

*Bearing in mind* the inadmissibility of a refusal to apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949,<sup>11</sup>

*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 Rights<sup>12</sup> 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,<sup>13</sup> 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;

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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

4. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the efforts made by Governments, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations which have provided moral and material assistance to the peoples of the dependent Territories in Africa and elsewhere with a view to the more effective observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Strongly condemns* the policy of those States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and of other Powers which are assisting the racist régimes in southern Africa and elsewhere to repress the profound aspirations of peoples for the enjoyment of human rights and to prevent the exercise of those rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights the records of the discussion on the question and the relevant report of the Third Committee to the General Assembly.

2278th plenary meeting  
6 November 1974

### 3223 (XXIX). Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

#### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2919 (XXVII) of 15 November 1972, in which it proclaimed the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,

*Recalling* its resolution 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973, in which it reaffirmed its determination to achieve the total and unconditional elimination of racism and racial discrimination, against which the conscience and sense of justice of mankind have long been aroused and which in our time represent serious obstacles to further progress and to the strengthening of international peace and security,

1. *Takes note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1863 (LVI) of 17 May 1974;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>14</sup> submitted in accordance with paragraphs 18 (f) and 18 (h) of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;<sup>15</sup>

3. *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;

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

5. *Urges* all Member States to co-operate loyally and fully in achieving the goals and objectives of the Decade by taking such actions and measures as:

(a) Implementing United Nations resolutions bearing on the elimination of racism, *apartheid*, racial discrimination and the liberation of peoples under colonial domination and alien subjugation;

(b) Signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>16</sup> the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*,<sup>17</sup> the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>18</sup> and all other relevant instruments;

(c) Formulating and executing plans to realize the policy measures and goals contained in the Programme for the Decade;

(d) Reviewing internal laws and regulations with a view to identifying and rescinding those which provide for, give rise to, or inspire racial discrimination or *apartheid*;

(e) Supplying the Secretary-General with comments and views as to the draft agenda and timing of the world conference referred to in paragraph 13 (a) of the Programme for the Decade, as well as in relation to the implementation of that Programme;

(f) Complying, when due, with the provisions of paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade, which call for Governments to forward a report every two years on the action taken under the Programme for the Decade, on the basis of a questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General, and for these reports to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration;

6. *Requests* national sports federations of Member States to refuse systematically to participate in all sports or other activities together with the representatives of the racist régime of South Africa;

7. *Urges* all States, United Nations organs and bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure, *inter alia*:

(a) Immediate termination of all measures and policies, as well as military, political, economic and other activities, which enable racist régimes in southern Africa to continue the repression of the African people;

(b) Full support and assistance, morally and materially, to the peoples which are victims of *apartheid* and racial discrimination and to the liberation movements;

8. *Calls attention* to the vital importance of examining the socio-economic and colonial roots of racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination, with a view to eliminating them;

9. *Stresses* the importance of mobilizing public opinion in support, morally and materially, of the peoples which are victims of racism, *apartheid*, racial discrimination and colonial and alien domination;

10. *Commends* the active involvement of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade within its competence under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

11. *Expresses the hope* that adequate resources will be made available to the Secretary-General to enable him to undertake the activities entrusted to him under the Programme for the Decade;

<sup>14</sup> E/5474, E/5475; see also A/9666 and Add.1-6.

<sup>15</sup> Resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex.

<sup>16</sup> Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>17</sup> Resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

<sup>18</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.