

group of the Commission on Human Rights with every necessary assistance;

11. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-ninth session under the item entitled "Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts".

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/157. Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict,

Recalling that the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949¹⁹⁵ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,¹⁹⁶ as well as article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, accord children special protection and treatment,

Recalling the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children²³¹ and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s,²³¹ adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York in September 1990, and stressing the necessity of implementing their provisions,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its third session,²³² held at Geneva from 11 to 29 January 1993, in particular its recommendation to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should undertake a study of the ways and means of improving the protection of children from the adverse effects of armed conflicts,

Taking note also of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/83 of 10 March 1993,³³

Mindful of the strong support of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, for the proposed study by the Secretary-General, as reflected in paragraph 50 of section II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶

Profoundly concerned about the grievous deterioration in the situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts, and convinced that immediate and concerted action is called for,

Convinced that children affected by armed conflicts require the special protection of the international community and that there is a need for all States to work towards the alleviation of their plight,

Recognizing the valuable work done in this field by United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as by other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Expresses grave concern* about the tragic situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts;

2. *Calls upon* States fully to respect the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, as well as those of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflicts special protection and treatment;

3. *Urges* all Member States to continue seeking comprehensive improvement of the situation of children affected by armed conflicts with appropriate and concrete measures;

4. *Requests* bodies and organizations of the United Nations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, within the scope of their respective mandates, to cooperate in order to ensure more effective action in addressing the problem of children affected by armed conflicts;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on those concrete measures which have been taken, pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 above, to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its third session and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint an expert, working in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the United Nations Children's Fund, to undertake a comprehensive study of this question, including the participation of children in armed conflict, as well as the relevance and adequacy of existing standards, and to make specific recommendations on ways and means of preventing children from being affected by armed conflicts and of improving the protection of children in armed conflicts and on measures to ensure effective protection of these children, including from indiscriminate use of all weapons of war, especially anti-personnel mines, and to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, in particular, measures to ensure proper medical care and adequate nutrition, taking into account the recommendations by the World Conference on Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

8. *Requests* Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to contribute to the study requested in paragraph 7 above;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the study to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

10. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the study at its fifty-first session;

11. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-ninth session under the item entitled "Necessity of adopting effective

measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts”.

*85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993*

48/163. International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling its resolution 45/164 of 18 December 1990, in which it proclaimed 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health,

Acknowledging the significance of the Year in raising international awareness of the contribution of, and problems faced by, indigenous people throughout the world, and aware of the need to build on the results and lessons of the Year,

Recognizing the importance of consulting with indigenous people, the need for financial support from the international community, with support from within the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, the need for a strategic planning framework and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

Expressing its appreciation for the work undertaken by the Coordinator for the Year, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, the Goodwill Ambassador, Rigoberta Menchu, and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recognizing the value and the diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of the world's indigenous people,

Welcoming the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,²³ in which the vital role of indigenous people and their communities in the interrelationship between the natural environment and its sustainable development is recognized, including their holistic traditional scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment,

Recognizing the importance of considering the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the framework of an international decade,

Taking note of the recommendation in 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, that the General Assembly should proclaim an international decade of the world's indigenous people, which

should begin from 1994 and should include action-oriented programmes to be decided upon in partnership with indigenous people,

1. *Proclaims* the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 10 December 1994, the period from 1 January to 9 December 1994 to be set aside for planning for the Decade in partnership with indigenous people;

2. *Decides* that the goal of the Decade should be the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health;

3. *Also decides* that, beginning in the first year of the Decade, one day of every year shall be observed as the International Day of Indigenous People;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, at its fiftieth session, to invite the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to identify at its next session an appropriate date for this purpose;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights as the Coordinator for the Decade;

6. *Requests* the Coordinator to coordinate the programme of activities for the Decade in full collaboration and consultation with Governments, competent bodies, the International Labour Organisation and other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and indigenous and non-governmental organizations;

7. *Requests* competent United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to designate focal points for coordination with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat of activities related to the Decade;

8. *Invites* Governments to ensure that activities and objectives for the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full consultation and collaboration with indigenous people;

9. *Requests* specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system to consider with Governments and in partnership with indigenous people how they can contribute to the success of the Decade, and to transmit their recommendations to the Economic and Social Council;

10. *Appeals* to the specialized agencies, regional commissions, financial and development institutions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to take into special account the needs of indigenous people in their budgeting and in their programming;

11. *Invites* indigenous organizations and other interested non-governmental organizations to consider the contributions they can make to the success of the Decade, with a view to presenting them to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations;

12. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to ask the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to identify possible