

structural socio-economic changes for the strengthening of national independence and achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress and considered it appropriate to study the experience of various countries in this field,

Recalling that, in resolution 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of every State to carry out fundamental social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and the necessity to continue the studies of national experience in this field,

Desirous of securing a speedy and complete removal of obstacles to the economic and social progress of peoples, especially colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, aggression, foreign occupation or domination and all forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples,

Convinced that peaceful coexistence and friendly relations among States would contribute to economic and social development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶ prepared on the basis of information received from Governments on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of all nations to pursue freely their economic and social development and to exercise full sovereignty over all their riches and natural resources;

2. *Considers* that the elimination of all forms of subjugation and dependence such as aggression, foreign occupation, colonialism, *apartheid*, racism and all forms of racial discrimination constitutes a prerequisite for social and economic advancement;

3. *Emphasizes* that the carrying out of internal basic socio-economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure speedy improvement of the well-being of the population is of great importance for the achievement of social and economic progress;

4. *Re-emphasizes* the advisability of holding, within the programme of advisory services, regular interregional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

5. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions to pay special attention, on a regular basis, to studies and analyses of national experience in carrying out far-reaching socio-economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Commission for Social Development and/or the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report prepared on the basis of information received from Governments on national experience in carrying out far-reaching changes for the purpose of social progress;

7. *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".

83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976

¹⁶ A/10166.

31/39. Preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

Referring to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁷ in particular to article 15, which reaffirms the right of everyone to participate in the preservation and development of culture, and being aware that one of the bases of international co-operation in the cultural field is mutual respect for cultural integrity,

Considering that the cultural dimension of development is integral to the whole development process,

Convinced that the development of cultural values, cultural exchange and co-operation contribute to a better understanding among States, peoples and individuals and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security, which is an important pre-condition for socio-economic progress,

Stressing the need to evolve a harmonious blend of the cultural values of the traditional civilizations with developments in science and technology,

Profoundly convinced of the urgent need to develop international cultural relations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of the preservation and further development of cultural values,¹⁸

Noting with satisfaction the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in increasing awareness of the need for concerted action in the field of preservation and further development of cultural values,

1. *Requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the General Assembly early in 1978 a progress report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII);

2. *Further requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue efforts and research in this field and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values".

83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976

31/40. Protection and restitution of works of art as part of the preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

¹⁷ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁸ A/31/111, annex.

3187 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 3391 (XXX) of 19 November 1975,

Taking note of resolutions 17 and 24 adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976,¹⁹

Convinced that the promotion of national culture enhances a people's ability to understand the culture and civilization of other peoples and thus has a most favourable impact on international co-operation,

Convinced also that the protection by all means of national culture and heritage is an integral part of the process of preservation and future development of cultural values,

1. *Invites* all Member States to sign and ratify the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,²⁰ adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all necessary steps to prevent, on their territories, any illicit traffic in works of art coming from any other country, especially from territories which were or are under colonial or foreign domination and occupation;

3. *Affirms* that the restitution to a country of its *objets d'art*, monuments, museum pieces, manuscripts, documents and any other cultural or artistic treasures constitutes a step forward towards the strengthening of international co-operation and the preservation and future development of cultural values.

83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976

31/41. Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

Referring to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,²¹ in particular to article 15, which reaffirms the right of everyone to participate in the preservation and development of culture,

Conscious of the need for agreement on a system of values based on justice, equality, freedom and fellowship and on the recognition of the unity of mankind with all its diverse peoples, races and cultures,

Convinced that contacts and exchanges between different cultures on the basis of the equality and the sovereignty of States can make a genuine contribution to the enrichment of cultural values on a national, regional and world-wide scale,

Conscious that the recognition of cultural identity as an integral part of the mobilization of society is an essential factor in the achievement and preservation of independence, national sovereignty and development,

Convinced that the forthcoming Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture will contribute

immensely to the promotion of international co-operation and understanding,

1. *Commends* the efforts made thus far by the international community, including international organizations and the International Festival Committee, in the preparations for the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by Nigeria in its capacity as host country for the Festival;

3. *Appeals* to all interested and concerned countries to make all possible efforts at the national and international levels towards ensuring the success of the Festival.

83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976

31/77. Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973, in which it reaffirmed its resolve to achieve the total and unconditional elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*,

Reaffirming that the policies of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* are flagrant violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and constitute serious violations of the obligations of Member States under the Charter,

Bearing in mind the vital importance of establishing a new international economic order based on justice and equality,

Noting that the realization of the national independence of the People's Republic of Angola and the courageous action of the People's Republic of Mozambique in applying fully the United Nations system of sanctions against the racist régime in Southern Rhodesia have contributed to the growing isolation of the racist régime in South Africa,

Realizing the serious threat to international peace and security resulting from the continued defiance by the racist régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia of the resolutions and the will of the international community in relation to the abhorrent policies of *apartheid* and racial discrimination, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia and the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination,

Convinced that the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination²² is a major undertaking in the fight against racial discrimination which deserves the full support of all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Condemns* the intolerable conditions which continue to prevail in southern Africa and elsewhere, including the denial of the right to self-determination and the inhumane and odious application of *apartheid* and racial discrimination;

2. *Reaffirms* its recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of oppressed peoples to liberate themselves from racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, colonialism and alien domination;

²² Resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex.

¹⁹ See A/31/197, annex IV.

²⁰ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Sixteenth Session*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, pp. 135-141.

²¹ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.