

8. *Calls upon* international, regional and national non-governmental organizations, in particular those concerned with women, labour, development and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to increase their involvement in formal and non-formal education in human rights and to cooperate with the Centre for Human Rights in preparing for a United Nations decade for human rights education;

9. *Urges* the existing human rights monitoring bodies to place particular emphasis on the implementation by Member States of their international obligation to promote human rights education;

10. *Decides* to consider this matter at its forty-ninth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting  
20 December 1993

#### 48/128. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recognizing* that those rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

*Reaffirming* that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

*Recalling* its resolution 47/129 of 18 December 1992, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/25 of 5 March 1993,<sup>33</sup>

*Reaffirming* the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/17 of 21 February 1992,<sup>32</sup> in which the the Commission decided to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures, as

appropriate, and recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 1992/226 of 20 July 1992,

*Welcoming* the appointment of Abdelfattah Amor as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, and calling upon all Governments to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur to enable him to carry out his mandate fully,

*Recognizing* that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

*Emphasizing* that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief,

*Conscious* of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

*Alarmed* that serious instances, including acts of violence, of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief occur in many parts of the world, as evidenced in the report of the former Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro,<sup>152</sup>

*Reaffirming* the dismay and condemnation expressed by the World Conference on Human Rights at the continued occurrence of gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights, including religious intolerance,

*Believing* that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide full guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief;

3. *Recognizes* that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief;

4. *Urges* all States therefore to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, including those motivated by religious extremism, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

5. *Urges* States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

6. *Calls upon* all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and

of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief, and to establish and maintain places for those purposes;

7. *Also calls upon* all States in accordance with their national legislation to exert utmost efforts to ensure that religious places and shrines are fully respected and protected;

8. *Considers it desirable* to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to this end in the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration, in all the official languages of the United Nations, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by the United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

10. *Encourages* the continuing efforts on the part of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

12. *Recommends* that the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion be given appropriate priority in the work of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, including work on the drafting of basic legal texts in conformity with international instruments on human rights and taking into account the provisions of the Declaration;

13. *Notes with interest* the adoption by the Human Rights Committee of a general comment<sup>153</sup> on article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, dealing with freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing in the implementation of the Declaration and in its dissemination in national and local languages;

16. *Urges* all States to consider disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in national and local languages;

17. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

18. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its forty-ninth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting  
20 December 1993

#### 48/129. Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 44/135 of 15 December 1989, 45/180 of 21 December 1990, 46/118 and 46/111 of 17 December 1991 and 47/127 of 18 December 1992, and bearing in mind all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

*Considering* that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of high importance to the Organization,

*Noting* that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>6</sup> adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the importance of strengthening the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat is stressed,

*Bearing in mind* that the Secretary-General, in his reports on the work of the Organization for 1992 and 1993, stated that "the Charter of the United Nations places the promotion of human rights as one of our priority objectives, along with promoting development and preserving international peace and security",<sup>154</sup> and that "in the course of 1993, the activities of the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva underwent a significant expansion in the five main areas of its work",<sup>155</sup>

*Noting also* that the difficult financial situation of the Centre has created considerable obstacles to the implementation of the various procedures and mechanisms, has negatively influenced the servicing by the Secretariat of the bodies concerned and has impaired the quality and precision of the reporting,

1. *Supports* the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and importance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat as the coordinating unit, within the United Nations system, of bodies dealing with the promotion and the protection of human rights;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make additional proposals to increase further the resources of the human rights programme in 1994-1995, so as to enable the Centre fully to discharge its duties implementing all the mandates assigned to it by the General Assembly and other legislative bodies;

3. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning the strengthening of the Centre, as contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

4. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the General Assembly approve the programme narratives of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;<sup>156</sup>

5. *Takes note also* of the statement by the Secretary-General in his report concerning the implications of organizational changes in the Secretariat that he would propose to use the remaining vacant posts now available in the Secretariat in the light of new initiatives and emerging mandates and priorities;<sup>157</sup>