

rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments”.

68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990

#### 45/86. Achievement of social justice

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and 44/55 of 8 December 1989, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/46 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/71 of 24 May 1989, and taking note of Council resolution 1990/25 of 24 May 1990,

Recalling also the pledge made by States Members of the United Nations in the Charter to take joint and separate action to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Recognizing that more extensive international and regional co-operation is important for promoting social progress at the national level,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>12</sup> social progress and development shall be founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and shall ensure the promotion of human rights and social justice,

Mindful of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,<sup>13</sup> the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>14</sup> the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons<sup>15</sup> and the International Plan of Action on Aging,<sup>16</sup>

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to develop a comprehensive approach to developmental social welfare, including better integrated and mutually supportive economic and social development policies, aimed at the achievement of social justice,

1. *Confirms* that social justice is one of the most important goals of social progress;

2. *Reaffirms* that the common purpose of the international community must be to forge from varied economic, social and political conditions a global environment of sustained development, full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and social justice and peace;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of co-operation among countries in promoting a climate conducive to the achievement by individual countries of the goals of development and social justice and progress;

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

<sup>13</sup> E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

<sup>14</sup> *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>15</sup> A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

<sup>16</sup> See *Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

4. *Considers* that such co-operation and its promotion should continue to be a major focus of activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in elaborating policies in the field of social development and for the improvement of the social situation of all population groups, to take into consideration the importance of achieving social justice for all;

6. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General, in preparing studies and reports on social problems, should examine the question of social justice and ways in which it could be achieved;

7. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its next regular session, to consider the question of achieving social justice.

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#### 45/87. World social situation

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 1392 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/98 and 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 42/49 of 30 November 1987, 43/113 of 8 December 1988 and 44/56 of 8 December 1989 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/39, 1987/40, 1987/46 and 1987/52 of 28 May 1987, 1989/72 of 24 May 1989 and Council decision 1989/113 of 28 July 1989, and taking note of Council resolution 1990/28 of 24 May 1990,

Bearing in mind the objective of improving the well-being of the world's population on the basis of the full and equal participation of all members of society in the process of development and the fair distribution to them of the benefits therefrom,

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 the primary responsibility of ensuring the social progress and well-being of the people,

Convinced of the urgent need to eradicate policies and practices that hinder social progress, including racism and racial discrimination, in particular *apartheid*,

Convinced also that the pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve that objective, especially to meet the basic needs for food, housing, education, employment and health care and to struggle against scourges which endanger the health and well-being of their population,

Deeply concerned about the worsening economic situation in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, as evidenced by the significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of countries and the decline of the main social and economic indicators of those countries,

Bearing in mind the importance of the 1989 *Report on the World Social Situation*<sup>17</sup> for increasing awareness of the advances made towards the goals of social progress

<sup>17</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.1.