

Cultural Rights,⁷⁶ which will be entrusted from 1987 on with the important task of overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take determined steps, within existing resources, to give publicity to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to ensure that it receives full administrative support in order to enable it to discharge its functions effectively;

6. *Affirms* the importance and relevance, to programmes and activities being undertaken throughout the United Nations system, of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

7. *Decides* to discuss at its forty-second session, under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights", the question of the indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986

41/118. Efforts and measures to promote the eradication of illiteracy

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²² the inalienable right of everyone to education is recognized,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy is one of the paramount objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,⁷⁷

Recognizing that the elimination of illiteracy constitutes a prerequisite for ensuring the right to education,

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and cultural and spiritual advancement,

Emphasizing further that this situation is utterly incompatible with what is required by the great advances in the scientific and technical revolution that mankind is witnessing,

Convinced that the process of education can make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of social progress, mutual understanding and co-operation among nations,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy calls for world-wide co-operation and joint efforts,

Considering that the complete elimination of illiteracy in all regions of the world should be recognized as a priority objective of the international community,

Convinced that the elaboration of a global strategy for the eradication of illiteracy and the organization of a world-wide literacy campaign will promote deeper understanding by the world public of the various aspects of the problem of illiteracy and help to intensify efforts to spread literacy and education,

Taking into consideration the appeal made by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in its resolution 2.2,⁷⁸

adopted at its twenty-third session, concerning the proclamation of an international literacy year,

1. *Approves* the appeal made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to proclaim an international literacy year;

2. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider in 1987 the question of declaring 1989 as the international literacy year and to inform the General Assembly of its recommendation at its forty-second session;

3. *Requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare, in co-operation with other interested organizations, his suggestions on the observance of the international literacy year and to submit them to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare, in accordance with General Conference resolution 4.6,⁷⁸ a plan of action designed to assist all States in eradicating illiteracy by the year 2000, whereby the impetus given by the international literacy year will be duly furthered.

97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986

41/119. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/51 of 14 December 1978, 34/45 of 23 November 1979, 35/132 of 11 December 1980, 36/58 of 25 November 1981, 37/191 of 18 December 1982, 38/116 and 38/117 of 16 December 1983, 39/136 and 39/138 of 14 December 1984 and 40/115 and 40/116 of 13 December 1985,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General⁷⁹ on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,²² the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²² and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²²

Noting with appreciation that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,²⁴

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,

Taking note of the approach adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its twenty-eighth session⁸⁰ in reviewing its activities, setting priorities and seeking savings that would not affect the Committee's vital work,

Taking into account the useful work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

⁷⁸ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-third Session*, vol. I, Resolutions, sect. III.

⁷⁹ A/41/509.

⁸⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/41/40)*.

⁷⁶ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985.

⁷⁷ See resolution 35/56, annex, sect. II.