

practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1986/50 of 13 March 1986, to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to examine questions relevant to torture,³¹

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;¹²⁰

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the number of States that have signed or ratified the Convention since it was opened for signature, ratification and accession on 4 February 1985;

3. *Requests* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

4. *Invites* all States, upon ratification of or accession to the Convention, to consider the possibility of making the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-third session and to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a report on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

6. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-second session under the item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986

41/135. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,²

Again recalling the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹²¹

Recalling also its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Recalling further its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which it noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Convinced that the struggle to eliminate torture includes the provision of assistance in a humanitarian spirit to the victims and members of their families,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹²²

1. *Expresses its gratitude and appreciation* to those Governments, organizations and individuals that have al-

ready contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

2. *Calls upon* all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for initial as well as further contributions to the Fund;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has carried out;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the support given to the Board of Trustees of the Fund;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known and in its appeal for contributions.

97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986

41/136. Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/138 of 13 December 1985, in which it, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from Namibia and South Africa who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

Having considered the report of the High Commissioner on the assistance programme to student refugees from South Africa and Namibia,¹²³

Noting with appreciation that some of the projects recommended in the report on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa have been successfully completed,

Noting with concern that the discriminatory and repressive policies which continue to be applied in South Africa and Namibia cause a continued and increasing influx of student refugees into Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

Conscious of the burden placed on the limited financial, material and administrative resources of the host countries by the increasing number of student refugees,

Appreciating the efforts of the host countries to deal with their student refugee populations, with the assistance of the international community,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia for granting asylum and making educational and other facilities available to the student refugees, in spite of the pressure which the continuing influx of those refugees exerts on facilities in their countries;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia for the co-operation which they have extended to the High Commissioner on matters concerning the welfare of these refugees;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the financial and material support provided for the student refugees by Member

¹²⁰ A/41/511.

¹²¹ Resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

¹²² A/41/706.

¹²³ A/41/553.