

Rights²⁶ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,²⁶ 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 1991,³⁸ 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 1988,³⁵

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/58 of 6 March 1991,³⁸ 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;

- b. Who would not, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery without the assistance provided by the Fund;
 - c. Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery;
- (ii) Individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and who are so considered by the Board of Trustees;
- (f) The Fund shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and other relevant provisions, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five persons with relevant experience in the field of human rights and contemporary forms of slavery in particular, who will serve in their personal capacity; the members of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution;
2. *Appeals* to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

*75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991*

46/123. Right to development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the proclamation by the General Assembly at its forty-first session of the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹⁵⁴

Recalling its resolution 45/97 of 14 December 1990, and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development, and taking note of Commission resolution 1991/15 of 22 February 1991,³⁸

Recalling also the report on the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Right to Development as a Human Right,¹⁵⁵

Reiterating the importance of the right to development for all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Mindful that the Commission on Human Rights has entered a new phase in its consideration of this matter, which is directed towards the implementation and further enhancement of the right to development,

Reaffirming the need for an evaluation mechanism so as to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that one of the objectives of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights would be to examine the relation between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, recognizing the importance of creating the conditions whereby everyone may enjoy these rights as set out in the International Covenants on Human Rights,²⁶

Having considered the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General,¹⁵⁶ prepared pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/18 of 23 February 1990³⁷ and General Assembly resolution 45/97,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the right to development for all countries, in particular the developing countries;

2. *Takes note with interest* of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General;¹⁵⁶

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session concrete proposals on the effective implementation and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development, taking into account the views expressed on the issue at the forty-seventh session of the Commission as well as any further comments and suggestions that may be submitted on the basis of paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 1990/18;

4. *Reiterates* the need for a continuing evaluating mechanism so as to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the principles contained in the Declaration;

5. *Requests* the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to continue coordination of the various activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration;

6. *Urges* all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the specialized agencies, when planning their programmes of activities, to take due account of the Declaration and to make efforts to contribute to its application;

7. *Urges also* the regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations to convene meetings of governmental experts and representative non-governmental and grass-roots organizations for the purpose of seeking agreement on arrangements for the implementation of the Declaration through international cooperation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session and the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system on the implementation of the Declaration;

9. *Calls upon* the Commission to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Right to Development as a Human Right and replies contained in the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁵⁶

10. *Endorses* the call of the Commission to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights to take fully into account the Declaration in examining the relationship between development and the enjoyment of human rights;

11. *Decides* to consider 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*