

11. *Considers* that all Member States must promote international co-operation on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of every people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system and to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources, subject to the principles referred to in article 1, paragraph 2, and article 25 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, with a view to solving international economic, social and humanitarian problems;

12. *Expresses concern* at the disparity existing between established norms and principles and the actual situation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the world;

13. *Urges* all States to co-operate with the Commission on Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14. *Reiterates* the need to create, at the national and international levels, conditions for the full promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples;

15. *Reaffirms once again* that, in order to facilitate the full enjoyment of all human rights without diminishing personal dignity, it is necessary to promote the rights to education, work, health and proper nourishment through the adoption of measures at the national level, including those that provide for the participation of workers in management, as well as the adoption of measures at the international level, including the establishment of the new international economic order;

16. *Decides* that the approach to future work within the United Nations system on human rights matters should also take into account the content of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the need for the implementation thereof;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/120. New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983 and 40/126 of 13 December 1985,

Recalling further the reports of the Secretary-General,¹³⁶

Bearing in mind the comments communicated by Governments to the Secretary-General regarding a new international humanitarian order,

Recognizing the urgent need further to improve and strengthen the international framework relating to humanitarian issues while taking fully into account existing instruments and mechanisms,

Noting with concern that emergencies and disasters, mostly man-made, have increased in frequency in recent years, posing a growing challenge to mechanisms of international responses to them.

Aware that institutional arrangements and actions by governmental and non-governmental bodies require further strengthening, as well as adjustment to new realities, in order to respond more effectively and speedily to contemporary humanitarian problems,

Noting the efforts of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues to promote public awareness of humanitarian issues, analyse relatively neglected aspects and identify alternative approaches for resolving humanitarian problems,

Noting further the establishment, outside the United Nations, of an Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to disseminate and follow up the work of the Independent Commission,

Taking note of the report of the Independent Commission, as well as the sectoral reports on specific humanitarian issues,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the co-chairmen and members of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues for their humanitarian endeavours;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments and intergovernmental organizations, including those functioning at the regional level, to the report of the Independent Commission;

3. *Requests* the Independent Commission to transmit its report to Member States and to the executive heads of specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system in order to enable them to consider its analyses and conclusions;

4. *Invites* all non-governmental organizations concerned with the humanitarian issues examined by the Independent Commission to bear in mind the recommendations and suggestions made in its report in the context of their policies and actions in the field;

5. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action and to strengthen international co-operation in the humanitarian field;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments, relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations concerned and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, on the basis of information made available to him, on the progress made in the humanitarian field;

7. *Decides* to review at its forty-third session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/121. International co-operation in the humanitarian field

The General Assembly,

Noting that one of the purposes of the United Nations, set forth in its Charter, is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character,

Guided, in particular, by the determination expressed in the Charter, to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person,

¹³⁶ A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/348 and Add.1 and 2 and A/41/472

Mindful of the significant contribution to international co-operation in the humanitarian field made by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system,

Recognizing the positive role played by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues,

Recognizing, in this connection, the importance of the contribution of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

Recognizing the significance of the existing workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate humanitarian activities carried out by Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Mindful of the importance of promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of international co-operation in the humanitarian field for improving relations among States and peoples,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue its efforts in the field of humanitarian activities and to provide the resources to develop further activities in the humanitarian field,

Conscious that people want to live in a better, safer and more just world,

1. *Encourages* the international community to develop further its co-operation in the field of international humanitarian activities;

2. *Calls upon* all States to co-operate for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to work together to promote international co-operation in order to solve existing humanitarian problems of international concern;

3. *Encourages* the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to international humanitarian activities;

4. *Considers* that international co-operation in the humanitarian field will facilitate better understanding, mutual respect, confidence and tolerance among States and peoples, thus contributing to a more just and non-violent world;

5. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to develop international co-operation in the humanitarian field on the basis of relevant international instruments;

6. *Decides* to consider the question of international co-operation in the humanitarian field under the item entitled "New international humanitarian order".

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/122. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹³⁷

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force on 26 June 1987 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Recalling 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,¹³⁸

1. *Expresses its gratitude and appreciation* to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already 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. *Invites* Governments to make contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis, in order to enable the Fund to provide continuous support to projects that depend on recurrent grants;

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

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

6. *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.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/123. Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹³ both of which provide that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Recalling further 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 and called upon all Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as its resolutions 40/128 of 13 December 1985 and 41/134 of 4 December 1986,

¹³⁷ Resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

¹³⁸ A/42/701.