

8. *Notes* the action taken by non-governmental organizations to encourage implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to continue to facilitate its dissemination and to contribute to the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work;

10. *Requests* the Working Group, in the continued exercise of its mandate, to take into account the provisions of the Declaration and to modify its working methods, if necessary;

11. *Recalls* that the primary role of the Working Group, as described in its reports, is to act as a channel of communication between the families of disappeared persons and the Governments concerned, with a view to ensuring that sufficiently documented and clearly identified individual cases are investigated, and to ascertain whether such information falls under its mandate and contains the required elements, and invites the Group to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in preparing its report;

12. *Invites* the Working Group to identify obstacles to the realization of the provisions of the Declaration, to recommend ways of overcoming those obstacles and, in this regard, to continue a dialogue with Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Further encourages* the Working Group to continue to consider the question of impunity, in close collaboration with the rapporteur appointed by the Subcommission and with due regard for the relevant provisions of the Declaration;

14. *Requests* the Working Group to pay the utmost attention to cases of children subjected to enforced disappearance and children of disappeared persons and to cooperate closely with the Governments concerned to search for and identify those children;

15. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, in particular those which have not yet replied to the communications transmitted by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it and, in particular, to reply promptly to its requests for information so that, while respecting its working methods based on discretion, it may perform its strictly humanitarian role;

16. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to give serious consideration to inviting the Working Group to visit their countries so as to enable the Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

17. *Expresses its profound thanks* to the many Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information, and to the Governments that have invited the Group to visit their countries, asks them to give all necessary attention to the

recommendations of the Group, and invites them to inform the Group of any action they take on those recommendations;

18. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any steps it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group and to the follow-up of its recommendations when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its fifty-third session;

19. *Renews its requests* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all the facilities it requires to perform its functions, especially for carrying out missions and following them up;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he takes to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to consider the question of enforced disappearances, and in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-third session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*82nd plenary meeting  
12 December 1996*

#### **51/95. Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 47/124 of 18 December 1992, 48/126 of 20 December 1993 and 49/213 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed and supported the United Nations Year for Tolerance,

*Recalling also* that the Charter of the United Nations affirms in its preamble that to practice tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace,

*Stressing* that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Bearing in mind* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>237</sup> the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on

<sup>237</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

25 June 1993,<sup>238</sup> and the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>239</sup>

*Reconfirming* that tolerance is the sound foundation of any civil society and of peace,

*Taking note* of the note by the Secretary-General<sup>240</sup> transmitting the final report on the United Nations Year for Tolerance, including the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, submitted to him by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/213,

*Taking note also* of resolution 5.6 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-eighth session,<sup>241</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the preparation for and implementation of the United Nations Year for Tolerance;

2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, adopted by the States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 16 November 1995,<sup>240</sup>

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution of the regional conferences on tolerance and other relevant activities organized during the United Nations Year for Tolerance at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Seoul (Republic of Korea), Sienna (Italy), Carthage (Tunisia), New Delhi (India), Moscow and Yakutsk (Russian Federation), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Istanbul (Turkey) to the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the promotion of tolerance;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to take appropriate initiatives, including holding regional meetings, to assure the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the regional conferences organized during the United Nations Year for Tolerance and to promote further the spirit instigated by those conferences;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider applying the Declaration of Principles at the national level and to continue to undertake public information campaigns in connection with the Follow-up Plan of Action aimed at the realization of more tolerant societies;

6. *Also invites* Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance annually on 16 November

with appropriate activities directed towards both educational establishments and the wider public;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its activities aimed at reinforcing the struggle against the rise of intolerance;

8. *Recommends* that interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies exert efforts in their respective fields to contribute to the long-term follow-up programme for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, including celebration of the International Day for Tolerance, and to consider what further contributions they can make to implement and disseminate the standards affirmed in the Declaration of Principles;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to coordinate actions in support of tolerance promotion and education in partnership with other United Nations agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to make reports available to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider, at an appropriate time, the possibility of organizing an international conference to inform and mobilize public opinion, as well as the United Nations system, in this regard;

11. *Decides* to consider the question of the follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance at its fifty-third session.

*82nd plenary meeting  
12 December 1996*

#### **51/96. Strengthening of the rule of law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>242</sup> Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Firmly convinced* that the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights, as stressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and should continue to attract the attention of the international community,

*Convinced* that through their own national legal and judicial systems States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

*Recognizing* the importance of the role that can be played by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

<sup>238</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>239</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>240</sup> A/51/201.

<sup>241</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-eighth Session, Paris, 25 October-16 November 1995*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV.

<sup>242</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).