

sion on Human Rights in the field of human rights in the administration of justice, as reflected in its resolutions 1991/34 of 5 March 1991 on human rights in the administration of justice, 1991/39 of 5 March 1991 on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers, 1991/43 of 5 March 1991 on the right to a fair trial and 1991/71 of 6 March 1991 on summary or arbitrary executions,<sup>38</sup>

*Welcoming* Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1991/31 of 5 March 1991 on human rights and thematic procedures, 1991/42 of 5 March 1991 on the question of arbitrary detention and 1991/70 of 6 March 1991 on co-operation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies,<sup>38</sup>

*Also welcoming* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/41 of 5 March 1991,<sup>38</sup> establishing an inter-sessional working group to finalize the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances, and inviting the Commission to consider the revised draft declaration as a matter of high priority at its forty-eighth session,

*Further welcoming* the recommendations contained in the first report of Mr. Louis Joinet<sup>152</sup> on strengthening the independence of judges and lawyers and endorsed by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in its resolution 1991/35 of 29 August 1991,<sup>153</sup> including those on planning and organizing advisory services and technical assistance, and also welcoming the decision of the Subcommission to entrust Mr. Joinet with the preparation of a further report,

*Welcoming* the further progress achieved by the Subcommission on the subject of compensation for victims of gross violations of human rights and also Subcommission resolution 1991/25 of 29 August 1991,<sup>153</sup>

*Recalling* the standards unanimously adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the recommendations made with a view to ensuring more effective applications of existing standards, and recalling also its invitation to Governments to respect these standards and to take them into account within the framework of their national legislation and practice,

*Recognizing* the significant work accomplished in this area under the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programmes,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the principles contained in its resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986 on standard-setting in the field of human rights,

*Underlining* the need for further coordinated and concerted action in promoting respect for human rights in the administration of justice,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full and effective implementation of United Nations norms and standards on human rights in the administration of justice;

2. *Once again calls upon* all States to pay due attention to these norms and standards in developing national and regional strategies for their practical implementation and to spare no effort in providing for effective legislative and other mechanisms and procedures, as well as for adequate financial resources to ensure more effective implementation of these norms and standards;

3. *Calls upon* all States to ensure the widest possible

dissemination of the texts of international instruments in this field;

4. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/15 of 30 May 1991 concerning the implementation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

5. *Recalls* its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and takes note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991,<sup>38</sup> in which the Commission recommended that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights should pay particular attention to the effective implementation of existing standards and instruments in the field of human rights;

6. *Welcomes* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/42, by which the Commission created a five-member working group to investigate cases of arbitrary detention, and requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary resources to the working group, taking into account its important and broad mandate;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to assist Member States, at their request, in implementing existing international human rights standards in the administration of justice, in particular under the programme of advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat;

(b) To continue to provide all necessary support to United Nations bodies working on the promotion and protection of human rights and on international standard-setting in this field;

(c) To ensure the widest possible dissemination of the texts of the international instruments in this field, including those adopted unanimously by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and to include the respective relevant texts in the next edition of the United Nations publication entitled *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*;

(d) To continue to coordinate activities in the field of human rights in the administration of justice, including the various technical advisory services carried out by the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to undertaking joint programmes and strengthening existing mechanisms;

8. *Emphasizes* the important role of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and United Nations institutes in the area of human rights and crime prevention and criminal justice and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including national professional associations concerned with promoting United Nations standards in this field;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*75th plenary meeting  
17 December 1991*

#### 46/121. Human rights and extreme poverty

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>4</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights<sup>26</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>26</sup> and other international instruments concerning human rights adopted by the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions 44/148 of 15 December 1989 and 44/212 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant resolutions,

*Bearing in mind* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/14 of 22 February 1991,<sup>38</sup> in which the Commission drew the attention of the General Assembly to the contradiction between the existence of situations of extreme poverty and exclusion from society, which must be overcome, and the duty to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, in which it proclaimed the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, one of the main characteristics of which is the search for a significant reduction in extreme poverty and a shared responsibility of all countries,

*Recognizing* that extreme poverty is a violation of human dignity and could constitute a threat to the right to life,

*Deeply concerned* at the steady increase in extreme poverty in the world and at its effect on the most vulnerable groups of society, which are thus prevented from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Aware* of the need for a better understanding of the causes of extreme poverty,

*Recognizing* that the elimination of widespread poverty and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights are interrelated goals,

*Recognizing* that the grave suffering of the great majority of human beings who live in conditions of extreme poverty demands the immediate attention of the international community and the adoption of concrete measures for the elimination of extreme poverty and social exclusion,

1. *Affirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international measures are therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Stresses* the need for an in-depth and complete study of the nature of the phenomenon of extreme poverty which affects mankind;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give appropriate consideration, in directing its studies of extreme poverty, to the conditions in which the poorest themselves can convey their experience and so contribute to a better understanding of their situation of social exclusion;

4. *Again requests* States, the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies and other international organizations, including intergovernmental organizations, to give the necessary attention to this problem;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the concrete measures taken by the United Nations Children's Fund to lessen the effects of extreme poverty on children and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give priority to the search for a means of alleviating poverty within the framework of the relevant resolutions;

6. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches

for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

75th plenary meeting  
17 December 1991

#### 46/122. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, by which it authorized the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to establish a Working Group on Slavery, renamed the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1988/42 of 8 March 1988,<sup>35</sup>

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/58 of 6 March 1991,<sup>38</sup> on the report of the Working Group,

*Taking note also* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/34 of 31 May 1991, by which it requested the General Assembly to establish a voluntary fund on contemporary forms of slavery.

*Gravely concerned* that slavery, the slave trade, slavery-like practices and even modern manifestations of this phenomenon still exist, representing some of the gravest violations of human rights,

*Convinced* that the establishment of a voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery would constitute a significant development for the protection of the human rights of victims of contemporary forms of slavery,

1. *Decides* to establish a voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery in accordance with the following criteria:

(a) The name of the fund shall be the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

(b) The purposes of the Fund shall be, first, to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance and, secondly, to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery;

(c) Funding shall be obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities;

(d) The only types of activity to be supported by the Fund shall be those described in subparagraph (b) above;

(e) The only beneficiaries from the Fund shall be:

(i) Representatives from non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery:

a. Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, described in subparagraph (f) below;