

Convinced that it is necessary to develop international co-operation among States for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such offences,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his report on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;¹⁰⁷

2. *Condemns* the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries, as well as all other forms of support to mercenaries for the purpose of destabilizing and overthrowing the Governments of States in southern Africa and Central America and of other developing States and fighting against national liberation movements of peoples struggling for the exercise of their right to self-determination;

3. *Affirms* that the use as well as the recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries are offences of grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Strongly condemns* the racist régime of South Africa for its use of groups of armed mercenaries against national liberation movements and for the destabilization of the Governments of southern African States;

5. *Denounces* any State that persists in the recruitment, or permits or tolerates the recruitment, of mercenaries and provides facilities to them for launching armed aggression against other States;

6. *Urges* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to ensure, by both administrative and legislative measures, that the territory of those States and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries, or for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State and to fight the national liberation movements struggling against racism, *apartheid*, colonial domination and foreign intervention or occupation;

7. *Calls upon* all States to extend humanitarian assistance to victims of situations resulting from the use of mercenaries, as well as from colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation;

8. *Considers* that the use of channels of humanitarian and other assistance to finance, train and arm mercenaries is inadmissible;

9. *Welcomes* the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/7 of 22 February 1988⁴⁵ aimed at giving the Special Rapporteur the full opportunity to carry out his mandate most effectively;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the use of mercenaries.

*78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989*

44/82. International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Guided by the resolve of the peoples of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, with a view to the creation of condi-

tions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations between nations,

Guided also by the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁵ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,²⁸ according to which the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family,

Bearing in mind its resolution 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/46 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/71 of 24 May 1989 entitled "Achievement of social justice",

Bearing in mind also the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women⁵² and recalling that by its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987 it endorsed for action the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,²⁹ which called for social welfare policies to give greater attention to the family,

Recognizing the efforts of Governments at the local, regional and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family, in which the United Nations may have an important role to play, and in raising awareness, increasing understanding and promoting policies that improve the position and well-being of the family,

Recalling its resolutions 42/134 of 7 December 1987 and 43/135 of 8 December 1988 on the need to enhance international co-operation in the field of the protection of and assistance to the family, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 and 1985/29 of 29 May 1985, and taking note of Council resolution 1989/54 of 24 May 1989,

Taking into account its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

Taking note with interest and appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General prepared in pursuance of its resolution 43/135,¹⁰⁸

1. *Proclaims* 1994 as International Year of the Family;

2. *Decides* that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be concentrated at the local, regional and national levels and assisted by the United Nations and its system of organizations, with a view to creating among Governments, policy-makers and the public a greater awareness of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society;

3. *Endorses* the main recommendations, objectives and principles for the observance of the Year, as contained in the comprehensive outline of a possible programme for the Year;¹⁰⁹

4. *Invites* all Governments, specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year and to co-operate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of his report and in consultation with Member States, concerned specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a draft programme for the preparation for and observance

¹⁰⁷ A/44/526, annex.

¹⁰⁸ A/44/407.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, sect. 1V.

of the Year and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take specific measures, through all the communication media at his disposal, to give widespread publicity to the activities of the United Nations system in the area of family issues and to increase the dissemination of information on this subject;

7. *Designates* the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the co-ordinating body for the International Year of the Family;

8. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-fifth session under an item entitled "International Year of the Family".

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/127. International Literacy Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year,

Recalling also that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁴ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁵ the inalienable right of every individual to education is recognized,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy is one of the paramount objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade¹⁰ and should become one of the objectives of the strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and the cultural and spiritual advancement of society,

Convinced that literacy, especially functional literacy and adequate education, represents an indispensable element for development and for the harnessing of science, technology and human resources for economic and social progress,

Confident that International Literacy Year will offer a unique opportunity for mobilizing efforts at the national, regional and international levels to combat illiteracy,

Welcoming the programme for International Literacy Year prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recognizing that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has assumed the role of lead organization for International Literacy Year,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the commendable work done by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Director-General to ensure adequate preparation for International Literacy Year;

2. *Commends* those Governments that have established national committees or similar structures for International Literacy Year and have launched national programmes aimed at meeting the objectives of the Year;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system for their contribution to the preparation for International Literacy Year;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the active involvement of many non-governmental organizations in preparatory activities for International Literacy Year and, in particular, the establishment of the International Task Force on Literacy;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Conference on Education for All, to be held in Thailand in March 1990 under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank;

6. *Invites* Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take appropriate measures with a view to achieving the objectives of International Literacy Year;

7. *Also invites* Governments that have not yet done so to establish a programme of measures for enhancing literacy and functional literacy for the period up to the year 2000 along the lines of the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;¹¹

8. *Appeals* to Governments, economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend financial and material support to local, national and regional initiatives to promote literacy;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to give wide publicity to the activities and measures to be undertaken during International Literacy Year;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International Literacy Year".

82nd plenary meeting
15 December 1989

44/128. Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in its resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948,

Recalling also article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights contained in the annex to its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966,

Mindful of its decision 35/437 of 15 December 1980, reaffirmed in its resolution 36/59 of 25 November 1981, 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,

Mindful also of its resolution 37/192 of 18 December 1982, in which it requested the Commission on Human

¹⁰ See resolution 35/56, annex.

¹¹ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-fifth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, p. 71.