

13. *Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to pay particular attention to questions relating to the administration of justice, with special emphasis on the effective implementation of norms and standards;

14. *Decides* to consider the question of human rights in the administration of justice at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/138. Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, in which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Conscious of the need effectively to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as set out in the Declaration,

Noting the importance of an even more effective implementation of international human rights instruments with regard to the rights of all persons, including those belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Welcoming Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/24 of 5 March 1993 on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,³³

Noting that resolutions 1993/42 and 1993/43 adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on 26 August 1993³⁴ are to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session,

Aware of the provisions of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁵⁴ concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an increasingly important role to play regarding the protection of minorities by, *inter alia*, taking due account of the Declaration,

Concerned by the growing frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts concerning minorities in many countries, and their often tragic consequences,

Affirming that effective measures and the creation of favourable conditions for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, ensuring effective non-discrimination and equality for all, contribute to the prevention and peaceful solution of human rights problems and situations involving minorities,

Considering that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace, and enrich the cultural heritage of society as a whole of the States in which such persons live,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law in accordance with the Declaration,

Welcoming initiatives aiming at disseminating information on the Declaration and at promoting understanding thereof,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration,¹⁸⁶

Mindful of the recommendations contained in section II, paragraphs 25 to 27, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted unanimously by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

2. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, including through the facilitation of their full participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country;

3. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to examine ways and means to promote and protect effectively the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as set out in the Declaration;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to provide through the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, at the request of Governments concerned and as part of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre, qualified expertise on minority issues and human rights, as well as on the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities;

5. *Appeals* to States to take all the necessary legislative and other measures to promote and give effect, as appropriate, to the principles of the Declaration;

6. *Also appeals* to States to make bilateral and multilateral efforts, as appropriate, to protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in their countries, in accordance with the Declaration;

7. *Urges* all treaty bodies and special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to give due regard to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as set forth in the Declaration, as appropriate, within their mandates;

8. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue the dissemination of information on the Declaration and the promotion of

understanding thereof, including, as appropriate, in the context of the training of United Nations personnel;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/139. Human rights and mass exoduses

The General Assembly,

Mindful of its general humanitarian mandate under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace"¹⁸⁷ identifies the protection of human rights as an important element of peace, security and economic well-being and highlights the importance of preventive diplomacy,

Deeply disturbed by the increasing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in many regions of the world and by the suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons,

Conscious of the fact that human rights violations are one of the multiple and complex factors causing mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons,

Deeply preoccupied by the increasingly heavy burden being imposed, particularly upon developing countries with limited resources of their own and upon the international community as a whole, by these sudden mass exoduses and displacements of population,

Stressing the need for strengthening international cooperation aimed at averting new massive flows of refugees while providing durable solutions to actual refugee situations,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/70 of 3 December 1986, in which it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,¹⁸⁸

Bearing in mind its resolution 46/127 of 17 December 1991 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/70 of 10 March 1993,³³ as well as all previous relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission,

Noting that the Secretary-General, in his report on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,¹⁸⁹ states that in complex emergencies, humanitarian assistance is essential but must be complemented by measures to address the root causes of such emergencies, and that the establishment of the inter-agency consultation on early warning serves the purposes of both prevention and preparedness,

Noting also that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has specifically acknowledged the direct relationship

between the observance of human rights standards, refugee movements and problems of protection,

1. *Recalls its endorsement*, in its resolution 41/70, of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, including, *inter alia*, the call upon all States to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to refrain from denying these to individuals in their population because of nationality, ethnicity, race, religion or language;

2. *Once again invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation with and assistance to world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses;

3. *Requests* all Governments to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant international instruments, in particular in the field of human rights and humanitarian law, as this would contribute to averting new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

4. *Requests* all United Nations bodies, including the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, the specialized agencies and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate fully with all mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and, in particular, to provide them with all relevant and accurate information in their possession on the human rights situations creating or affecting refugees and displaced persons within their mandates;

5. *Welcomes* the recommendation in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/70 that special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups studying situations of violation of human rights pay attention to problems resulting in mass exoduses of populations and, where appropriate, report and make relevant recommendations to the Commission;

6. *Notes* that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has specifically acknowledged the direct relationship between the observance of human rights standards, refugee movements, problems of protection and solutions;

7. *Welcomes* the contributions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the deliberations of international human rights bodies, and encourages her to seek ways to make these contributions even more effective;

8. *Also welcomes* the statement made by the High Commissioner at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on 3 March 1993, in which she emphasized the need for early response by the international community to human rights situations that threaten to generate refugees and displaced persons or that impede their voluntary return;

9. *Encourages* States that have not already done so to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees¹¹⁴ and the Protocol thereto, of 1967;¹¹⁵

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the need to develop the capacity of