

ernments concerned to increase their co-operation in support of such subregional strategies;

12. *Strongly recommends* that the necessary resources from within the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources be made available for the implementation of the various activities for drug abuse control, and particularly for the implementation of the mandates and courses of action contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action;

13. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to study the mandates and recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the Global Programme of Action and other relevant documents, with a view to establishing a timetable for their implementation in the first five years of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse 1991-2000.²³⁴

II

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs as a document of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly²⁴¹ and to submit it to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for consideration at its thirty-fifth session;

2. *Invites* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to study the various recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group, in particular those relating to the proposed framework for a future in-depth study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session through the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the provisional and preliminary nature of the study carried out by the Intergovernmental Expert Group, to consider the possibility of convening a meeting of an expert group to conclude the analysis commenced pursuant to paragraph 9 (a) of resolution 44/142, and to give due consideration to any recommendations made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

4. *Notes with interest* the observation made by the Intergovernmental Expert Group that it is important for the United Nations to develop an integrated and unified information system to provide reliable data and information on the illicit drug trafficking chain, especially illicit production, manufacture, processing and consumption;²⁴³

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the measures to be adopted in implementation, in a timely manner, of the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Expert Group, as well as the relevant recommendations made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

45/150. 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,⁵ 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 Rights³³ 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,

Considering that the tricameral parliament established under the system of *apartheid* is a gross violation of the principle of universal and equal suffrage and has been overwhelmingly rejected by the international community,

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,

Recognizing that there is no single political system or electoral method that is equally suited to all nations and their people,

²⁴³ See A/C.3/45/8, annex, para. 24.

Taking note of the Secretary-General's observations concerning United Nations support for elections in Member States, as presented in his report on the work of the Organization,²⁴⁴

Recalling its resolutions 43/157 of 8 December 1988 and 44/146 of 15 December 1989, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51 of 7 March 1989,¹⁸³

1. *Underscores* 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, embracing political, economic, social and cultural rights;

3. *Declares* that determining the will of the people requires an electoral process that provides an equal opportunity for all citizens to become candidates and put forward their political views, individually and in co-operation with others, as provided in national constitutions and laws;

4. *Recognizes* that the efforts of the international community to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections should not call into question each State's sovereign right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems, whether or not they conform to the preferences of other States;

5. *Underscores* the duty of each member of the international community to respect the decisions taken by other States in freely choosing and developing their electoral institutions;

6. *Reaffirms* that *apartheid* must be abolished, that the systematic denial or abridgement of the right to vote on the grounds of race or colour is a gross violation of human rights and an affront to the conscience and dignity of mankind, and that the right to participate in a political system based on common and equal citizenship and universal franchise is essential for the exercise of the principle of periodic and genuine elections;

7. *Rejects* the tricameral parliament established under the system of *apartheid* as an abhorrent expression of a fundamentally oppressive and flagrantly inhuman political system;

8. *Affirms* the value of the electoral assistance that the United Nations has provided at the request of Member States, in the context of full respect for their sovereignty;

9. *Believes* that the international community should continue to give serious consideration to ways in which the United Nations can respond to the requests of Member States as they seek to promote and strengthen their electoral institutions and procedures;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, specialized agencies, other competent bodies of the United Nations system and those with specific expertise in this area concerning suitable approaches that will permit the Organization to respond to the requests of Member States for electoral assistance;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report his findings to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, together with an account of United Nations experience in election monitoring, within existing resources;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

45/151. Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes 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 take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Also recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, by which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recalling the principle enshrined in Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations, which establishes that nothing contained in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the Charter,

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa for the elimination of *apartheid* and for the establishment of a society in which all the people of South Africa as a whole, irrespective of race, colour or creed, will enjoy equal and full political and other rights and participate freely in the determination of their destiny,

Also reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of all peoples under colonial and foreign domination, particularly the Palestinian people, for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence, which will enable them to decide freely on their own future,

Recognizing that the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State should be respected in the holding of elections,

Also recognizing that there is no single political system or single model for electoral processes equally suited to all nations and their peoples, and that political

²⁴⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/45/1)*, sect. II.