

dependence of all peoples still under colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably the peoples of Africa and the Palestinian people;

9. *Strongly condemns* the massacres of innocent and defenceless people, including women and children, by the racist minority régimes of southern Africa in their desperate attempt to thwart the legitimate demands of the people;

10. *Demands* full respect for the basic human rights of all individuals detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and independence, and strict respect for article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under which no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,⁴ and their immediate release;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the material and other forms of assistance that peoples under colonial and alien régimes continue to receive from Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and calls for a maximization of this assistance;

12. *Keenly awaits* the conclusion of the following studies by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities:

(a) Historical and current development of the right to self-determination on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, with particular reference to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of this item at its thirty-second session on the basis of reports that Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are requested to submit concerning the strengthening of assistance to colonial Territories and peoples under alien domination and foreign subjugation.

*83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976*

31/35. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,⁵ transmitted by the Economic and Social Council under its resolution 2011 (LXI) of 2 August 1976, and having heard his statement,⁶

Recalling its resolutions 3454 (XXX) and 3455 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 relating to the activities of the High Commissioner for the benefit of refugees and displaced persons,

Recognizing the importance of the essential humanitarian tasks which the High Commissioner is called

upon to perform and for which his Office has acquired particular expertise and experience,

Bearing in mind the increasingly useful co-operation between the High Commissioner and other members of the United Nations system, resulting in better co-ordination of action and greater efficiency,

Recognizing the need for further strengthening the international protection of refugees,

1. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 2011 (LXI) on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. *Commends* the High Commissioner and his staff for the efficient manner in which they continue to discharge their manifold activities on behalf of refugees and displaced persons;

3. *Requests* the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote permanent and speedy solutions to the problems facing his Office through voluntary repatriation and assistance in rehabilitation of returnees, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries as needed;

4. *Further requests* the High Commissioner to continue his humanitarian assistance on behalf of refugees and displaced persons in Africa and urges the fullest co-operation of all concerned for this purpose;

5. *Urges* Governments to strengthen further their support for the humanitarian activities which the High Commissioner is carrying out in accordance with pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council by:

(a) Facilitating his efforts in the field of international protection by means of accession to international instruments relating to refugees and respect for the rights of refugees;

(b) Co-operating in the promotion of permanent and speedy solutions to the problems faced by his Office;

(c) Providing the necessary financial means to attain the objectives of his humanitarian assistance programmes.

*83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976*

31/36. Question of the establishment, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of a body to which persons claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3274 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees⁷ on the question of the establishment, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961,⁸ of a body to which persons claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply,

Noting that the High Commissioner is carrying out the functions required under the Convention without any financial implications for the United Nations,

⁴ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/31/12), Supplement No. 12A (A/31/12/Add.1) and Supplement No. 12B (A/31/12/Add.2).*

⁶ *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Third Committee, 49th meeting, paras. 1-12; and *ibid.*, Third Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 12B (A/31/12/Add.2).

⁸ A/CONF.9/15, 1961.

Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to perform these functions.

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31/37. National experience in promoting the co-operative movement

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2459 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1668 (LII) of 1 June 1972,

Recalling the objective expressed in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development for the purpose of favourably influencing the welfare of peoples as well as the peaceful and friendly relations among nations,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order⁹ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹⁰

Recognizing that the expansion of the co-operative movement in the promotion of social and economic progress is closely linked to structural and institutional reforms which, *inter alia*, aim at equitable distribution of income, popular participation in the development process and equality of opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the fruits of development,

Underlining the appeal to States contained in article 6 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development¹¹ that social progress and development require the participation of all members of society in productive and socially useful labour and the establishment, in conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms and with the principles of justice and the social function of property, of forms of ownership of land and of the means of production which preclude any kind of exploitation of man, ensure equal rights to property for all and create conditions leading to genuine equality among people,

Welcoming the recommendation contained in the Programme of Action¹² adopted by the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour, held at Geneva from 4 to 17 June 1976, that greater importance should be given to the development of co-operatives within the framework of national measures,

Taking note of the progress made by the co-operative movement, both in developed and developing countries, and the contribution made by it in promoting collective self-reliance and mutually beneficial interdependence,

Recognizing the social and economic benefits accruing from producers', consumers', credit, multipurpose and other kinds of co-operatives to all sections of society and, more particularly, to the middle-income and low-income groups,

Stressing the need to assist the rapid development of the multipurpose co-operative movement, particularly in the agricultural and allied rural sectors of economic and social life in the developing countries,

Drawing attention to the lasting benefits enjoyed by large sections of society in urban and rural areas in many parts of the world owing to the noteworthy expansion in co-operative housing projects in the last three decades, and the considerable potential for further activity in this field,

Bearing in mind the positive experience which many countries have already gained in implementing agrarian reforms and in promoting the co-operative movement and which would be conducive to the establishment of the new international economic order and to the realization of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade,¹³

1. *Recognizes* the necessity to pay due attention to the international exchange of experience in the growth and further development and diversification of the co-operative movement;

2. *Invites* Governments and relevant specialized agencies to report to the Secretary-General on their experience in promoting the co-operative movement and in building the necessary socio-economic infrastructure for it;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Member States, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on their national experience in promoting the co-operative movement and on the results so far achieved by international co-operation in this field;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress" and to consider under this item the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement.

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30 November 1976

31/38. National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress

The General Assembly,

Guided by the desire to promote a better quality of life, full employment and other conditions for social and economic development,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Mindful of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order¹⁴ as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹⁵

Bearing in mind resolutions 1581 A (L) of 21 May 1971, 1667 (LII) of 1 June 1972 and 1746 (LIV) of 16 May 1973, in which the Economic and Social Council emphasized the importance of fundamental

⁹ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

¹⁰ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

¹¹ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

¹² See E/5857.

¹³ See E/5597.

¹⁴ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

¹⁵ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).