

Recognizing that the establishment of the new international economic order calls in particular for an important contribution to be made by science and technology to economic and social progress,

Bearing in mind that the exchange and transfer of scientific and technological knowledge is one of the important ways to accelerate the social and economic development of the developing countries,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and scientific and technological developments,⁸⁶

1. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation by all States of the provisions and principles contained in the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind in order to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Calls upon* all States to make every effort to use the achievements of science and technology in order to promote peaceful social, economic and cultural development and progress and to put an end to the use of these achievements for military purposes;

3. *Also calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to place all the achievements of science and technology at the service of mankind and to ensure that they do not lead to the degradation of the natural environment;

4. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take into account in their programmes and activities the provisions of the Declaration;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention, in its consideration of the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments", to the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration;

6. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to take appropriate measures and to assist the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in preparing the study requested by the Commission in its resolutions 1982/4 of 19 February 1982,⁵⁷ 1984/29 of 12 March 1984⁵⁹ and 1986/11 of 10 March 1986,⁶¹

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/101. Question of a convention on the rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978, 34/4 of 18 October 1979, 35/131 of 11 December 1980, 36/57 of 25 November 1981, 37/190 of 18 December 1982, 38/114 of 16 December 1983, 39/135 of 14 December 1984, 40/113 of 13 December 1985 and 41/116 of 4 December 1986,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 20 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978,⁸⁷ 19 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,⁸⁸ 36 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980,⁵⁵ 26

(XXXVII) of 10 March 1981,⁵⁶ 1982/39 of 11 March 1982,⁵⁷ 1983/52 of 10 March 1983,⁵⁸ 1984/24 of 8 March 1984,⁵⁹ 1985/50 of 14 March 1985,⁶⁰ 1986/59 of 13 March 1986⁶¹ and 1987/48 of 11 March 1987,²⁶ as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/18 of 5 May 1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978, 1982/37 of 7 May 1982, 1983/39 of 27 May 1983, 1984/25 of 24 May 1984, 1985/42 of 30 May 1985, 1986/40 of 23 May 1986 and 1987/58 of 29 May 1987 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

Reaffirming that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of unsatisfactory social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, hunger and disability and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced of the positive contribution which an international convention on the rights of the child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, would make to protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being,

Noting with appreciation that further progress was made during the forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child,⁸⁹

Bearing in mind that 1989 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child⁹⁰ and of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child,

Considering that these anniversaries could constitute an appropriate target date for completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child and for its adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in 1989,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/58, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the forty-fourth session of the Commission in order to facilitate completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to authorize convening, if necessary and within existing resources, the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for an additional week at its January 1988 session in order to complete a draft convention so as to facilitate its conclusion in 1989, the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to, and to make every effort at its sessions in 1988 and in 1989 to complete, a draft convention on the rights of the child and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

⁸⁶ A/42/392 and Add.1 and 2.

⁸⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34)*, chap. XXVI, sect. A.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. XXIV, sect. A.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 1987, *Supplement No. 5 (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2)*, chap. XIII.

⁹⁰ Resolution 1386 (XIV).

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,² the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹³ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,¹⁴

Recalling that in the preambles to the International Covenants on Human Rights¹³ 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 1985,⁶⁰ 1986/15 of 10 March 1986⁶¹ and 1987/19 and 1987/20 of 10 March 1987,²⁶ 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,⁹¹ 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

⁹¹ E/1987/28.