

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.

Mindful of the relevance, for the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials¹³⁹ and of the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the role of health personnel, particularly physicians, in the protection of prisoners and detainees against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,⁸⁰

Convinced of the desirability of early finalization and subsequent adoption of the draft Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,¹⁴⁰

Seriously concerned about the alarming number of reported cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment taking place in various parts of the world,

Determined to promote the full implementation of the prohibition, under international and national law, of the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1987/29 of 10 March 1987,²⁶ to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to examine questions relevant to torture and taking note of other important provisions of the Commission in the same resolution, including those relating to practical measures recommended by the Special Rapporteur to deal with this abhorrent phenomenon,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;¹⁴¹

2. *Welcomes with deep satisfaction* the entry into force on 26 June 1987 of the Convention as a major step in international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of the establishment by States parties to the Convention of appropriate administrative and financial arrangements to enable the Committee against Torture to carry out in an effective and efficient manner the functions entrusted to it under the Convention, and to ensure the long-term viability of the Committee as an essential mechanism for overseeing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

4. *Also recognizes* the need for the Committee against Torture to give early attention to the development of an effective reporting system on implementation by States parties to the Convention, taking due account of the draft guidelines of the Secretary-General on reporting and the activities of the Human Rights Committee, as well as of the other human rights treaty bodies, established under the relevant international instruments in the field of human rights;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee against Torture;

6. *Again requests* all States to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

7. *Once again invites* all States, upon ratification of or accession to the Convention, or subsequently, to consider the possibility of making the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 thereof;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a report on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

9. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-third session under the item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/124. Torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹³⁷ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment¹⁴² and the Declaration on the Rights of the Child,⁹⁰

Welcoming the holding of the International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in *Apartheid* South Africa at Harare, from 24 to 27 September 1987,

Appalled at evidence that children in South Africa are subjected to detention, torture and inhuman treatment,

1. *Expresses its profound outrage* at reports of detention, torture and inhuman treatment of children in South Africa;

2. *Calls upon* the South African authorities urgently to release children held in detention in that country;

3. *Calls for* the immediate dismantlement of the so-called "rehabilitation camps" or "re-education centres";

4. *Requests* all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to draw attention to, monitor and expose these inhuman practices;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on Human Rights the final documents of the International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in *Apartheid* South Africa, for action by the Special Rapporteur on Torture.

93rd plenary meeting
7 December 1987

42/125. Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/26 of 29 May 1985 and 1987/48 of 28 May 1987 concerning preparations for an Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Conscious of the considerable contribution made to the preparations for the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes by the regional conferences of the ministers responsible for social welfare and the Commission for Social Develop-

¹³⁹ Resolution 34/169, annex.

¹⁴⁰ A/34/146, annex.

¹⁴¹ A/42/451.

¹⁴² Resolution 39/46, annex.