

Bearing in mind the inadmissibility of a refusal to apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949,¹¹

Reaffirming the urgent need to ensure full adherence to, and effective implementation of, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the protection of war victims by all States, in particular those signatories to the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

Considering that the desire to know the fate of loved ones lost in armed conflicts is a basic human need which should be satisfied to the greatest extent possible, and that provision of information on those who are missing or who have died in armed conflicts should not be delayed merely because other issues remain pending,

1. *Reaffirms* the applicability of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to all armed conflicts, as stipulated by those Conventions;

2. *Calls upon* parties to armed conflicts, regardless of their character or location, during and after the end of hostilities and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to take such action as may be within their power to help locate and mark the graves of the dead, to facilitate the disinterment and the return of remains, if requested by their families, and to provide information about those who are missing in action;

3. *Appreciates* the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to assist in the task of accounting for the missing and dead in armed conflicts;

4. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to cooperate, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, with protecting Powers or their substitutes and with the International Committee of the Red Cross in providing information on the missing and dead in armed conflicts, including persons belonging to other countries not parties to the armed conflict;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the second session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

2278th plenary meeting
6 November 1974

3221 (XXIX). Improvement of the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, having considered at its twenty-eighth session the item entitled "Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", it decided, in its resolution 3136 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session an item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms",

Recognizing the need for adequate information and documentation on which consideration of this item should be based,

Noting that the International Covenants on Human Rights¹² will enter into force in the near future,

Noting that the Secretary-General plans to issue shortly up-to-date versions of the comprehensive studies prepared for the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran in 1968,¹³ on methods and measures taken within the United Nations system in the field of human rights,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to solicit the views of Member States, the specialized agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations on alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Invites* appropriate non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Secretary-General any relevant material on the subject, taking into account that such material will not be politically motivated contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a concise analytical report based on the views and material submitted under paragraphs 1 and 2 above and taking into account the above-mentioned instruments and studies and any other relevant material;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

2278th plenary meeting
6 November 1974

3222 (XXIX). Human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stresses respect for the dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling that, in resolution 2860 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, it declared its conviction of the historic significance and the value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1864 (LVI) and 1869 (LVI) of 17 May 1974,

Highly indignant at the continuing repression and inhuman treatment inflicted on peoples still under colonial and foreign domination,

Recalling also its resolution 3059 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973 on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

1. *Reaffirms* its attachment to the principles, values and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

2. *Reaffirms also* its determination to ensure to all persons, without any distinction whatsoever, the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Reaffirms further* the right of all peoples, in particular the peoples of southern Africa, to self-determination, freedom and independence, and the legitimacy of their struggle to free themselves from colonial and foreign domination in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

¹² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹³ For the report of the Conference, see United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2.