

in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989 and contained in the annex thereto;

6. *Invites* the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-third session and the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session to consider the updated report;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with resolution 43/92, to make available to the Special Rapporteur two economists to help him to develop his analysis and documentation on specific cases of special importance;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to give the Special Rapporteur all the assistance that he may require in the exercise of his mandate, with a view to intensifying direct contacts with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Centre against *Apartheid*, and to consolidating mutual co-operation in updating his report;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to bring the updated report of the Special Rapporteur to the attention of Governments whose national financial institutions continue to deal with the régime of South Africa, and to call upon them to provide the Special Rapporteur with any information or comments they may wish to present on the matter;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to contact the Government of South Africa with a view to enabling the Special Rapporteur to undertake a visit to South Africa on special mission within the perspective of the next update of the present report;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to give the updated report of the Special Rapporteur the widest distribution and publicity as a United Nations publication;

12. *Decides* to examine at its forty-seventh session, as a matter of high priority, the item entitled "Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist régime of South Africa", in the light of any recommendations which the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee against *Apartheid* may wish to submit to it;

13. *Requests* that the Special Rapporteur submit his updated report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

*68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990*

45/85. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/135 of 15 December 1989, as well as its other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1990/21 of 23 February 1990 and 1990/25 of 27 February 1990,³ and Economic and Social Council decision 1990/226 of 25 May 1990, by which the Council approved the recommendations of the Task Force on

Computerization for computerizing the human rights treaty system,⁴

Reaffirming that the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights is of major importance to the efforts made by the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations instruments on human rights is indispensable for the effective implementation of such instruments,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

(a) Ensuring the effective functioning of systems of periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

(b) Securing sufficient financial resources to overcome existing difficulties with the effective functioning of treaty bodies;

(c) Addressing the question of reporting obligations and that of financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

Recognizing that the effective implementation of instruments on human rights not only enhances international accountability in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, but also provides States parties with a valuable opportunity to review policies and programmes affecting the promotion and protection of human rights and to make any appropriate adjustments,

Expressing concern about the continuing and increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties of United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General⁶ on progress achieved in enhancing the effective functioning of the treaty bodies, pursuant, *inter alia*, to the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 10 to 14 October 1988,⁷

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990,⁸

Bearing in mind the study by the independent expert⁹ on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations instruments on human rights,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and

⁴ See E/CN.4/1990/39, annex.

⁵ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁶ A/44/539.

⁷ See A/44/98, annex.

⁸ See A/45/636, annex.

⁹ See A/44/668, annex.

otherwise improving reporting procedures, and supports the continuing efforts in this connection by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General within their respective spheres of competence;

2. *Once again expresses its satisfaction* with the study by the independent expert on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations instruments on human rights, which contains several recommendations on reporting and monitoring procedures, servicing and financing of supervisory bodies and long-term approaches to human rights standard-setting and implementation mechanisms, and which was presented to the Commission on Human Rights for detailed consideration at its forty-sixth session;

3. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Task Force on Computerization⁴ appointed by the Secretary-General to prepare a study on computerizing the work of the treaty-monitoring bodies, with a view to increasing efficiency and facilitating compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations and the examination of reports by the treaty bodies;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give high priority to establishing a computerized data base to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the treaty bodies;

5. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General¹⁰ to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights showing the extent of overlapping issues dealt with in international instruments on human rights, which will assist efforts to reduce, as appropriate, duplication in the supervisory bodies of issues raised with respect to any given State party, and asks the Secretary-General to draw the report to the attention of the other treaty bodies;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to proceed as soon as possible with the circulation of the detailed reporting manual to the various States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, to assist them in the fulfilment of their reporting obligations;

7. *Again urges* States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations and to assist, individually and through meetings of States parties, in identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining and improving reporting procedures as well as enhancing co-ordination and information flow between the treaty bodies and with relevant United Nations bodies, including specialized agencies;

8. *Welcomes* the emphasis placed by the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services and, therefore:

(a) *Endorses* the request of the Commission that the Secretary-General report regularly to it on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

(b) *Invites* the treaty bodies to give priority attention to identifying such possibilities in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

9. *Endorses* the recommendations of the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on the need to ensure financing and adequate staffing resources for the operations of the treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

(a) *Reiterates* its request that the Secretary-General review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various treaty bodies;

(b) *Requests* that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

10. *Calls upon* all States parties to meet fully and without delay their financial obligations under the relevant instruments on human rights, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of strengthening collection procedures and making them more effective;

11. *Welcomes* the fact that at its forty-sixth session the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/25, noted that the General Assembly could consider alleviating the financial difficulties of treaty bodies, *inter alia*, by the temporary allocation of necessary funds by way of advances out of the regular budget of the United Nations, which would be reimbursed from the contributions received within the same budget year, this procedure being repeated until such time as a permanent solution to such difficulties can be implemented;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to consider administrative and budgetary measures to alleviate the current financial difficulties of the treaty bodies and thus guarantee their regular functioning and to report on these measures to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session;

13. *Emphasizes* that the adoption of any administrative and budgetary measures shall not prejudice the duty of States parties under United Nations human rights instruments to meet all their financial obligations pursuant to such instruments;

14. *Notes with interest* that the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies recommended in October 1990 that the General Assembly take appropriate measures to ensure the financing of each of the committees from the regular budget of the United Nations;¹¹

15. *Invites* the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to maintain communication and dialogue with each other on common issues and problems and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to convene a further meeting of the persons chairing the treaty bodies at a time to be established;

16. *Decides* to give priority consideration at its forty-sixth session to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human

¹⁰ E/C.12/1989/3.

¹¹ See A/45/636, annex, para. 15.

rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments”.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990

45/86. Achievement of social justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and 44/55 of 8 December 1989, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/46 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/71 of 24 May 1989, and taking note of Council resolution 1990/25 of 24 May 1990,

Recalling also the pledge made by States Members of the United Nations in the Charter to take joint and separate action to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Recognizing that more extensive international and regional co-operation is important for promoting social progress at the national level,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,¹² social progress and development shall be founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and shall ensure the promotion of human rights and social justice,

Mindful of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,¹³ the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,¹⁴ the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons¹⁵ and the International Plan of Action on Aging,¹⁶

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to develop a comprehensive approach to developmental social welfare, including better integrated and mutually supportive economic and social development policies, aimed at the achievement of social justice,

1. *Confirms* that social justice is one of the most important goals of social progress;

2. *Reaffirms* that the common purpose of the international community must be to forge from varied economic, social and political conditions a global environment of sustained development, full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and social justice and peace;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of co-operation among countries in promoting a climate conducive to the achievement by individual countries of the goals of development and social justice and progress;

¹² Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

¹³ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

¹⁴ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁵ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

¹⁶ See *Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

4. *Considers* that such co-operation and its promotion should continue to be a major focus of activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in elaborating policies in the field of social development and for the improvement of the social situation of all population groups, to take into consideration the importance of achieving social justice for all;

6. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General, in preparing studies and reports on social problems, should examine the question of social justice and ways in which it could be achieved;

7. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its next regular session, to consider the question of achieving social justice.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990

45/87. World social situation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1392 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/98 and 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 42/49 of 30 November 1987, 43/113 of 8 December 1988 and 44/56 of 8 December 1989 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/39, 1987/40, 1987/46 and 1987/52 of 28 May 1987, 1989/72 of 24 May 1989 and Council decision 1989/113 of 28 July 1989, and taking note of Council resolution 1990/28 of 24 May 1990,

Bearing in mind the objective of improving the well-being of the world's population on the basis of the full and equal participation of all members of society in the process of development and the fair distribution to them of the benefits therefrom,

Conscious that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has the primary responsibility of ensuring the social progress and well-being of the people,

Convinced of the urgent need to eradicate policies and practices that hinder social progress, including racism and racial discrimination, in particular *apartheid*,

Convinced also that the pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve that objective, especially to meet the basic needs for food, housing, education, employment and health care and to struggle against scourges which endanger the health and well-being of their population,

Deeply concerned about the worsening economic situation in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, as evidenced by the significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of countries and the decline of the main social and economic indicators of those countries,

Bearing in mind the importance of the 1989 *Report on the World Social Situation*¹⁷ for increasing awareness of the advances made towards the goals of social progress

¹⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.1.