral declarations against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as may be deposited by Member States.

98th plenary meeting  
8 December 1977

#### ANNEX

##### Model unilateral declaration against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The Government of . . . . . hereby declares its intention:

(a) To comply with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX), annex);

(b) To implement, through legislation and other effective measures, the provisions of the said Declaration.

##### 32/65. Torture of political prisoners and detainees in southern Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>30</sup> in particular its article 5,

*Bearing in mind* the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, contained in the annex to its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

<sup>30</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

*Taking note* of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa,<sup>31</sup> established pursuant to resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights, concerning the deaths of detainees and police brutality in South Africa since the Soweto massacre of 16 June 1976,

*Gravely concerned* about the reports regarding the torture of political prisoners and the deaths of a number of detainees and about the growing wave of acts of repression against individuals, organizations and information media in South Africa,

*Deeply shocked* by the cowardly and dastardly murder in detention of Stephen Biko,

1. *Condemns* the South African régime for its continuing violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

2. *Reiterates* its deep aversion to the practice whereby the South African régime persistently subjects all opponents of *apartheid* to summary banning, detention, imprisonment and sometimes murder;

3. *Strongly condemns* the practice of subjecting political detainees and other victims of *apartheid* in South Africa to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

4. *Strongly condemns*, in particular, the arbitrary arrest, detention and torture which led to the murder of Stephen Biko by agents of the racist minority régime of South Africa;

5. *Demands* that the minority *apartheid* régime of South Africa:

(a) Release all political prisoners without precondition;

(b) Lift all banning and house arrest orders imposed on opponents of *apartheid*;

(c) Put an immediate end to the indiscriminate use of violence against peaceful demonstrators against *apartheid* and to the persistent recourse to torture of political detainees;

6. *Expresses its conviction* that the martyrdom of Stephen Biko and all other nationalists murdered in South African prisons and the ideals for which they fought will continue to enrich the faith of the peoples of southern Africa and other parts of the world in their struggle against *apartheid* and for racial equality and the dignity of the human person.

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##### 32/66. Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Convinced* that the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>32</sup> constitute the first all-embracing and

<sup>31</sup> A/32/226, annex.

<sup>32</sup> Resolution 2200 (XXI), annex.

legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 31/86 of 13 December 1976 and in particular the importance of the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights as a major step in the international efforts to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, thereby contributing greatly to the co-operation of States in the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* in this respect its resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 and 3270 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974,

*Noting with appreciation* that following its appeal several Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

*Having noted* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>33</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the international Covenants on Human 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 Protocol thereto,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as a major step in the international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Human Rights Committee on its first and second sessions<sup>34</sup> and expresses satisfaction at the serious manner in which the Committee is undertaking its functions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee;

4. *Invites again* all States which 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 as well as to consider the possibilities of acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

5. *Appreciates* that the Human Rights Committee strives for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol thereto;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a report

<sup>33</sup> A/32/188.

<sup>34</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/32/44 and Corr.1).*

on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

8. *Recalls* that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights envisages that the Secretary-General shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the Human Rights Committee.

*98th plenary meeting  
8 December 1977*

### 32/67. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>35</sup> and having heard his statement,<sup>36</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 31/35 of 30 November 1976 and taking into account the additional responsibilities assumed by the High Commissioner in different parts of the world for the benefit of an increasing number of refugees and displaced persons,

*Recognizing* the eminently humanitarian character of the various activities of the High Commissioner and the importance of permanent solutions being promoted by his Office, including voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement in other countries,

*Concerned* by infringements of the basic human rights of refugees and the urgent need on the part of Governments to ensure their effective and continued protection,

*Recognizing* the need for further accessions to and effective implementation by Governments of the relevant international instruments, including in particular the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>37</sup> and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,<sup>38</sup>

*Commending* the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's programmes and emphasizing the need for a wider sharing of the financial burden to provide the vital humanitarian assistance required by refugees and displaced persons,

1. *Expresses its deep satisfaction* at the efficient manner in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff continue to accomplish their humanitarian tasks;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office, including those in urgent need of help in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

3. *Further requests* United Nations agencies and programmes to render the fullest possible support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian tasks;

4. *Urges* Governments to extend the necessary co-operation to the High Commissioner in promoting permanent and speedy solutions to the problems facing

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12 (A/32/12 and Corr.1) and Supplement No. 12A (A/32/12/Add.1).

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Third Committee, 45th meeting, paras. 1-9; and *ibid.*, Third Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.

<sup>37</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 150.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.