

of the Year and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take specific measures, through all the communication media at his disposal, to give widespread publicity to the activities of the United Nations system in the area of family issues and to increase the dissemination of information on this subject;

7. *Designates* the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the co-ordinating body for the International Year of the Family;

8. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-fifth session under an item entitled "International Year of the Family".

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/127. International Literacy Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year,

Recalling also that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁴ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁵ the inalienable right of every individual 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 Decade¹⁰ and should become one of the objectives of the strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

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

Convinced that literacy, especially functional literacy and adequate education, represents an indispensable element for development and for the harnessing of science, technology and human resources for economic and social progress,

Confident that International Literacy Year will offer a unique opportunity for mobilizing efforts at the national, regional and international levels to combat illiteracy,

Welcoming the programme for International Literacy Year prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recognizing that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has assumed the role of lead organization for International Literacy Year,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the commendable work done by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Director-General to ensure adequate preparation for International Literacy Year;

2. *Commends* those Governments that have established national committees or similar structures for International Literacy Year and have launched national programmes aimed at meeting the objectives of the Year;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system for their contribution to the preparation for International Literacy Year;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the active involvement of many non-governmental organizations in preparatory activities for International Literacy Year and, in particular, the establishment of the International Task Force on Literacy;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Conference on Education for All, to be held in Thailand in March 1990 under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank;

6. *Invites* Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take appropriate measures with a view to achieving the objectives of International Literacy Year;

7. *Also invites* Governments that have not yet done so to establish a programme of measures for enhancing literacy and functional literacy for the period up to the year 2000 along the lines of the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;¹¹

8. *Appeals* to Governments, economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend financial and material support to local, national and regional initiatives to promote literacy;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to give wide publicity to the activities and measures to be undertaken during International Literacy Year;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International Literacy Year".

82nd plenary meeting
15 December 1989

44/128. Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in its resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948,

Recalling also article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights contained in the annex to its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966,

Mindful of its decision 35/437 of 15 December 1980, reaffirmed in its resolution 36/59 of 25 November 1981, to consider the idea of elaborating a draft of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,

Mindful also of its resolution 37/192 of 18 December 1982, in which it requested the Commission on Human

¹⁰ See resolution 35/56, annex.

¹¹ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-fifth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, p. 71.