

Reaffirming its conviction that detention of persons in mental institutions on account of their political views or on other non-medical grounds is a violation of their human rights,

Regretting that, because of the deferral of its thirty-ninth session, the Sub-Commission was not able to conclude this year its consideration of the draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees,

Again urges the Commission on Human Rights and, through it, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to expedite their consideration of the draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees, so that the Commission can submit its views and recommendations, including a draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council.

97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986

41/115. Human rights and scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling once again the great importance of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3384 (XXX) of 10 November 1975,

Considering that implementation of the Declaration will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and the security of peoples and to their economic and social development, as well as to international co-operation in the field of human rights,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,⁷¹

Seriously concerned that the results of scientific and technological progress could be used for the arms race to the detriment of international peace and security and social progress, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person,

Convinced that in the era of modern scientific and technological progress the resources of mankind and the activities of scientists should be used for the peaceful economic, social and cultural development of countries and for the improvement of the living standards of all people,

Recognizing that the establishment of the new international economic order calls in particular for an important contribution to be made by science and technology to economic and social progress,

Bearing in mind that the exchange and transfer of scientific and technological knowledge is one of the important ways to accelerate the social and economic development of the developing countries,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and scientific and technological developments,⁷²

1. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation by all States of the provisions and principles contained in the

Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind in order to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Calls upon* all States to make every effort to use the achievements of science and technology in order to promote peaceful social, economic and cultural development and progress;

3. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take into account in their programmes and activities the provisions of the Declaration;

4. *Invites* those Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to submit their information pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/130 A of 11 December 1980;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention, in its consideration of the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments", to the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration;

6. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to take appropriate measures and to assist the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in preparing the study requested by the Commission in its resolutions 1982/4 of 19 February 1982,²⁷ 1984/29 of 12 March 1984²⁹ and 1986/11 of 10 March 1986;³¹

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986

41/116. Question of a convention on the rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978, 34/4 of 18 October 1979, 35/131 of 11 December 1980, 36/57 of 25 November 1981, 37/190 of 18 December 1982, 38/114 of 16 December 1983, 39/135 of 14 December 1984 and 40/113 of 13 December 1985,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 20 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978,⁷³ 19 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,⁷⁴ 36 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980,²⁵ 26 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981,²⁶ 1982/39 of 11 March 1982,²⁷ 1983/52 of 10 March 1983,²⁸ 1984/24 of 8 March 1984,²⁹ 1985/50 of 14 March 1985³⁰ and 1986/59 of 13 March 1986,³¹ as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/18 of 5 May 1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978, 1982/37 of 7 May 1982, 1983/39 of 27 May 1983, 1984/25 of 24 May 1984, 1985/42 of 30 May 1985 and 1986/40 of 23 May 1986 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

Reaffirming that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of un-

⁷¹ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

⁷² A/41/463 and Add.1.

⁷³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. 1978. Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34)*, chap. XXVI, sect. A.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. XXIV, sect. A.

satisfactory social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced of the positive contribution which an international convention on the rights of the child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, would make to protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being,

Noting with satisfaction the widespread interest in the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of the child displayed by a great number of Member States representing all geographical regions and socio-political systems, as well as by international governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with appreciation that further progress was made during the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child,⁷⁵

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/40, 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-third session of the Commission in order to facilitate completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

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

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

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

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

*97th plenary meeting
4 December 1986*

41/117. Indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the obligations of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²² and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,⁷¹

Recalling that in the preambles to the International Covenants on Human Rights²⁴ it is recognized that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights as well as his civil and political rights,

Bearing in mind that 1986 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 40/114 of 13 December 1985,

Reaffirming the provisions of its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977 that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights can never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Convinced that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights,

Desirous of removing all obstacles to the full realization of human rights, in particular colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination in all its forms, *apartheid*, foreign intervention, occupation, aggression, discrimination and domination,

Recognizing the fundamental rights of every people to exercise full sovereignty over its natural wealth and resources,

Reaffirming that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development, that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recognizing that the realization of the right to development could help to promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/42 of 14 March 1985³⁰ and 1986/15 of 10 March 1986,³¹ in which the Commission stated that the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights have not received sufficient attention within the framework of the United Nations system,

Requesting the Secretary-General to enhance his efforts under the programme of advisory services to States in the implementation, promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other United Nations instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Appeals* to all States to pursue policies directed towards the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;

2. *Calls upon* all States to co-operate in creating national and international conditions conducive to the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, its views and recommendations on these human rights;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Economic and Social Council of the Committee on Economic, Social and

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 1986 Supplement No. 2 (E/1986/22), chap. XIII.