

cial and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to ensure that the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are able to hold the necessary sessions and are provided with administrative support and summary records;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates;

18. *Again urges* the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps, within existing resources, to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

19. *Invites* the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to explore further ways of expediting consideration of periodic reports;

20. *Welcomes* the publication of the first volumes of the official public records of the Human Rights Committee and looks forward to the early publication of further volumes;

21. *Encourages* all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/104. International Literacy Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/118 of 4 December 1986,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/80 of 8 July 1987, in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 1990 as International Literacy Year,

Recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹³ the inalienable right of everyone to education is recognized,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy is one of the paramount objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,⁹⁴

Recognizing that the elimination of illiteracy constitutes a prerequisite for ensuring the right to education,

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and cultural and spiritual advancement,

Emphasizing further that this situation is utterly incompatible with what is required by the great advances in the

scientific and technical revolution that mankind is witnessing,

Convinced that the process of education can make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of social progress, mutual understanding and co-operation among nations,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy calls for world-wide co-operation and joint efforts,

Considering that the complete elimination of illiteracy in all regions of the world should be recognized as a priority objective of the international community,

Convinced that the elaboration of a global strategy for the eradication of illiteracy and the organization of a world-wide literacy campaign will promote deeper understanding by people throughout the world of the various aspects of the problem of illiteracy and help to intensify efforts to spread literacy and education,

Taking note with appreciation of the programme for International Literacy Year submitted by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁹⁵

Taking into account the guidelines for international years and anniversaries adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980,

1. *Proclaims* 1990 as International Literacy Year;

2. *Invites* all States to ensure adequate nation-wide preparation for International Literacy Year;

3. *Recommends* that the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system consider in their respective forums the contributions that they could make to the success of International Literacy Year;

4. *Invites* interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exert efforts in their respective fields to contribute adequately to the preparation and implementation of national and international programmes for International Literacy Year;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assume the role of lead organization for International Literacy Year;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "Preparation and organization of International Literacy Year".

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/105. Reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/121 of 4 December 1986 and other relevant resolutions,

Reiterating the fundamental importance it attaches to the fulfilment of reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights,

Recognizing that effective periodic reporting by States parties to relevant treaty bodies not only enhances international accountability in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights, but also provides States parties with a valuable opportunity to review policies and programmes affecting the protection and promotion of human rights and to make any appropriate adjustments,

⁹⁴ See resolution 35/56, annex.

⁹⁵ See E/1987/113.

Expressing concern about the increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties of United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies,

Recognizing the burden that coexisting reporting systems place upon Member States that are parties to various instruments and noting that this burden will become more onerous as additional instruments come into force,

Welcoming the decision taken by the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,³ at their tenth meeting, to approve the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of considering multiple overdue reports in consolidated form,⁹⁶ and the decision taken by the States parties, at their eleventh meeting, to recommend that in order to facilitate the current work of the Committee, States parties, as a general practice, after submitting initial reports to the Committee, should submit further comprehensive reports on every second occasion thereafter when reports are due, that is, every four years, with a brief updating report at each intervening occasion when reports are due,⁹⁷

Reaffirming the importance of providing adequate resources for all bodies supervising implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights, including maintaining summary records for their proceedings, in particular for the presentation and consideration of periodic reports by States parties,

Reaffirming also the independent, expert character of the treaty bodies,

1. Urges States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights with reports overdue to make every effort to present their reports as soon as possible and to take advantage of opportunities whereby such reports can be consolidated;

2. Invites States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights to review the processes followed in the preparation of their periodic reports with a view to ensuring compliance with relevant guidelines, improving the quality of description and analysis and limiting reports to a reasonable length;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to revise, as a matter of priority and in consultation with the treaty bodies, the draft compilation of general guidelines elaborated by the various supervisory bodies and the list of articles dealing with related rights under the United Nations instruments on human rights, and to include in the guidelines, where appropriate, the general comments of the supervisory bodies in order to assist States parties in compiling reports;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To propose a draft agenda for the meeting of the persons chairing the treaty bodies to be held at Geneva in October 1988, which reflects, *inter alia*, the following objectives:

(i) To give priority attention to consideration of remedial measures, including co-ordinated action when appropriate, to deal with the problems highlighted in the reports of the Secretary-General,⁹⁸

(ii) To give further consideration to harmonizing and consolidating reporting guidelines on the basis of the suggestions in the above-mentioned reports, with a view to providing clearer and more compre-

hensive guidelines for more concise reporting by States parties;

(iii) To identify and develop possible projects for technical advisory services with a view to assisting States parties upon their request in fulfilling their reporting obligations;

(iv) To explore ways of expediting consideration of periodic reports, such as by envisaging time-limits on oral interventions, avoiding duplication in questioning, requesting supplementary written material, and encouraging States parties to submit reports that are as succinct as possible;

(b) To circulate a draft agenda for the meeting to the treaty bodies to enable comment and to facilitate preparations;

(c) To submit a report on the meeting to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

5. Invites the persons chairing the treaty bodies to maintain communication and dialogue with each other on common issues and problems;

6. Invites States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights to consider at their meetings further ways of streamlining and otherwise improving reporting procedures, as well as enhancing co-ordination and information flow between the treaty bodies and with relevant United Nations bodies, including the specialized agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly of any decisions of the States parties on these issues;

7. Welcomes the efforts of the treaty bodies to rationalize reporting procedures and to scrutinize periodic reports more intensively and expeditiously,

8. Invites the newly established Committee against Torture to give due attention to the issues raised in the present resolution when developing arrangements for periodic reporting by States parties;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to consider rearranging the periodicity of reporting under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;¹³

10. Requests the Secretary-General to provide from official United Nations sources a compilation of statistics relevant to the consideration by the treaty bodies of the reports of States parties;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen co-ordination between the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat with reference to the implementation of human rights instruments and the servicing of treaty bodies;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange, within existing resources and taking into account the priorities of the programme of advisory services, further training courses for those countries experiencing the most serious difficulties in meeting reporting obligations under United Nations instruments on human rights;

13. Invites the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to assist the Secretary-General in the above-mentioned endeavours and to develop complementary training activities in this field;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against

⁹⁶ See CERD/SP/26.

⁹⁷ See CERD/SP/31.

⁹⁸ A/40/600 and Add.1 and A/41/510.

Women and the Committee against Torture are made available to all the members of these bodies;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit, as expeditiously as possible, the text of the present resolution to all members of the treaty bodies;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session as a separate item, the item entitled "Reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights".

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/106. International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in southern Africa arising from the continued domination and oppression of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia by the minority racist régime of South Africa,

Conscious of the need to provide increased assistance to the peoples of the region and the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia in their struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and the policies of *apartheid*,

Conscious also of its responsibility to provide economic, material and humanitarian assistance to independent States in southern Africa in order to assist them in coping with the situation resulting from the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa,

Aware that *apartheid* in South Africa, the illegal occupation of Namibia and acts of destabilization carried out by South Africa and its surrogate elements continue to be the main causes of refugee flows and the displacement of persons in the southern region of Africa,

Taking note of the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-sixth session, held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 July 1987, to convene an International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa and to enlist the active support of the international community, in particular the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, to that end,⁹⁹

Taking note also of the decision by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to endorse the proposal for the convening of an international conference to address the specific situation of refugees and displaced persons in southern Africa,¹⁰⁰

Appreciating the current efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and other persons displaced by armed conflict in the countries of southern Africa,

Recognizing that the task of caring for refugees is a matter of international concern and solidarity in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, international and regional instruments, in particular the 1951 Convention¹⁰¹ and the 1967 Protocol¹⁰² relating to the Status of Refu-

gees, as well as the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa,¹⁰³ of 1969,

Convinced that there is an urgent need for the international community to extend maximum and concerted assistance to southern African countries sheltering refugees, returnees and displaced persons and also to highlight the plight of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Organization of African Unity to convene in September 1988 an International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;

2. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts, on behalf of the international community, to organize and mobilize special programmes of economic assistance for those African States facing grave economic difficulties, the front-line States and other independent States of southern Africa to help them to withstand the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa;

3. *Welcomes* the decision by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the convening of the Conference;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to give all possible assistance to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in the preparation and organization of the Conference;

5. *Appeals* to all Member States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide all the necessary support and resources needed for the convening and success of the Conference;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988 and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/107. Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its resolutions, particularly resolution 41/122 of 4 December 1986, relating to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees in Africa,¹⁰⁴

Mindful that the fundamental purpose of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984,¹⁰⁵ was to

⁹⁹ See A/42/699, annex I, resolution CM/Res.1117 (XLVII).

¹⁰⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/42/12/Add.1)*, para. 209.

¹⁰¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

¹⁰⁴ A/42/491.

¹⁰⁵ A/39/402, annex.