

Conscious of the importance of cultural development which, along with progress in the economic and social fields, should contribute to the improvement of living conditions and the well-being of nations and peoples in the process of establishing a new international economic order, as envisaged in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,²⁸ adopted during the sixth special session of the General Assembly, in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States²⁹ and in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,³⁰

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting the cause of the preservation and further development of cultural values and in assisting co-operation among States in this respect;

2. *Calls upon* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its activities in the field of the preservation and further development of cultural values and, in particular:

(a) To collect information relevant thereto and carry out interdisciplinary research on the role and place of cultural values in contemporary society;

(b) To encourage the international exchange of information on modern methods used in the preservation and development of cultural values;

(c) To promote and assist international co-operation among States and relevant international organizations aiming at the preservation and further development of cultural values;

(d) To include on a continuing basis the problem of the preservation and further development of cultural values in its medium-term and long-term plans.

84th plenary meeting
14 December 1978

33/50. Protection, restitution and return of cultural and artistic property 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, 3187 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3391 (XXX) of 19 November 1975, 31/40 of 30 November 1976 and 32/18 of 11 November 1977,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,³¹

Noting with satisfaction the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twentieth session, held in Paris from 24 October to 28 November 1978, by which it approved the statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

²⁸ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

²⁹ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

³⁰ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

³¹ See A/33/157.

Taking into account the results of the meeting of the Committee of Experts held at Dakar in 1978 to study the mandate, means of action and working methods of the above-mentioned Intergovernmental Committee,

Reaffirming 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 in the strengthening of international co-operation and the preservation and further development of cultural values,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the work done in connexion with the restitution and return of cultural and artistic property;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its valuable efforts to find suitable solutions for the problems relating to the restitution and return of cultural and artistic property and urges Member States to co-operate with that organization in this field;

4. *Invites* Member States to take all possible steps for the restitution and return of cultural and artistic property, including manuscripts and documents, through, *inter alia*, the establishment of bilateral arrangements;

5. *Invites* all Governments to accede to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,³² adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values, including the protection, restitution and return of cultural and artistic property".

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33/51. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights³³ constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³⁴ form the heart of the International Bill of Human Rights,³⁵

Recalling its resolutions 31/86 of 13 December 1976 and 32/66 of 8 December 1977,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Eco-

³² United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Sixteenth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, pp. 135-141.

³³ Resolution 2200 (XXI), annex.

³⁴ Resolution 217 A (III).

³⁵ *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XIV.2), sect. A.

nomic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³⁶

Noting with appreciation that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Human Rights Committee on its third to fifth sessions³⁷ and expresses satisfaction at the serious manner in which the Committee is continuing to undertake its functions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee and urges States parties which have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Committee as speedily as possible;

4. *Urges* States parties which have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with this request by providing such information;

5. *Expresses the hope* that the consideration of reports submitted under the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council without further delay;

6. *Again invites* all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

7. *Invites* the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of that Covenant;

8. *Appreciates* that the Human Rights Committee continues to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol thereto and emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by the States parties with their obligations under the Covenant;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and also to

transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to these bodies;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

11. *Emphasizes* the duty of the Secretary-General under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the Human Rights Committee;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the request of the Human Rights Committee for adequate secretarial assistance, having regard to the over-all needs for servicing the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol and being informed of the shortage of staff and resources of the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat, to make appropriate suggestions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 with regard to adequate staff and resources needed for servicing the above-mentioned instruments, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976.

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33/52. World Assembly on the Elderly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development³⁸ and the emphasis therein on the dignity and worth of the human being and the rights of the aged,

Recalling its resolution 3137 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 on the question of the elderly and the recommendation therein on the need for well-designed policies and programmes for the aging,

Recalling its resolution 32/132 of 16 December 1977 on the international year and world assembly on aging,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the problems of the elderly and the aged,³⁹

Recognizing the need to call world-wide attention to the serious problems besetting a growing portion of the populations of the world,

1. *Decides* to organize, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and organizations concerned, a World Assembly on the Elderly in 1982, as a forum to launch an international action programme aimed at guaranteeing economic and social security to older persons, as well as opportunities to contribute to national development;

2. *Decides* to consider at a later stage the feasibility of observing an international year of the elderly, giving due consideration to the report of the Secretary-General requested in Economic and Social Council decision 1978/47 of 1 August 1978;

³⁶ A/33/149 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

³⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/33/40).

³⁸ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

³⁹ A/33/265.