

widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society,

Recalling also the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,¹⁴ which provides that the family, as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children and youth, should be assisted and protected so that it may fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Convinced of the urgency of meeting the diverse needs of the family, both as a beneficiary of and as an active participant in the development process,

Recognizing the necessity of consolidating the efforts of all States in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family, in which the United Nations may have an important role to play,

Aware of the international consensus on the importance of the role of the family as an agent of positive change in society,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 and 1985/29 of 29 May 1985,

Convinced that appropriate measures should be taken at the local, national, regional and international levels to mobilize efforts on behalf of the family,

Recalling, in this connection, its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning the guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

1. *Invites* all States to make their views known concerning the possible proclamation of an international year of the family and to offer their comments and proposals thereon to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1988;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a comprehensive report, based on the comments and proposals of Member States, on the possible proclamation of such a year and other ways and means to improve the position and well-being of the family and intensify international co-operation as part of global efforts to advance social progress and development;

3. *Decides* to consider that report and to take appropriate decisions thereon at its forty-third session, under an item of the provisional agenda entitled "Families in the development process".

*93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987*

42/135. Question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenants on Human Rights¹³ and the humanitarian rules set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,¹⁵³

Aware of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and resolved to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Emphasizing the obligation of all Governments to respect and protect human rights and to fulfil the respon-

sibilities they have assumed under various international instruments,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/55 of 15 March 1984,⁵⁹ in which the Commission expressed its concern and anxiety at the continuing presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/37 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council requested the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur to examine the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/38 of 13 March 1985⁶⁰ and 1986/40 of 12 March 1986,⁶¹

Recalling further Economic and Social Council decisions 1985/147 of 30 May 1985 and 1986/136 of 23 May 1986,

Recalling its resolutions 40/137 of 13 December 1985 and 41/158 of 4 December 1986,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/58 of 11 March 1987²⁶ and Economic and Social Council decision 1987/151 of 29 May 1987, by which the Council approved the Commission's decision to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan,

Having carefully examined the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,¹⁵⁴ in which, while it is recognized that there have been some improvements in the human rights situation in Afghanistan, continuing grave and massive violations of fundamental human rights in that country are revealed,

Recognizing that a situation of armed conflict continues to exist in Afghanistan, leaving large numbers of victims without protection or assistance, and that the continuation of the conflict increases the seriousness of the gross and systematic violations of human rights already existing in the country,

Welcoming the resumption of some of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Afghanistan in the field of medical assistance,

1. *Commends* the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to fulfil his mandate and takes note of his interim report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan;

2. *Welcomes* the co-operation that the Afghan authorities have begun to extend to the Commission on Human Rights by permitting its Special Rapporteur access to facilities for conducting his investigation when he visited Afghanistan from 30 July to 9 August 1987;

3. *Expresses its deep distress and continuing alarm* at the continued violations of the right to life, liberty and security of person, as well as of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement and freedom of association reported by the Special Rapporteur;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* about the large number of persons detained without due process of law for seeking to exercise their fundamental human rights and their detention under conditions contrary to internationally recognized minimum standards, while noting a reduction in the number of political prisoners and the release of some prisoners as a result of limited amnesties;

5. *Notes with great concern* that such widespread violations of human rights, which have already caused millions

¹⁵³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973

¹⁵⁴ A/42/667, annex.

of people to flee their homes and country, continue to cause large flows of refugees and displaced persons;

6. *Expresses once again its deep concern* that the Afghan authorities, with heavy support from foreign troops, are acting with great severity against their opponents and suspected opponents, in a manner contravening humanitarian law and without any respect for the international human rights obligations that they have assumed;

7. *Expresses its grave concern* at the intensification of the armed conflict, which is causing death and material destruction, leading to acts of brutality and to maltreatment of prisoners and which, in particular, has severe consequences for the civilian population, with rising numbers of wounded and dead as well as the destruction of houses, mosques, livestock and crops;

8. *Also expresses its grave concern*, in particular, at the severe consequences for the civilian population of indiscriminate bombardments and military operations primarily directed against villages and the agricultural structure;

9. *Continues to note with great concern* that the educational system does not appear to respect the liberty of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own traditions and convictions;

10. *Calls once again upon* the parties to the conflict, in order to alleviate the suffering of the people of Afghanistan, to apply fully the principles and rules of international humanitarian law and to co-operate fully and effectively with international humanitarian organizations, in particular to facilitate the protection activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

11. *Urges* the authorities in Afghanistan to co-operate fully with the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur, in particular by permitting the Special Rapporteur access to all the places he wishes to visit;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

13. *Decides* to keep under consideration, during its forty-third session, the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan in order to examine this question anew in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/136. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹³

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Recalling its pertinent resolutions, as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Taking note, in particular, of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/55 of 11 March 1987,¹⁵ in which the Commission decided to extend the mandate of its Special Representative for one year and requested him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is and on new elements contained in his report to the Commission at its forty-third session,¹⁵⁵ for example, the allegations of violations affecting the medical profession, and to submit a final report to the Commission at its forty-fourth session,

Taking note of the opinion of the Special Representative that legal obligations and commitments on human rights do not foresee or admit of partial acceptance of instruments that have been conceived, drafted and adopted as a unified, coherent and complete set of norms,

Noting the opinion of the Special Representative that the persons appearing before him described violations of which they were truly victims and that their declarations were convincing,

Taking note of the Special Representative's view that the partial co-operation he received in 1986 from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had improved, through both documents and personal contacts, and that, therefore, there are grounds to hope that it may improve further in the months preceding the presentation of the final report,

Concerned, none the less, at the Special Representative's conclusion that the co-operation extended to him has not reached the level that the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have consistently requested in the resolutions concerning this matter,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Representative and the considerations and the observations contained therein;¹⁵⁶

2. *Notes* that the Special Representative observes that the problem concerning the medical profession appears to have been solved;

3. *Welcomes* the pardoning of prisoners and shares the Special Representative's hope that this may be the first stage of a process leading to a general amnesty for political prisoners;

4. *Again expresses its deep concern* about the numerous and detailed allegations of grave human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran to which the Special Representative has referred in his report and, in particular, those related to the right to life, the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security of person and to freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and to freedom of expression, and the right of religious minorities to profess and practise their own religion;

5. *Expresses its grave concern*, in particular, that although the Special Representative indicates that the number of alleged violations of the right to life has diminished over the past two years, according to information made available to him, some one hundred persons were alleged to have been executed in the period October 1986-September 1987 because of their political and religious convictions;

6. *Expresses its deep concern* at allegations that maltreatment and torture, both physical and psychological,

¹⁵⁵ See E/CN.4/1987/23

¹⁵⁶ A/42/648, annex.