

4. *Invites* all Member States to offer their active support to the completion of a draft convention on the rights of the child in 1989;

5. *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;

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

93rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1987

#### 42/102. 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>13</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>13</sup> and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>14</sup>

*Recalling* that in the preambles to the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>13</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 persons may enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights,

*Recalling* its resolutions 40/114 of 13 December 1985 and 41/117 of 4 December 1986,

*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 economic, social, cultural, civil and political 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 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 and multidimensional 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 could contribute 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 may help to promote the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/42 of 14 March 1985,<sup>60</sup> 1986/15 of 10 March 1986<sup>61</sup> and 1987/19 and 1987/20 of 10 March 1987,<sup>26</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. *Notes* the essential importance of national efforts and international co-operation to achieve the full and effective realization of all human rights recognized in the International Covenants on Human Rights;

2. *Appeals* to all States to pursue policies directed towards the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights recognized in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international instruments;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give more attention to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights under the relevant agenda items;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its first session,<sup>91</sup> including the suggestions and recommendations of a general nature approved by the Committee;

5. *Endorses* the invitation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1987/5 of 26 May 1987, to consider again at its next session the compilation of recommendations in the summary records of that Committee relating to its future work, paying particular attention to practices followed by other treaty bodies, including the preparation of general comments by the Human Rights Committee;

6. *Requests* the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to take due account of the experience gained in the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in particular of the suggestions and recommendations of the Sessional Working Group;

7. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take determined steps, within existing resources, to give publicity to the Human Rights Committee and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to ensure that they receive full administrative support in order to enable them to discharge their functions effectively;

8. *Affirms* the importance and relevance, to programmes and activities being undertaken throughout the United Nations system in the field of human rights, 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;

9. *Decides* to discuss at its forty-third session, under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human

<sup>91</sup> E/1987/28.

Rights", the question of the indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

93rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1987

#### 42/103. 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, 40/115 and 40/116 of 13 December 1985, 41/32 of 3 November 1986 and 41/119 and 41/121 of 4 December 1986,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>92</sup> on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>13</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>13</sup> and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>13</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,

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

Welcoming the establishment, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to oversee the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Welcoming the submission to the General Assembly of the annual report of the Human Rights Committee<sup>93</sup> and the first report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>91</sup>

Noting with concern the critical situation with regard to overdue reports from States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions,<sup>93</sup> and expresses its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to carry out its functions;

2. Further takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the suggestions and recommendations of a general nature approved by the Committee;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have submitted their reports to the Human Rights Committee under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports as speedily as possible;

4. Urges those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with the request;

5. Commends the States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have submitted their reports under article 16 of the Covenant and urges States parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible;

6. Notes with satisfaction that the majority of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and an increasing number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, have been represented by experts in the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the respective monitoring bodies in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in the future;

7. Again urges all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

8. Invites the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

9. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

10. Stresses the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification for and appropriateness of measures taken in these circumstances can be assessed;

11. Appeals to States parties to review whether any reservation made in respect of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights should be upheld;

12. Urges all States parties to pay active attention to the protection and promotion of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights;

13. Urges States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations bodies to extend their full support and co-operation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights informed of the relevant activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the newly established Committee against Torture and, where appropriate, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies, and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to those bodies;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, So-

<sup>92</sup> A/42/450.

<sup>93</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/42/40).