

Welcoming with appreciation the fact that the High Commissioner has continued in 1990 and 1991 to organize and implement programmes for educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees in the southern African region,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the cooperation that they have extended to the High Commissioner on matters concerning the welfare of student refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General¹¹⁴ and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;¹⁰⁰

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance in mitigating the plight of the large number of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

3. *Commends* the Governments concerned for providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other measures taken in order to find appropriate and lasting solutions;

4. *Expresses deep concern* at the serious and far-reaching consequences of the massive presence of refugees and displaced persons in the countries concerned and the implications for their long-term socio-economic development;

5. *Expresses the hope* that additional resources will be made available for general refugee programmes to keep pace with refugee needs;

6. *Appeals* to Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate material, financial and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugees, voluntary returnees and displaced persons and victims of natural disasters;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue their efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in rural and urban areas affected by the presence of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue her efforts with the appropriate United Nations agencies and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to consolidate and increase essential services to refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study and assess the environmental and socio-economic impact of the prolonged presence of refugees in the host countries with a view to rehabilitating those areas;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled "Questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons", and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992.

74th plenary meeting
16 December 1991

46/110. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ which states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹¹⁸

Recalling with satisfaction the entry into force on 26 June 1987 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹¹⁹

Recalling its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which it noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Alarmed at the widespread occurrence of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Convinced that the struggle to eliminate torture includes the provision of assistance in a humanitarian spirit to the victims and members of their families,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹²⁰

1. *Expresses its gratitude and appreciation* to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

2. *Calls upon* all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for initial as well as further contributions to the Fund;

3. *Invites* Governments to make contributions to the Fund, preferably on a regular basis, in order to enable the Fund to provide continuous support to projects that depend on recurrent grants;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments that pledged a contribution to the Fund at the 1991 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has carried out;

7. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the support given to the Board of Trustees of the Fund by carrying out its decisions on an increasing number of projects;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known and in its appeal for contributions.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991

46/111. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/85 of 14 December 1990, as well as its other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/20 of 1 March 1991³⁸ and recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1990/226 of 25 May 1990, by which the Council approved the recommendations of the Task Force on Computerization for computerizing the human rights treaty system,¹²¹

Reaffirming that the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights is of major importance to the efforts made by the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations instruments on human rights is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Expressing concern about the continuing and increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties of United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies,

Expressing further concern about the non-fulfilment by many States parties of their financial obligation under the relevant United Nations instruments on human rights,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

- (a) Ensuring the effective functioning of systems of periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;
- (b) Securing sufficient financial resources to overcome existing difficulties with the effective functioning of treaty bodies;
- (c) Addressing the question of reporting obligations and that of financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights;

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 10 to 14 October 1988,¹²² and the endorsement of the recommendations aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/135 of 15 December 1989 and the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1989/47 of 6 March 1989,³⁶

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General¹²³ on progress achieved in enhancing the effective functioning of the treaty bodies, pursuant, *inter alia*, to the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies,

Taking particular note of the conclusions and recommendations of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990,¹²⁴

Welcoming the study¹²⁵ on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing

and prospective bodies established under United Nations instruments on human rights, prepared by an independent expert, pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions,

Welcoming also the report of the Secretary-General¹²⁶ examining the financial, legal and other implications of providing full funding for the operation of all human rights treaty bodies,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and supports the continuing efforts in this connection by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General within their respective spheres of competence;

2. *Once again expresses its satisfaction* with the study by the independent expert on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations instruments on human rights, which contains several recommendations on reporting and monitoring procedures, servicing and financing of supervisory bodies and long-term approaches to human rights standard-setting and implementation mechanisms, and which was presented to the Commission on Human Rights for detailed consideration at its forty-sixth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give high priority to establishing a computerized database to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the treaty bodies;

4. *Again urges* States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations and to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining and improving reporting procedures as well as enhancing co-ordination and information flow between the treaty bodies and with relevant United Nations bodies, including specialized agencies;

5. *Welcomes* the emphasis placed by the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services and, further to this end:

(a) *Endorses* the request of the Commission that the Secretary-General report regularly to it on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

(b) *Invites* the treaty bodies to give priority attention to identifying such possibilities in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

6. *Endorses* the recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on the need to ensure financing and adequate staffing resources for the operations of the treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

(a) *Reiterates* its request that the Secretary-General review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various treaty bodies;

(b) *Requests* that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

7. *Calls upon* all States parties to meet fully and without delay their financial obligations under the relevant instruments on human rights, and requests the Secretary-

General to consider ways and means of strengthening collection procedures and making them more effective;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to consider administrative and budgetary measures to alleviate the current financial difficulties of the treaty bodies and thus guarantee their regular functioning and to report on these measures to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session;

9. *Emphasizes* that any administrative and budgetary measures shall be provided without prejudice to the duty of States parties under United Nations human rights instruments to meet all their current and outstanding financial obligations pursuant to such instruments;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a further report examining the financial, legal and other implications of providing full funding for the operation of all human rights treaty bodies;

11. *Invites* the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination² and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment¹⁹ to consider, as a matter of priority, all possible measures for meeting the costs of implementing these treaties on a viable, guaranteed basis, including the amendment of the funding provisions of these treaties;

12. *Endorses* the recommendation, made in October 1990, of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, that the General Assembly should take appropriate measures to ensure the financing of each of the committees from the United Nations regular budget;¹²⁷

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps in order to finance the biennial meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies from resources available from the regular budget of the United Nations;

14. *Decides* to give priority consideration at its forty-seventh session to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991*

46/112. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling also its resolutions 45/104 of 14 December 1990 and 45/217 of 21 December 1990, and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/74 of 7 March 1990,³⁷ and taking note of Commission resolution 1991/52 of 6 March 1991,³⁸

Reaffirming that the rights of children require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in

many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social and economic conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and of the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, makes a positive contribution to protecting the rights of children and ensuring their well-being,

Bearing in mind the successful conclusion of the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, in particular the adoption of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children,⁵⁶ while emphasizing the need for implementation of the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s,⁵⁶ and stressing the necessity to ensure follow-up to the Summit at the national and international levels,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention,¹²⁸

Bearing in mind that the Committee on the Rights of the Child held its first session from 30 September to 18 October 1991,

Encouraged by the fact that an unprecedented number of States have to date become signatories and parties to the Convention, thereby demonstrating the widespread commitment that exists to strive for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;¹²⁸

2. *Recalls with deep satisfaction* the entry into force of the Convention on 2 September 1990 as a major step in international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the number of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention since it was opened for signature, ratification and accession on 26 January 1990;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the dissemination of information on the Convention and its implementation, with a view to promoting further ratification of or accession to the Convention;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

7. *Recognizes* the important role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in overseeing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities so that the functions of the Committee may be carried out effectively;

9. *Supports* the organization of the future work of the Committee on the basis of two sessions annually, each for