

that have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee in submitting their reports under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Committee as speedily as possible;

3. *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;

4. *Commends* those States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have submitted their reports under article 16 of the Covenant and urges States that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible and, in those instances in which it is not possible to do so, to inform the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as to when those reports will be submitted;

5. *Notes with appreciation* 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 for the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in future;

6. *Again invites* 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, as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

7. *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;

8. *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 Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue 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, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to those bodies;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a 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 Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take further positive steps to ensure that adequate publicity and other arrangements are made to enable the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council to carry out effectively, within existing resources, their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights;

12. *Also urges* the Secretary-General to expedite arrangements for publication of the official public records of the Human Rights Committee in bound volumes, starting with its first session, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 37/191;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all possible steps to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat is able to assist effectively the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976.

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### **38/117. Reporting obligations of the States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 37/44 of 3 December 1982,

*Mindful* of the obligation of all States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>165</sup> to comply fully with their provisions, including articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>165</sup> which require the submission of periodic reports in accordance with the programme established by the Economic and Social Council,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>168</sup> in which he indicates that a large number of delays occur in the submission of reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

*Noting* that the report of the Secretary-General emphasizes the interrelationship of problems affecting the reporting system under various human rights instruments,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reiterates* the importance it attaches to the reporting systems established by the International Covenants on Human Rights;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit his report to the Economic and Social Council, which is entrusted with the consideration of the reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights under article 16 thereof;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and its Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to consider the suggestions contained in the report of the Secretary-General with a view to improving the situation regarding the submission of reports under the Covenant;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening, in accordance with the suggestion contained in the report of the Human Rights Committee<sup>169</sup> and within existing resources, a meeting of the Chairmen of the bodies entrusted with the consideration of reports submitted under the relevant human rights instruments in order to consider the report of the Secretary-General, taking into account the results of General

<sup>168</sup> A/38/393.

<sup>169</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly: Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/38/40)*, para. 32.

Assembly resolution 38/20 of 22 November 1983 and of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session of the views and suggestions expressed at the above-mentioned meeting, if it is convened.

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### 38/118. Principles of Medical Ethics

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 37/194 of 18 December 1982, by which it adopted the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the role of health personnel, particularly physicians, in the protection of prisoners and detainees against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Alarmed* that not infrequently members of the medical profession or other health personnel are engaged in activities which are difficult to reconcile with the Principles of Medical Ethics,

*Recognizing* the need for the full application of the Principles of Medical Ethics and desiring that the Principles be given wide publicity,

1. *Urges* all Governments to take measures with a view to promoting the application by all health personnel and Government officials, in particular those employed in institutions of detention or imprisonment, of the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the role of health personnel, particularly physicians, in the protection of prisoners and detainees against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the Principles of Medical Ethics widely and in as many languages as possible and to issue a pamphlet containing the text of the Principles in the six official languages of the United Nations;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to give the Principles of Medical Ethics the widest possible distribution, in particular among medical and paramedical associations and institutions of detention or imprisonment, in an official language of the State;

4. *Invites* all relevant intergovernmental organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, and non-governmental organizations concerned to bring the Principles of Medical Ethics to the attention of the widest possible group of individuals, especially those active in the medical and paramedical field;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the steps taken by the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies, as well as by Governments, for the dissemination and implementation of the Principles of Medical Ethics.

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### 38/119. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

*Bearing in mind* article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>170</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 32/62 of 8 December 1977, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in the light of the principles embodied in the Declaration, and its resolution 32/63 of 8 December 1977,

*Recalling further* that the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in its resolution 11 of 5 September 1980, expressed the belief that the draft convention should be finalized at the earliest possible time,<sup>171</sup>

*Considering* that it was not possible to complete the work on the draft convention during the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/38 of 27 May 1983, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the fortieth session of the Commission in order to complete the work on a draft convention;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to complete, at its fortieth session, as a matter of the highest priority, the drafting of a convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, with a view to submitting a draft, including provisions for the effective implementation of the future convention, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### 38/120. Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General concerning preparations for the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa<sup>172</sup> and the sections on Africa contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>173</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 37/197 of 18 December 1982, entitled "International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa", and 38/5 of 28 October 1983 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

*Bearing in mind* resolution AHG/Res.114 (XIX) on the Second Conference, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African

<sup>170</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>171</sup> See *Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980: Report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4), chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>172</sup> A/38/526.

<sup>173</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/38/12 and Corr.1) and Supplement No. 12A (A/38/12 Add.1).*