

systems and electoral processes are subject to historical, political, cultural and religious factors,

Recalling its resolution 44/147 of 15 December 1989,

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right, freely and without external interference, to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;

2. *Affirms* that it is the concern solely of peoples to determine methods and to establish institutions regarding the electoral process, as well as to determine the ways for its implementation according to their constitutional and national legislation;

3. *Also affirms* that any extraneous activities that attempt, directly or indirectly, to interfere in the free development of national electoral processes, in particular in the developing countries, or that intend to sway the results of such processes, violate the spirit and letter of the principles established in the Charter and 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;

4. *Urges* all States to respect the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the sovereign right of peoples to determine their political, economic and social system;

5. *Strongly appeals* to all States to abstain from financing or providing, directly or indirectly, any other form of overt or covert support for political parties or groups and from taking actions to undermine the electoral processes in any country;

6. *Condemns* any act of armed aggression or threat or use of force against peoples, their elected Governments or their legitimate leaders;

7. *Solemnly declares* that only the total eradication of *apartheid* and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic society based on majority rule, through the full and free exercise of adult suffrage by all the people in a united and non-fragmented South Africa, can lead to a just and lasting solution to the explosive situation in South Africa;

8. *Reaffirms* 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 determine their political, economic and social system, without external interference;

9. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, to give priority to the review of the fundamental factors that negatively affect the observance of the principle of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item

entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections".

*69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990*

45/152. Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/142 of 13 December 1985, 41/147 of 4 December 1986, 42/133 of 7 December 1987, 43/138 of 8 December 1988 and 44/158 of 15 December 1989,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1986/18 of 10 March 1986,¹⁸⁰ 1987/25 of 10 March 1987,¹⁸¹ 1988/28 of 7 March 1988¹⁸² and 1989/16 of 2 March 1989¹⁸³ and taking note of Commission resolution 1990/19 of 23 February 1990,³

Recalling further its resolution 260 A (III) of 9 December 1948, by which it approved and proposed for signature the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide annexed thereto,

Reaffirming once again its conviction that genocide is a crime that violates the norms of international law and runs counter to the spirit and aims of the United Nations,

Recognizing that crimes of genocide have caused great losses and privations to mankind throughout its history,

Expressing its conviction that strict observance of the provisions of the Convention by all countries is necessary for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²⁴⁵

1. *Once again strongly condemns* the crime of genocide;

2. *Reaffirms* the necessity of international co-operation in order to liberate mankind from such an odious crime;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that more than one hundred States have ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide or have acceded thereto;

4. *Urges* those States which have not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto without further delay;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention.

*69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990*

45/153. Human rights and mass exoduses

The General Assembly,

Mindful of its general humanitarian mandate under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

²⁴⁵ A/45/404.

Deeply disturbed by the continuing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in many regions of the world and by the human suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons,

Conscious of the fact that human rights violations are one of the multiple and complex factors causing mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, as indicated in the study of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on this subject²⁴⁶ and also in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,²⁴⁷

Aware of the recommendations concerning mass exoduses made by the Commission on Human Rights to its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to special rapporteurs to be taken into account when studying violations of human rights in any part of the world,

Deeply preoccupied by the increasingly heavy burden being imposed, particularly upon developing countries with limited resources of their own and upon the international community as a whole, by these sudden mass exoduses and displacements of population,

Stressing the need for international co-operation aimed at averting new massive flows of refugees while providing durable solutions to actual refugee situations,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/70 of 3 December 1986, in which it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,

Bearing in mind its resolution 44/164 of 15 December 1989 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/52 of 6 March 1990,³ as well as all previous relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

Welcoming the steps taken so far by the United Nations to examine the problem of massive outflows of refugees and displaced persons in all its aspects, including its root causes,

Noting that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has specifically acknowledged the direct relationship between observance of human rights standards, refugee movements and problems of protection,

1. *Reaffirms* its support for the recommendation of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees that the principal organs of the United Nations should make fuller use of their respective competencies under the Charter of the United Nations for the prevention of new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

2. *Again invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their co-operation with and assistance to world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses;

3. *Requests* all Governments to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant international instruments, in particular in the field of human rights, as this

would contribute to averting new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

4. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to keep the question of human rights and mass exoduses under review with a view to supporting the early-warning arrangement instituted by the Secretary-General to avert new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

5. *Takes note* of the establishment by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the Working Group on Solutions and Protection;²⁴⁸

6. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses²⁴⁹ and invites him to inform the General Assembly in future reports of the modalities of early-warning activities to avert new and massive flows of refugees;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The co-ordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows";²⁵⁰

8. *Specially encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to discharge the task described in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, including the continuous monitoring of all potential outflows, keeping in mind the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;²⁵¹

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to develop the role of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the Secretariat as a focal point for the operation of an effective early-warning system and the strengthening of co-ordination of information-gathering and analysis among United Nations agencies with a view to preventing new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

10. *Urges* the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources to consolidate and strengthen the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area by, *inter alia*, the computerization of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information and strengthened co-ordination among the relevant parts of the United Nations system, especially the Office for Research and the Collection of Information, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the relevant specialized agencies;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary information available to the competent United Nations organs, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

12. *Invites* bodies of the United Nations system to consider the most expedient ways and means of following up the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on co-ordination;²⁵¹

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the strengthened role that he is playing with regard to early-warning activities, especially in the humanitarian area, as well as on any further developments relating to

²⁴⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1)*, sect. III.A.

²⁴⁹ A/45/607.

²⁵⁰ A/45/649 and Corr.1, annex.

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*, sect. VI.B.

²⁴⁶ E/CN.4/1503.

²⁴⁷ A/41/324, annex.

the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the efforts to follow up recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of human rights and mass exoduses at its forty-sixth session.

*69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990*

45/154. Assistance to refugees in Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/180 of 15 December 1980, 36/153 of 16 December 1981, 37/174 of 17 December 1982, 38/88 of 16 December 1983, 39/104 of 14 November 1984, 40/132 of 13 December 1985, 41/138 of 4 December 1986, 42/127 of 7 December 1987, 43/147 of 8 December 1988 and 44/152 of 15 December 1989 on assistance to refugees in Somalia,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,²⁵²

Deeply concerned about the heavy burden that has been placed on the fragile economy of Somalia by the continuing presence of large numbers of refugees,

Noting with concern the decision taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme to suspend temporarily their food and other humanitarian assistance programmes for refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia, and the food shortages that have occurred in the refugee settlements as a result of the termination of the extraordinary interim emergency programme,

Considering the urgent need to reactivate the extraordinary interim emergency programme to alleviate hardship and human suffering of refugees in the affected north-west districts of Somalia,

Conscious of the fact that Somalia, as a least developed country, does not possess the economic or financial capacity to fill the gap created by the temporary suspension of humanitarian assistance programmes for refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia,

Aware of the fact that Somalia does not have the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance from its limited resources,

Noting with concern the deleterious effect of the presence of refugees on the environment, which has resulted in widespread deforestation, soil erosion and the threat of destruction to an already fragile ecological balance,

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

2. *Commends* the measures that the Government of Somalia is taking to provide material and humanitarian assistance to refugees, in spite of its own limited resources and fragile economy;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refu-

gees, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their efforts to assist the refugees in Somalia;

4. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme to resume their assistance programmes for the refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia as soon as possible;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner, the World Food Programme and the donor community, to resume the interim assistance programme so as to ensure that essential food aid and other humanitarian supplies continue to reach the refugee settlements in the north-west districts of Somalia until such time as a more permanent arrangement can be made;

6. *Appeals once again* to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to give full support to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the interim assistance programme;

7. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to render maximum and timely material, financial and technical assistance to enable the Government of Somalia to implement the projects and activities identified in the report of the 1987 inter-agency mission annexed to the report of the Secretary-General²⁵³ as the basis for a comprehensive programme of action concerned with both the humanitarian and the developmental needs of refugees;

8. *Requests* the pertinent organizations of the United Nations system, namely, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Food Programme, to prepare, in consultation with the Government of Somalia, detailed project documentation for the implementation of those projects and activities identified in the report of the Secretary-General²⁵⁴ as priority endeavours for a comprehensive programme of action;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue and expand their activities in Somalia, in co-operation with the Government of Somalia, and to protect and rehabilitate its damaged environment;

10. *Recognizes* the important role that the non-governmental organizations are playing with regard to programmes for the care, maintenance and rehabilitation of refugees, particularly in activities related to small-scale development projects, and in the fields of health and agriculture;

11. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1991, of the progress made in their respective

²⁵² A/45/508.

²⁵³ A/42/645.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 55-66.