

the United Nations for early warning and preventive diplomacy to help deter humanitarian crises;¹⁸⁶

11. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, its previous resolutions on the question of human rights and mass exoduses, and requests the Secretary-General, in the further development of the capacity of the Secretariat for early warning and preventive diplomacy, to pay particular attention to international cooperation to avert new flows of refugees;

12. *Notes*, in this connection, that mass movements of populations are caused by multiple and complex factors, which indicates that early warning requires an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General especially to continue to discharge the task described in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, including the continuous monitoring of all potential outflows, and to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in its report on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows;¹⁹⁰

14. *Urges* the Secretary-General to attach high priority and to allocate the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the consolidation and strengthening of the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area by, *inter alia*, the designation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point for early warning in this area and strengthened coordination between relevant offices of the Secretariat concerned with early warning and organizations of the United Nations system, for the purpose of ensuring, *inter alia*, that effective action is taken to identify human rights abuses that contribute to mass outflows of persons;

15. *Welcomes* the decision by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish a regular United Nations inter-agency early-warning consultation related to possible flows of refugees and displaced persons, based on the sharing and analysis of relevant information between United Nations bodies and the development of collective recommendations for action to alleviate, *inter alia*, the possible causes of new flows of refugees and displaced persons;

16. *Also welcomes* the decision by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to designate the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point of the United Nations inter-agency early-warning consultation;

17. *Urges* the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to take the necessary steps to function effectively as the focal point of the inter-agency early-warning consultation;

18. *Urges* all the bodies involved in the inter-agency consultation to cooperate fully in, and devote the necessary resources to, the successful operation of the consultation;

19. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to keep the question of human rights and mass exoduses under review with a view to supporting the early-warning arrangement instituted by the Secretary-General to avert new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the strengthened role that he is playing in undertaking early-warning activities, especially in

the areas of human rights and humanitarian assistance, as well as on any further developments relating to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees and the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session detailed information on the programmatic, institutional, administrative, financial and managerial efforts instituted to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to avert new flows of refugees and to tackle the root causes of such outflows;

22. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of human rights and mass exoduses at its fiftieth session.

*85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993*

48/140. Human rights and scientific and technological progress

The General Assembly,

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

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁵⁴ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁵⁴ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,⁴⁴

Reaffirming the importance of its resolution 45/95 of 14 December 1990, in which it adopted guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files, and its resolution 46/119 of 17 December 1991, in which it adopted the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care,

Welcoming with satisfaction Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/91 entitled "Human rights and bioethics"³³ and Commission decision 1993/113 entitled "Question of the follow-up to the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal files",¹⁹¹ adopted on 10 March 1993,

Welcoming the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

Aware that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,

Reaffirming the need to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person in the conditions of scientific and technological progress,

Noting that certain advances, notably in the biomedical and life sciences as well as in information technology, may have potentially adverse consequences for the integrity, dignity and human rights of the individual, and that illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous substances and waste potentially constitutes a serious threat to the human rights, the life and health of everyone,

Considering that the human being is in the centre of social and economic development,

Conscious that modern science and technology give the possibility to create material conditions for the prosperity of society and for the thorough development of the human person,

Recognizing the need for international cooperation so that all mankind can benefit from the achievements of scientific and technological progress and so that their use in favour of economic and social progress can be to the benefit of all,

Convinced of the need to develop life science ethics both nationally and internationally,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that the achievements of scientific and technological progress and the intellectual potential of mankind are used for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Once again calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of science and technology are used only for the benefit of the human being and do not lead to the disturbance of the ecological environment, that is, *inter alia*, measures against the illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste;

3. *Emphasizes* the fact that many advances in scientific knowledge and technology in health, education, housing and other social spheres should be readily available to the populations as the heritage of humanity, with a view to sustainable development, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights;

4. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to inform the Secretary-General of the activities and programmes carried out to ensure development of life and technical sciences respectful of human rights, in order to contribute to the reports of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 1993/91 and decision 1993/113 of the Commission on Human Rights;

5. *Decides* to consider the question of human rights and scientific and technological progress at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993*

48/141. High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to promote and encourage respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Emphasizing also the need to observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ and for the full implementation of the human rights instruments, including the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁵⁴ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁵⁴ as well as the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹⁵⁸

Reaffirming that the right to development is a universal and inalienable right which is a fundamental part of the rights of the human person,

Considering that the promotion and the protection of all human rights is one of the priorities of the international community,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights,

Reaffirming the commitment made under Article 56 of the Charter to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the United Nations for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55,

Emphasizing the need for the promotion and protection of all human rights to be guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, in the spirit of constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

Aware that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that as such they should be given the same emphasis,

Affirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

Convinced that the World Conference on Human Rights made an important contribution to the cause of human rights and that its recommendations should be implemented through effective action by all States, the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations,

Acknowledging the importance of strengthening the provision of advisory services and technical assistance by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and other relevant programmes and bodies of the United Nations system for the purpose of the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Determined to adapt, strengthen and streamline the existing mechanisms to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while avoiding unnecessary duplication,

Recognizing that the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights should be rationalized and enhanced in order to strengthen the United Nations machinery in this field and to further the objectives of universal respect for observance of international human rights standards,

Reaffirming that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights are the responsible organs for decision- and policy-making for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming also the necessity for a continued adaptation of the United Nations human rights machinery to the current and future needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and the need to improve its coordination, efficiency and