

entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights",

Recognizing, in accordance with resolution 48/141, the crucial and important role that the High Commissioner's functions play in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁴⁰⁴

Stressing the importance of enabling the smooth running of the United Nations human rights machinery,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights⁴⁰⁴ on the effective promotion and protection of all human rights;

2. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to continue his activities in discharging his responsibilities under resolution 48/141;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the constructive manner in which the High Commissioner is carrying out his functions;

4. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/120. Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994, in which it approved the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,⁴⁰⁵ and bearing in mind the report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,⁴⁰⁶ held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996, entitled "Implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime", in which the Council decided, *inter alia*, that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should establish an in-session open-ended working group at its sixth session, for the purpose, *inter alia*, of considering the possibility of elaborating a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime and identifying elements that could be included therein,

Recalling also the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime,⁴⁰⁷ adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,

Deeply disturbed by the increasingly alarming threat posed by organized transnational crime to the rule of law, stability and security of States, which calls for an urgent and appropriate response,

Concerned about the growing number and variety of crimes committed by organized criminal groups,

Convinced of the need for closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating organized transnational crime, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in this respect,

Considering that there is a need to examine the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime,

Taking note of the proposed draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime introduced by Poland,⁴⁰⁸

Bearing in mind the discussion on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime which took place in the Third Committee during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all States to submit their views on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, including, *inter alia*, their comments on the proposed draft United Nations framework convention, not later than two months before the commencement of the sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider, as a matter of priority, the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, taking into account the views of all States on this matter, with a view to finalizing its work on this question as soon as possible;

3. *Further requests* the Commission to report through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of its work on this question;

4. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
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⁴⁰⁴ A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36*.

⁴⁰⁵ See A/49/748, annex, sect. I, A.

⁴⁰⁶ A/CONF.169/16.

⁴⁰⁷ E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

⁴⁰⁸ A/C.3/51/7, annex.