

attention, as well as to provide a focal point within the United Nations system for policy responses;

8. *Urges* the Secretary-General to use the resources available to consolidate and strengthen the early warning system in the humanitarian area by, *inter alia*, early computerization of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information and strengthened co-ordination among the relevant parts of the United Nations system, especially the Office for Research and the Collection of Information, as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the relevant specialized agencies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the strengthened role that the Secretary-General could play in undertaking early warning activities, especially in the humanitarian area, as well as on any further developments relating to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees;

10. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of human rights and mass exoduses at its forty-fourth session.

*75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988*

43/155. International co-operation in solving international problems of a social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/155 of 4 December 1986 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/42 of 10 March 1987,⁶¹

Conscious that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that special emphasis should be put on the effective implementation of the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²⁰ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁰ and other relevant international instruments,

Convinced that the effectiveness of United Nations human rights instruments would be enhanced by universal adherence to them as well as by strict compliance of States parties with their voluntarily accepted obligations,

Considering that existing regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field could be further improved,

Emphasizing the necessity for the international community to continue its efforts to take practical measures to prevent mass and flagrant violations and all other violations of human rights, including all forms of discrimination based on distinctions of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, which continue to take place in many parts of the world, contrary to the provisions of international instruments in the field of human rights,

Noting the importance that the promotion and protection of human rights has secured on the international agenda and in relations between States,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to implement fully the universally recognized standards for the protection and promotion of human rights enshrined, in particular, in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments;

2. *Urges* all States to co-operate fully with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system as well as other inter-governmental forums dealing with the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world;

3. *Considers* that such co-operation will make an effective and practical contribution to the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

4. *Expresses its conviction* that the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the implementation of universally recognized human rights standards, are particularly important for all countries;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the various international instruments in the field of human rights;

6. *Recognizes* the value of common efforts by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at international, regional, bilateral and national levels in the field of human rights;

7. *Considers* that a world public information campaign on human rights would contribute to the promotion and improvement of understanding of human rights;

8. *Emphasizes* that the wide dissemination of information on human rights is an important task and would contribute to the implementation of universally recognized international human rights standards;

9. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-fourth session under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

*75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988*

43/156. Improvement of social life

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the Members of the United Nations have undertaken in the Charter to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling the principles proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,⁸⁰

Mindful of the need to establish a harmonious balance between scientific, technological and material progress

and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of mankind,

Considering that the improvement of social life must be based on respect for and the promotion of all human rights and particularly on the elimination of all forms of discrimination,

Recognizing that social progress and development are founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person,

Considering that healthy recreational, cultural and sports activities contribute to the achievement of a proper level of physical and mental health,

Considering also that the improvement of social life must take place in a continuous and uninterrupted manner,

Mindful that the existing inequalities and imbalances in the international economic system are widening the gap between developed and developing countries and thereby constitute a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries and adversely affect international relations and the promotion of world peace and security,

Conscious that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has a primary role in ensuring the social progress and well-being of its people,

Convinced of the urgent necessity rapidly to eradicate colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination, *apartheid*, foreign aggression, occupation and domination and all forms of inequality, exploitation and subjugation of peoples, which constitute major obstacles to economic and social progress as well as to the promotion of world peace and security,

Recalling its resolutions 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 41/152 of 4 December 1986 and 42/145 of 7 December 1987,

1. *Acknowledges* that the progress achieved in the world social situation is still inadequate despite the efforts made and that efforts should therefore be redoubled;

2. *Notes with great concern* the slow progress in the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;

3. *Reaffirms* that the social aspects and goals of development are an integral part of the overall development process and that it is the sovereign right of each State freely to determine and implement appropriate policies for social development within the framework of its development plans and priorities;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance, for the achievement of social progress, of the establishment of the new international economic order;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to make all efforts to promote the speedy and complete elimination of such fundamental elements hindering economic and social progress and development as colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination, *apartheid*, foreign aggression, occupation, and domination and all forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples, and also to undertake effective measures to lessen international tensions;

6. *Reiterates* that it is the right of everyone to enjoy the greatest possible degree of physical and mental health;

7. *Emphasizes* that participation in cultural, sports and recreational activities and the use of leisure without discrimination of any kind promotes the improvement of social life;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development the results attained in the improvement of social life in the world;

9. *Decides* to resume consideration of the question of the improvement of social life at its forty-fifth session.

75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988

43/157. Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Aware of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² which provides that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, that everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his or her country, that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, and that this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Noting that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²⁰ provides that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country,

Condemning the system of *apartheid* and any other denial or abridgement of the right to vote on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling that all States enjoy sovereign equality and that each State has the right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic, and cultural systems,

1. *Emphasizes* the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which establish that the authority to govern shall be based on the will of the people, as expressed in periodic and genuine elections;

2. *Stresses* its conviction that periodic and genuine elections are a necessary and indispensable element of sustained efforts to protect the rights and interests of the governed and that, as a matter of practical experience, the right of everyone to take part in the government of his or her country is a crucial factor in the effective enjoyment by all of a wide range of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, including political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

3. *Declares* that determining the will of the people requires an electoral process which accommodates distinct alternatives, and that this process should provide an equal