

**41/153. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolution 39/116 of 14 December 1984, on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian region,

Recognizing that regional arrangements make a major contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and that non-governmental organizations may have a valuable role to play in this process,

Bearing in mind that intergovernmental arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights have been established in other regions,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region, held at Colombo from 21 June to 2 July 1982,<sup>149</sup> and the comments on the report of the Seminar received from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and from States members of the Commission,<sup>150</sup>

Welcoming the designation of the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as a regional human rights focal point,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1986/57 of 13 March 1986,<sup>31</sup>

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General;<sup>151</sup>
2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist and encourage the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to pursue the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials within the Commission at Bangkok, the function of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials in the Asian and Pacific region;
3. Renews its invitation to States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific that have not yet done so to communicate to the Secretary-General as soon as possible their comments on the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region and, in particular, to address themselves to the conclusions and recommendations in the report concerning the development of regional arrangements in Asia and the Pacific;
4. Invites the Secretary-General to finalize as expeditiously as possible preparations for a training course, to be held in the Asian and Pacific region, on the teaching of human rights;
5. Takes note of the efforts of United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the human rights dimension more actively and systematically in their development activities and invites them to pursue those efforts;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, incorporating information on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

7. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-third session.

*97th plenary meeting  
4 December 1986*

**41/154. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977, 33/167 of 20 December 1978, 34/171 of 17 December 1979, 35/197 of 15 December 1980, 36/154 of 16 December 1981, 37/171 and 37/172 of 17 December 1982, 38/97 of 16 December 1983 and 39/115 and 39/116 of 14 December 1984 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling that, in its resolution 39/115, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-first session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of that resolution,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/26 of 11 March 1985<sup>30</sup> and 1986/52 of 13 March 1986<sup>31</sup> concerning advisory services in the field of human rights,

Taking note also of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/48 of 14 March 1985<sup>30</sup> and 1986/57 of 13 March 1986<sup>31</sup> concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,<sup>152</sup> as well as the addendum thereto on the state of signatures and ratifications of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Protocols thereto, or accessions to those instruments,<sup>153</sup>

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level and, in particular, the recent entry into force, on 21 October 1986, of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Reaffirming that regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights may make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field among the regions, within the United Nations system, may be improved,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Notes with interest that contacts, of various kinds, between representatives of regional bodies and United Nations bodies entrusted with the promotion of human rights, with a view to exchanging information and experience in this field, have become a regular practice and have been further strengthened through advisory services and technical assistance activities;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to consider the possibility of encouraging these developments;

<sup>149</sup> A/37/422, annex.

<sup>150</sup> See A/39/174-E/1984/38 and Add.1 and E/CN.4/1986/19.

<sup>151</sup> A/41/180-E/1986/20.

<sup>152</sup> A/41/274.

<sup>153</sup> A/41/274/Add.1.

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1986/52 that Governments in need of technical assistance in the field of human rights should be encouraged:

(a) To make use of the possibility offered by the United Nations of organizing, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, information and/or training courses at the national level for appropriate government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international organs;

(b) To avail themselves of the advisory services of experts in the field of human rights, for example for drafting basic legal texts in conformity with international conventions on human rights;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the different regions under the programme of advisory services and to make, where necessary, the relevant recommendations;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to consider this question further at its forty-third session.

97th plenary meeting  
4 December 1986

#### 41/155. Strengthening of international co-operation in the field of human rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that the purposes of the United Nations include the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Desirous* of achieving further progress in international co-operation in the field of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Considering* that such international co-operation should be based on the principles embodied in 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 other relevant international instruments,

*Deeply convinced* that such co-operation should be based on a profound understanding of the economic, social and cultural realities and the variety of problems existing in different societies,

*Emphasizing* the necessity for the international community to continue its efforts to take practical measures to prevent mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms affected by situations that jeopardize international peace and security, such as *apartheid*, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign occupation and domination, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, as well as the refusal to recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the development of further international co-operation

in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with this international legal framework;

2. *Considers* that such co-operation should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights, to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

3. *Emphasizes* that co-operation in the field of human rights should be guided by justice and equality, with due respect for the dignity of all people without any discrimination;

4. *Notes* the important place that the promotion and protection of human rights has secured on the international agenda and in relations between States;

5. *Invites* all States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on means and methods of strengthening international co-operation in the field of human rights;

6. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-second session under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

97th plenary meeting  
4 December 1986

#### 41/156. Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala

*The General Assembly,*

*Reiterating* that the Governments of all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 40/140 of 13 December 1985, in which it decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala at its forty-first session,

*Recalling also* the previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the subject, and taking note of Commission resolution 1986/62 of 13 March 1986,<sup>31</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the process of democratization and return to constitutionality, which are fundamental steps towards complete and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages the Government of Guatemala to continue to take measures for the effective implementation of the Constitution and other laws aimed at safeguarding these rights and freedoms;

2. *Requests* the Government of Guatemala to continue co-operating with the Commission on Human Rights by providing it with information about the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular in regard to the application of the new legal order for the protection of these rights and freedoms;

3. *Recommends* that the Commission on Human Rights should continue to consider the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala, in accordance with Commission resolution 1986/62, and decides to continue its consideration of developments in that situation at its forty-second session.

97th plenary meeting  
4 December 1986