

and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Mindful of the important contribution which the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat has made to United Nations activities for the promotion and protection of human rights since the inception of the Organization,

Believing, however, that the activities of the human rights sector of the Secretariat should be enhanced so as better to enable it to meet the needs of the Organization and the international community, particularly after the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights⁴⁶ and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*,⁴⁷ and bearing in mind policy-making decisions of the General Assembly such as resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat,⁴⁸ the general direction of which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/204 of 21 December 1977,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the redesignation of the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights, in the light of the views expressed on the proposed redesignation at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources are allocated to the sector of the Secretariat concerned with human rights, so as to enable it to discharge its functions, in the light of the results of the relevant study to be conducted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 34/46 of 23 November 1979;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979*

34/48. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for the improvement of the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations under Article 1 of the Charter is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴⁹

Bearing in mind its resolution 33/105 of 16 December 1978, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to take into account, in continuing its work on the over-all analysis of the United Nations approach to human rights, the views expressed on the various proposals during the general debate on the item at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly, including a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

⁴⁶ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴⁷ Resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

⁴⁸ A/C.5/32/17.

⁴⁹ Resolution 217 A (III).

Considering that the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights was nevertheless unable, in its consideration of the over-all analysis,⁵⁰ to make a thorough evaluation of the proposal to create a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Decides to consider at its thirty-fifth session the question of the creation of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979*

34/49. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/123 of 16 December 1977 and 33/46 of 14 December 1978, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolutions 23 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978⁵¹ and 24 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,⁵² concerning national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 34/46 of 23 November 1979, it emphasized the need to create conditions at the national and international levels for the full promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Mindful of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights adopted by the Seminar on National and Local Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at Geneva from 18 to 29 September 1978,⁵³ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46,

Mindful also of the conclusions of the Seminar on Recourse Procedures Available to Victims of Racial Discrimination and Activities to be Undertaken at the Regional Level, held at Geneva from 9 to 20 July 1979,⁵⁴

1. *Invites* all Member States to take appropriate steps for the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, bearing in mind the guidelines referred to above;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the integrity and independence of such national institutions, in accordance with national legislation;

3. *Draws attention* to the constructive role which national non-governmental organizations can play in the work of national institutions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session the report requested in paragraph 6 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 24 (XXXV), to draw also upon other relevant sources, such as the reports and documents of the Seminar on National and Local Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human

⁵⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. IX, sect. A.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 1978, *Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34)*, chap. XXVI, sect. A.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. XXIV, sect. A.

⁵³ See ST/HR/SER.A/2 and Add.1.

⁵⁴ See ST/HR/SER.A/3.

Rights and the Seminar on Recourse Procedures Available to Victims of Racial Discrimination and Activities to be Undertaken at the Regional Level, and, in presenting his report to the Assembly, to describe the various existing types of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights reflected in the documentation received by him and in the above-mentioned sources;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session a subitem entitled "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights";

6. *Recommends* that Member States should associate representatives of their national institutions with the contents of the debate on the above-mentioned subitem.

76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979

34/59. Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, and 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 concerning the implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling also its resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling further its resolution 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development and Economic and Social Council resolution 2072 (LXII) of 13 May 1977 on the co-ordination of the results of the world conferences in the field of social development in the 1970s, as well as its resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979 on the preparations for an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade,

Conscious of the fact that further social development contributes to peaceful coexistence, détente and the strengthening of international peace and security,

Conscious of the growing importance of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development for the formulation and implementation of national policies and measures and for the undertaking of joint and individual actions to promote higher and improved standards of living, full employment and conditions conducive to rapid economic and social progress,

Strongly desirous of achieving effective realization of the provisions of the Declaration,

Noting the limited progress achieved in implementing the Declaration since its adoption and taking into account the scope of still unexploited possibilities,

1. *Recommends* that all Governments should, in their policies, plans, programmes and implementation machinery, continuously take into consideration the principles, objectives, means and methods of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;

2. *Decides* that the Declaration shall be taken into account in the formulation of the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and in the implementation of programmes of international action to be carried out during the decade;

3. *Invites* all Governments to take into account the provisions of the Declaration in their forthcoming bilateral and multilateral co-operation;

4. *Recommends* that international organizations and agencies concerned with development should continue to utilize the provisions of the Declaration, as an important international document, in the formulation of strategies and programmes aimed at social progress and development and that those provisions should be taken into consideration in the drafting of instruments that the United Nations may employ in the field of social progress and development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in co-operation with Governments, to record, analyse and disseminate as widely as possible significant national and international progress made towards realizing the commendable objectives contained in the universally accepted Declaration;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly, in summary form in annexes to the reports on the world social situation, of the measures adopted by Governments, which may not be included in other reports provided on a regular basis, and by the international organizations concerned for the realization of the provisions of the Declaration and for the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting
29 November 1979

34/60. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,⁵⁵ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on its thirtieth session,⁵⁶ and having heard the High Commissioner's statement,⁵⁷

Recalling its resolution 33/26 of 29 November 1978,

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian character of the activities of the High Commissioner for the benefit of an increasing number of refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office,

Noting with deep concern the continued gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the world,

Commending Governments for their humanitarian approach to refugee problems, for the spirit in which they have received refugees and for their generous support of the work of the High Commissioner,

Emphasizing the continuing need to ensure the basic human rights, protection and safety of refugees, *inter alia*, through the accession to and more effective implementation of relevant international instruments,

Noting that increased financial and other support from Governments is urgently needed to assist the High

⁵⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/34/12).*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/34/12/Add.1).

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-fourth Session, Third Committee, 42nd meeting, paras. 1-13.