

protection and promotion of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, taking into consideration their indivisible and interrelated character and the fact that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights;

5. *Urges* those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with that request;

6. *Also urges* States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* that the majority of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and an increasing number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have been represented by experts in the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the respective monitoring bodies in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in the future;

8. *Again urges* all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

9. *Invites* the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

11. *Stresses* the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification for and appropriateness of measures taken in these circumstances can be assessed;

12. *Appeals* to States parties to the Covenants that have exercised their sovereign right to make reservations in accordance with relevant rules of international law to consider whether any such reservations should be reviewed;

13. *Urges* States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations bodies to extend their full support and co-operation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

14. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of general comment No. 2 (1990), regarding international technical as-

sistance measures in relation to article 22 of the Covenant;<sup>195</sup>

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights informed of the relevant activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture and, where appropriate, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies, and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates;

17. *Again urges* the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

18. *Encourages* all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

19. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights", a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

20. *Decides* to hold a commemorative meeting in honour of the Covenants on 16 December 1991, the twenty-fifth anniversary of their adoption.

68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990

#### 45/136. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

*The General Assembly,*

*Conscious* of the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimina-

<sup>195</sup> *Ibid.*, annex III.

tion of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

*Recalling* its resolution 44/131 of 15 December 1989, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

*Encouraged* by the efforts being made by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to study relevant developments affecting the implementation of the Declaration,

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/27 of 2 March 1990<sup>3</sup> and Economic and Social Council decision 1990/229 of 25 May 1990, by which the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate was extended for two years,

*Recognizing* that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

*Emphasizing* that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief by, *inter alia*, engaging in the examination of the most effective means to promote the implementation of the Declaration,

*Conscious* of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

*Seriously concerned* that intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief continue to occur in many parts of the world and that in some respects the incidence thereof has increased,

*Believing* that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

*Noting* that the tenth anniversary of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Declaration will occur in 1991 and that this will provide an opportunity to reinforce efforts aimed at the effective implementation of the Declaration,

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a right guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States, therefore, in accordance with their respective constitutional systems and with such internationally accepted instruments as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>33</sup> and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, to provide, where they have not already done so, adequate constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief;

3. *Urges* all States to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and, in this context, to examine where necessary the supervision and training of their civil servants, educators and other public officials to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, they respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

4. *Calls upon* all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief, and to establish and maintain places for these purposes;

5. *Also calls upon* all States in accordance with their national legislation to exert utmost efforts to ensure that religious places and shrines are fully respected and protected;

6. *Urges* all States to consider, in the context of the tenth anniversary in 1991 of the proclamation of the Declaration by the General Assembly, what further measures might be taken at the national and regional levels to promote the effective implementation of the Declaration;

7. *Invites* the United Nations University and other academic and research institutions to undertake programmes and studies on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

8. *Considers* it desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure, especially in the context of the tenth anniversary of the proclamation of the Declaration, that appropriate measures are taken to this end in the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration, in all the official languages of the United Nations, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration, including the Second International Conference on Ways to Promote the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, held at Warsaw from 14 to 18 May 1989;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing in the implementation of the Declaration and in its dissemination in national and local languages;

12. *Urges* all States to consider disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in national and local languages;

13. *Welcomes* the decision of the Economic and Social Council, based on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session, to renew for two years the mandate of the Special Rap-

porteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

14. *Notes* that the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the working paper prepared by Mr. Theo van Boven,<sup>196</sup> member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which contained a compilation of provisions relevant to the elimination of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as well as the issues and factors to be considered before any drafting of a further binding international instrument, and emphasizes, in this connection, the relevance of General Assembly resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986 entitled "Setting international standards in the field of human rights";

15. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration and to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights under that item.

68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990

**45/137. International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 44/136 of 15 December 1989,

*Gravely concerned* about the continuous deterioration of the situation in southern Africa arising from the domination and oppression of the people of South Africa by the minority racist régime of South Africa,

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>197</sup>

*Conscious* of its responsibility to provide economic, material and humanitarian assistance to independent States in southern Africa in order to assist them in coping with the situation resulting from the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa,

*Noting with appreciation* the consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General to establish within the United Nations system a mechanism to ensure the implementation and overall co-ordination of relief programmes for internally displaced persons,

*Convinced* of the necessity to strengthen the capacity of the identified focal points within the United Nations system for the implementation and the overall co-ordination of relief programmes for internally displaced persons,

*Noting with indignation* that South Africa's policy of *apartheid* and its direct and indirect acts of aggression, intimidation and destabilization through armed terror-

ists continue to be the main causes of refugee flows and increasing displacement of persons in southern Africa,

*Convinced also* that there is an urgent need for the international community to extend maximum and concerted assistance to southern African countries sheltering refugees, returnees and displaced persons and also to highlight the plight of these persons,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reaffirms* the need to continue the implementation of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa<sup>198</sup> adopted by the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, held at Oslo from 22 to 24 August 1988;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the countries and organizations that have given assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to cope with the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their territories;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their territories;

5. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts, on behalf of the international community, to organize and mobilize special programmes of economic assistance for the front-line and other neighbouring States to help them to withstand the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to implement the specific tasks and responsibilities assigned to them in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

7. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Secretary-General aimed at assigning to the United Nations resident co-ordinators the function of co-ordinating assistance for internally displaced persons, in close co-operation with Governments, local representatives of donor countries and United Nations agencies in the field;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the identified focal points at the field level to enable them to respond more effectively to government requests for assistance to refugees and displaced persons;

9. *Once again urges* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the measures required of them under the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;

<sup>196</sup> E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/32.

<sup>197</sup> A/45/480.

<sup>198</sup> A/43/717 and Corr.1 and Add.1.