

of the entire range of economic, social and cultural, as well as civil and political, rights;

2. *Stresses once again* the urgent need for the international community to make every effort to strengthen peace, remove the growing threat of war, particularly nuclear war, halt the arms race and achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control and prevent violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the self-determination of peoples, thus contributing to ensuring the right to life;

3. *Stresses further* the foremost importance of the implementation of practical measures of disarmament for releasing substantial additional resources, which should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries;

4. *Calls upon* all States to do their utmost to assist in ensuring the right to life through the adoption of appropriate measures at both the national and the international level;

5. *Calls upon* all States, appropriate organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress are used exclusively in the interests of international peace, for the benefit of mankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Again calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take effective measures with a view to prohibiting any propaganda for war, in particular the formulation, propounding and dissemination of propaganda for doctrines and concepts aimed at unleashing nuclear war;

7. *Looks forward* to further efforts by the Commission on Human Rights with a view to ensuring the inherent right of all peoples and all individuals to life;

8. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-first session under the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

*116th plenary meeting  
13 December 1985*

#### **40/112. Human rights and scientific and technological developments**

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting* that scientific and technological progress is one of the important factors in the development of human society,

*Recalling* that the year 1985 marks the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3384 (XXX) of 10 November 1975,

*Considering* that implementation of the Declaration will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and the security of peoples and to their economic and social development, as well as to international co-operation in the field of human rights,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>20</sup>

*Seriously concerned* that the results of scientific and technological progress could be used for the arms race to the detriment of international peace and security and social progress, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person,

*Convinced* that in the era of modern scientific and technological progress the resources of mankind and the activities of scientists should be used for the peaceful economic, social and cultural development of countries and for improvement of the living standards of all people,

*Recognizing* that the establishment of the new international economic order calls in particular for an important contribution to be made by science and technology to economic and social progress,

*Bearing in mind* that the exchange and transfer of scientific and technological knowledge is one of the important ways to accelerate the social and economic development of the developing countries,

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and scientific and technological developments,<sup>11</sup>

1. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation by all States of the provisions and principles contained in the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind in order to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Calls upon* all States to make every effort to use the achievements of science and technology in order to promote peaceful social, economic and cultural development and progress;

3. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take into account in their programmes and activities the provisions of the Declaration;

4. *Invites* those Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to submit their information pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/130 A of 11 December 1980;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention, in its consideration of the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments", to the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration;

6. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to take appropriate measures to assist the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in preparing the study requested by the Commission in its resolutions 1982/4 of 19 February 1982<sup>27</sup> and 1984/29 of 12 March 1984;<sup>29</sup>

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

*116th plenary meeting  
13 December 1985*

#### **40/113. Question of a convention on the rights of the child**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978, 34/4 of 18 October 1979, 35/131 of 11 December 1980, 36/57 of 25 November 1981, 37/190 of 18 December 1982, 38/114 of 16 December 1983 and 39/135 of 14 December 1984,

*Recalling also* Commission on Human Rights resolu-

<sup>111</sup> A/40/493 and Add.1 and 2

tions 20 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978,<sup>112</sup> 19 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,<sup>113</sup> 36 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980,<sup>25</sup> 26 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981,<sup>26</sup> 1982/39 of 11 March 1982,<sup>27</sup> 1983/52 of 10 March 1983,<sup>28</sup> 1984/24 of 8 March 1984<sup>29</sup> and 1985/50 of 14 March 1985,<sup>30</sup> as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/18 of 5 May 1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978, 1982/37 of 7 May 1982, 1983/39 of 27 May 1983, 1984/25 of 24 May 1984 and 1985/42 of 30 May 1985 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

*Reaffirming*, on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

*Profoundly concerned* that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of unsatisfactory social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

*Mindful* of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

*Convinced* that an international convention on the rights of the child would make a positive contribution to ensuring the protection of children's rights and their well-being,

*Welcoming* the growing interest in the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of the child displayed by a great number of Member States representing all geographical regions and socio-political systems, as well as by governmental and non-governmental international organizations,

*Noting with appreciation* that further progress was made during the forty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child,<sup>114</sup>

*Noting* the document entitled "Status of elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child", submitted by Poland,<sup>115</sup>

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/42, 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 forty-second session of the Commission with a view to completing the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to, and to make every effort at its forty-second session to complete, the draft convention and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

3. *Invites* all Member States to offer their active contribution to the completion of the draft convention on the rights of the child at the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the working group in order to ensure its smooth and efficient work in the fulfilment of its important task;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

*116th plenary meeting  
13 December 1985*

<sup>112</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34)*, chap. XXVI, sect. A.

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. XXIV, sect. A.

#### 40/114. Indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights

*The General Assembly.*

*Mindful* of the obligations of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>6</sup> as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>7</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>7</sup>

*Acknowledging* that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights have created new standards and obligations to which States should conform,

*Recalling* that 1986 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>24</sup>

*Also recalling* the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, based on the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly proclaimed on 11 December 1969,<sup>85</sup>

*Taking note* of the 1985 *Report on the World Social Situation*,<sup>87</sup>

*Reaffirming* the provisions of its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977 that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights can never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

*Convinced* that the full realization of civil and political rights is inseparably linked with the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights,

*Convinced also* that the achievement of lasting progress in the implementation of human rights is dependent upon sound and effective national and international policies of economic, social and political development,

*Desirous* of removing all obstacles to the full realization of human rights, in particular colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination in all its forms, *apartheid*, foreign intervention, occupation, aggression, discrimination and domination,

*Recognizing* the fundamental rights of every people to exercise full sovereignty over its natural wealth and resources,

*Recognizing also* that the realization of the right to development could help to promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights,

*Reaffirming* that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development, that progress in the field of disarmament could considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures would contribute to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/42 of 14 March 1985, in which the Commission stated that the promotion and implementation of economic, social and cultural rights and the obstacles to their realization have not received sufficient attention within the framework of United Nations organs,<sup>30</sup>

*Requesting* the Secretary-General to enhance his efforts under the programme of advisory services to States in the

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*, 1985, *Supplement No. 2 (E/1985/22)*, chap. XIII.

<sup>115</sup> A/C.3/40/3 and Corr.1.