

child during the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>185</sup>

1. *Stresses* the significance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child which has directly stimulated the idea of elaborating an international convention on the rights of the child;

2. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/25, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the forty-first session of the Commission to facilitate and speed up the completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to this question and to make every effort at its forty-first session to complete the draft convention and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

4. *Invites* all Member States to offer their effective contribution to the completion of the draft convention on the rights of the child at the forty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the working group to ensure its smooth and efficient work in the fulfilment of this important task;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

*101st plenary meeting  
14 December 1984*

### 39/136. International Covenants on Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 33/51 of 14 December 1978, 34/45 of 23 November 1979, 35/132 of 11 December 1980, 36/58 of 25 November 1981, 37/191 of 18 December 1982 and 38/116 and 38/117 of 16 December 1983,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>186</sup> on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>187</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>187</sup> and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>187</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>187</sup>

*Recognizing* the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,

*Taking into account* the useful work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

*Bearing in mind* the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions,<sup>188</sup> and expresses its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to perform its functions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have submitted their reports to the Human Rights Committee under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports as speedily as possible;

3. *Urges* those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with that request;

4. *Commends* those States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have submitted their reports under article 16 of the Covenant and urges States that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the majority of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and an increasing number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, have been represented by experts for the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in future;

6. *Again urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

7. *Invites* the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the relevant activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to those bodies;

10. *Looks forward* to the report of the Secretary-General, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1985, on the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other bodies established in accordance with existing international instruments in the field of human rights in order to facilitate the review which the Council will undertake in accordance with its resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982;

11. *Welcomes* the decision by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1984/9 of 24 May 1984 to conduct the review at an early stage of its first regular session

<sup>185</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 4 (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. XIII.*

<sup>186</sup> A/39/461.

<sup>187</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>188</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/39/40 and Corr.1 and 2).*

of 1985 to allow enough time for a full discussion of this important matter;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

13. *Again urges* the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps within existing resources to give more publicity to the work of the Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its Sessional Working Group and to improve administrative and related arrangements to enable them to carry out their respective functions effectively under the International Covenants on Human Rights;

14. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to expedite the publication of the official public records of the Human Rights Committee in bound volumes, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 37/191, starting with its first session;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights.

*101st plenary meeting  
14 December 1984*

**39/137. Elaboration of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its decision 35/437 of 15 December 1980 and its resolution 36/59 of 25 November 1981 concerning the idea of elaborating a draft of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>189</sup> aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,

*Recalling also* its resolution 37/192 of 18 December 1982, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the idea of elaborating a draft of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/19 of 6 March 1984<sup>190</sup> and the action taken by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to implement that resolution,<sup>191</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>192</sup>

1. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to consider further the idea of elaborating a draft of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

2. *Invites* Member States which are in a position to do so, specialized agencies and international organizations to

assist the Commission and the Sub-Commission in the consideration of this question;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its forty-second session of the consideration given to this question by the Commission and the Sub-Commission;

4. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-second session, in the light of the action taken by the Commission and the Sub-Commission, under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

*101st plenary meeting  
14 December 1984*

**39/138. Reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations conventions on human rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 37/44 of 3 December 1982 and 38/117 of 16 December 1983,

*Considering* that the General Assembly, as the principal organ of the United Nations entitled to adopt conventions on human rights, is in the position to take an overview of their implementation as an integrated system of substantive provisions and reporting obligations of States parties to the various conventions,

*Conscious* that the fulfilment of reporting obligations constitutes an essential element of co-operation by States parties in contributing to the assessment of their compliance with their obligations,

*Bearing in mind* the report of the Secretary-General on the reporting obligations of States parties under various United Nations conventions on human rights,<sup>193</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the meeting of the Chairmen of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held at Geneva on 16 and 17 August 1984,<sup>194</sup>

*Concerned* about the problems experienced by the above-mentioned bodies in the functioning of the reporting procedures, including the burden which several co-existing reporting systems place upon States parties to the conventions on human rights,

*Convinced*, therefore, of the need to improve the existing reporting systems in order to resolve the problems experienced both by the bodies entrusted with the consideration of the periodic reports of the States parties and by the States parties to the conventions on human rights,

1. *Reiterates* the importance it attaches to the obligations established under international conventions, including their respective reporting systems;

2. *Takes note with interest* of the report of the meeting of the Chairmen of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which contains suggestions made by the

<sup>189</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>190</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 4 (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.*

<sup>191</sup> See E/CN.4/1985/3-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/43, chap. XVIII, sect. A, resolution 1984/7.

<sup>192</sup> A/39/535.

<sup>193</sup> A/38/393.

<sup>194</sup> A/39/484, annex.