

Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth,⁹⁹ thirty-seventh,¹⁰⁰ thirty-eighth,¹⁰¹ thirty-ninth,¹⁰² fortieth,¹⁰³ forty-first,⁴¹ forty-second,¹⁰⁴ forty-third,⁴⁴ forty-fourth⁴⁵ and forty-fifth sessions,²

Reiterating its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982, 38/16 of 22 November 1983, 39/18 of 23 November 1984, 40/24 of 29 November 1985, 41/100 of 4 December 1986, 42/94 of 7 December 1987 and 43/105 of 8 December 1988,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁰⁵

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, particularly the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of these acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting

⁹⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 1981, *Supplement No. 5* and corrigendum (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, 1982, *Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, 1983, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, 1984, *Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 1986, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁰⁵ A/44/548.

from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session under the item entitled "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights".

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/81. Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States and self-determination of peoples, as well as a scrupulous respect for the principle of the non-use or threat of use of force in international relations, as developed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,¹⁰⁶

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples and their liberation movements for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, *apartheid* and foreign intervention and occupation, and that their legitimate struggle can in no way be considered as or equated to mercenary activity,

Recognizing that the use of mercenaries is a threat to international peace and security,

Deeply concerned about the menace that the activities of mercenaries represent for all States, particularly African, Central American and other developing States,

Alarmed at the emergence of new international criminal activities carried out by mercenaries in collusion with drug traffickers,

Recognizing that the activities of mercenaries are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, such as non-interference in the internal affairs of States, territorial integrity and independence, and impede the process of the self-determination of peoples struggling against colonialism, racism and *apartheid* and all forms of foreign domination,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions, in which, *inter alia*, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries, with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as of the Organization of African Unity,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the short-term and long-term negative effects on the economy of southern African countries resulting from mercenary aggression,

¹⁰⁶ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Convinced that it is necessary to develop international co-operation among States for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such offences,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his report on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;¹⁰⁷

2. *Condemns* the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries, as well as all other forms of support to mercenaries for the purpose of destabilizing and overthrowing the Governments of States in southern Africa and Central America and of other developing States and fighting against national liberation movements of peoples struggling for the exercise of their right to self-determination;

3. *Affirms* that the use as well as the recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries are offences of grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Strongly condemns* the racist régime of South Africa for its use of groups of armed mercenaries against national liberation movements and for the destabilization of the Governments of southern African States;

5. *Denounces* any State that persists in the recruitment, or permits or tolerates the recruitment, of mercenaries and provides facilities to them for launching armed aggression against other States;

6. *Urges* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to ensure, by both administrative and legislative measures, that the territory of those States and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries, or for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State and to fight the national liberation movements struggling against racism, *apartheid*, colonial domination and foreign intervention or occupation;

7. *Calls upon* all States to extend humanitarian assistance to victims of situations resulting from the use of mercenaries, as well as from colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation;

8. *Considers* that the use of channels of humanitarian and other assistance to finance, train and arm mercenaries is inadmissible;

9. *Welcomes* the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/7 of 22 February 1988⁴⁵ aimed at giving the Special Rapporteur the full opportunity to carry out his mandate most effectively;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the use of mercenaries.

*78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989*

44/82. International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Guided by the resolve of the peoples of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, with a view to the creation of condi-

tions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations between nations,

Guided also by the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁵ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,²⁸ according to which the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family,

Bearing in mind its resolution 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/46 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/71 of 24 May 1989 entitled "Achievement of social justice",

Bearing in mind also the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women⁵² and recalling that by its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987 it endorsed for action the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,²⁹ which called for social welfare policies to give greater attention to the family,

Recognizing the efforts of Governments at the local, regional and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family, in which the United Nations may have an important role to play, and in raising awareness, increasing understanding and promoting policies that improve the position and well-being of the family,

Recalling its resolutions 42/134 of 7 December 1987 and 43/135 of 8 December 1988 on the need to enhance international co-operation in the field of the protection of and assistance to the family, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 and 1985/29 of 29 May 1985, and taking note of Council resolution 1989/54 of 24 May 1989,

Taking into account its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

Taking note with interest and appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General prepared in pursuance of its resolution 43/135,¹⁰⁸

1. *Proclaims* 1994 as International Year of the Family;

2. *Decides* that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be concentrated at the local, regional and national levels and assisted by the United Nations and its system of organizations, with a view to creating among Governments, policy-makers and the public a greater awareness of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society;

3. *Endorses* the main recommendations, objectives and principles for the observance of the Year, as contained in the comprehensive outline of a possible programme for the Year;¹⁰⁹

4. *Invites* all Governments, specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year and to co-operate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of his report and in consultation with Member States, concerned specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a draft programme for the preparation for and observance

¹⁰⁷ A/44/526, annex.

¹⁰⁸ A/44/407.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, sect. 1V.