

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.

*84th plenary meeting
14 December 1978*

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.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to elaborate, in consultation with Member States, the specialized agencies and organizations concerned, and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a draft programme for the World Assembly on the Elderly and to make recommendations on the organization and objectives of the World Assembly;

4. Recommends that Member States, in formulating their comments on the draft programme, should include, *inter alia*, attention to categorizing and analysing the problems of elderly persons in their societies;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Problems of the elderly and the aged", under which the report of the Secretary-General on the World Assembly on the Elderly would be considered.

*84th plenary meeting
14 December 1978*

33/53. Human rights and scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 10 A (XXXIII) of 11 March 1977,⁴⁰ in which the Commission requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to study the question of the protection of those detained on the grounds of mental ill-health with a view to formulating guidelines, if possible, and to submit to the Commission a progress report on this study,

Requests the Commission on Human Rights to urge that the study of the question of the protection of those detained on the grounds of mental ill-health be undertaken as a matter of priority by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and to submit a progress report on this question to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

*84th plenary meeting
14 December 1978*

33/54. Review and co-ordination of human rights programmes of organizations in the United Nations system and co-operation with other international programmes in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Conscious of its responsibilities under Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations to initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Having in mind the responsibility of the General Assembly for the discharge of the functions set forth

in Chapter IX of the Charter and the particular role of the Economic and Social Council under Chapter X in co-ordinating activities in the field of human rights,

Taking into account the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in addition to reports of the Economic and Social Council, including those of the Commission on Human Rights, which provide a broader basis for consideration of human rights activities of the United Nations,

Recognizing that some of the specialized agencies, especially the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, have developed procedures and programmes for the promotion of human rights within their fields of competence, and that the work of these agencies significantly complements the work done by the United Nations human rights organs,

Noting the existence of other human rights organs and programmes which function under separate constitutional instruments of intergovernmental organizations and have compiled significant records of human rights actions within their areas of jurisdiction,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1159 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, by which formal relations between regional organizations and the Commission on Human Rights were authorized,

Recalling that, in its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, it reaffirmed that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political, and economic, social and cultural rights,

Considering that the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms demand renewed efforts to stimulate greater co-operation, co-ordination and communication among all the intergovernmental agencies and institutions involved in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. Requests the Commission on Human Rights, in the context of the over-all analysis it has undertaken in response to General Assembly resolution 32/130 and in accordance with Commission resolution 26 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978,⁴¹ to consult with specialized agencies and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system which are, according to their mandates, concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and, as appropriate, with other regional intergovernmental bodies related to the United Nations system particularly concerned with human rights, on the various human rights activities and programmes and the existing modes of co-ordination, co-operation and communication among them;

2. Further requests the Commission on Human Rights to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council and within the report of the aforementioned over-all analysis:

⁴⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5927)*, chap. XXI, sect. A.

⁴¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34)*, chap. XXVI, sect. A.