

satisfactory 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* of the positive contribution which an international convention on the rights of the child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, would make to protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being,

*Noting with satisfaction* the widespread 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 international governmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting with appreciation* that further progress was made during the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child,<sup>75</sup>

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/40, 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-third session of the Commission in order to facilitate completion of 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-third session to complete, the draft convention and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-second 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-third 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-second session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

*97th plenary meeting  
4 December 1986*

**41/117. 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,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>22</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>22</sup> and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>71</sup>

*Recalling* that in the preambles to the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>24</sup> it is recognized that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights as well as his civil and political rights,

*Bearing in mind* that 1986 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 40/114 of 13 December 1985,

*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 equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights,

*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,

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

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

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/42 of 14 March 1985<sup>30</sup> and 1986/15 of 10 March 1986,<sup>31</sup> in which the Commission stated that the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights have not received sufficient attention within the framework of the United Nations system,

*Requesting* the Secretary-General to enhance his efforts under the programme of advisory services to States in the implementation, promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other United Nations instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Appeals* to all States to pursue policies directed towards the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;
2. *Calls upon* all States to co-operate in creating national and international conditions conducive to the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, its views and recommendations on these human rights;
4. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Economic and Social Council of the Committee on Economic, Social and

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, 1986 Supplement No. 2 (E/1986/22), chap. XIII.

Cultural Rights,<sup>76</sup> 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 Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>22</sup> 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,<sup>77</sup>

*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,<sup>78</sup>

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,<sup>78</sup> 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-General<sup>79</sup> on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>22</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>22</sup> and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>22</sup>

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

*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 session<sup>80</sup> 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,

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

<sup>79</sup> A/41/509.

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

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

<sup>77</sup> See resolution 35/56, annex, sect. II.