

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.

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.