

*Expressing its profound emotion* at the anguish and sorrow of the families concerned, who are unsure of the fate of their relatives,

*Concerned* by the growing number of reports concerning harassment of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of disappeared persons,

*Recalling* that the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has referred on several occasions in its reports to the importance of drafting a declaration to enable it to fulfil its task properly,

*Convinced* of the need to continue implementing the provisions of its resolution 33/173 and of the other United Nations resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, with a view to finding solutions for cases of disappearances and helping to eliminate such practices,

*Bearing in mind* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/41 of 5 March 1991,<sup>38</sup>

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the open-ended working group established by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/41 has completed its consideration of the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances,<sup>158</sup> which will be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights for adoption at its forty-eighth session;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give this question high priority at its forty-eighth session;

3. *Appeals* to Governments to take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances and to take action at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations to that end;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work and thanks those Governments that have cooperated with it;

5. *Recalls with satisfaction* the decision made by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session to extend for two years the term of the mandate of the Working Group, as defined in Commission resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980,<sup>27</sup> while maintaining the principle of annual reporting, and requests the Working Group to continue to fulfil its mandate in a rigorous and constructive fashion;

6. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, particularly those which have not yet replied to the communications addressed to them by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it so as to enable it, with respect for its working methods based on discretion, to perform its strictly humanitarian role, and in particular to reply more quickly to the requests for information addressed to them;

7. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to consider the wish of the Working Group, when such a wish is expressed, to visit their countries, thus enabling it to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information;

9. *Extends its warm thanks* to those Governments which have invited the Working Group, requests them to give all necessary attention to its recommendations and invites them to inform the Working Group of any follow-up measures taken;

10. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned to take

steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment of which they may be the target;

11. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any step it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its forty-eighth session;

12. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all necessary facilities.

75th plenary meeting  
17 December 1991

#### 46/126. Human rights and scientific and technological progress

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting* that scientific and technological progress is one of the decisive factors in the development of human society,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>8</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>26</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>26</sup> and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>44</sup>

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind,<sup>159</sup>

*Reaffirming* the need to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person in the conditions of scientific and technological progress,

*Bearing in mind* that the main and decisive factor in the acceleration of the social and economic development of society is the development of the human being,

*Conscious* that modern science and technology give the possibility to create material conditions for the prosperity of society and for the thorough development of the human person,

*Being convinced* that today the resources of mankind and the activities of scientists should be used for the peaceful social, economic and cultural development of all countries, raising the standard of living of all peoples and for better assurance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recognizing* the need to broaden the access of developing countries to the achievements of scientific and technological progress,

*Recognizing also* the important contribution of science and technology to the economic and social progress of mankind,

*Aware* that the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge is one of the important ways to accelerate the social and economic development of all countries, especially of developing countries,

1. *Underlines* the importance of the implementation by all States of the provisions and principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>26</sup> and the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and

Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind for the promotion of the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that the achievements of scientific and technological progress and the intellectual potential of mankind are used for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Also calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of science and technology are used only for the benefit of the human being and do not lead to the disturbance of the ecological environment;

4. *Emphasizes* that scientific knowledge and technology in health, education, housing and other social spheres should be readily available to the population as the heritage of humanity;

5. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to take into consideration the relevant provisions of the international instruments listed above in their programmes and activities;

6. *Decides* to consider the question of human rights and scientific and technological progress at its forty-eighth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*75th plenary meeting  
17 December 1991*

#### 46/127. 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,

*Deeply disturbed* by the increasing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in many regions of the world and by the 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 subject<sup>160</sup> and also in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,<sup>161</sup>

*Aware* of the recommendations concerning mass exoduses made by the Commission on Human Rights to its Subcommission 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 cooperation 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 Ex-

perts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 45/153 of 18 December 1990 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/73 of 6 March 1991,<sup>38</sup> 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 Cooperation 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 cooperation 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. *Notes with appreciation* the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General in his annual report on the work of the Organization,<sup>162</sup> on the need to develop the capacity of the United Nations for early warning and preventive diplomacy to help deter humanitarian crises;

6. *Reiterates*, in this regard, its previous resolutions on the question of human rights and mass exoduses and requests the Secretary-General, in the further development of the capacity of the Secretariat for early warning and preventive diplomacy, to pay particular attention to international cooperation to avert new flows of refugees;

7. *Notes* in this connection that mass movements of populations are caused by multiple and complex factors, either man-made or natural, ranging from wars and armed conflicts, invasions and aggressions, violations of human rights, forcible expulsions, economic and social factors, natural disasters, to degradation in the environment, which indicates that early warning requires an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses,<sup>163</sup> and reiterates its request that future reports include information concerning the modalities and operations of early-warning activities to avert new and massive flows of refugees;