

1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978, 1982/37 of 7 May 1982 and 1983/39 of 27 May 1983 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

*Bearing in mind* that children's rights are basic human rights and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace,

*Mindful* of the need to keep up the momentum of positive action for the sake of children generated by the International Year of the Child,

*Noting* the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

*Aware* of the importance of an international convention on the rights of the child for a more effective protection of children's rights, as well as of the widespread interest in the elaboration of such an international instrument displayed by a growing number of Governments and international organizations,

*Considering* that the year 1984 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child,<sup>162</sup>

*Reaffirming* that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give,

*Noting with appreciation* that further progress was made in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child prior to<sup>163</sup> and during<sup>164</sup> the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/39, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the fortieth session of the Commission to facilitate and speed up the completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority at its fortieth session to the question of completing the draft convention and to make every effort to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, as the Commission's tangible contribution to the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child;

3. *Invites* all Member States to offer their effective contribution to the completion without delay of the draft convention on the rights of the child;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the working group to ensure its smooth and efficient work;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### 38/115. Arabic language services for meetings of the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Human Rights Committee

*The General Assembly,*

*Aware* of the need to achieve greater international co-operation and to promote harmonization of its activities in the field of human rights,

*Bearing in mind* its resolutions 3190 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 34/226 of 20 December 1979 and 35/219 of 17 December 1980 relating to the introduction of Arabic as an official and working language of the General Assembly and its Main Committees,

*Authorizes* the provision of Arabic language services required for meetings of the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>165</sup> as well as of the Human Rights Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to that end.

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### 38/116. International Covenants on Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 33/51 of 14 December 1978, 34/45 of 23 November 1979, 35/132 of 11 December 1980, 36/58 of 25 November 1981 and 37/191 of 18 December 1982,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>166</sup> on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>165</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>165</sup> and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>165</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>165</sup>

*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,

*Taking into account* the useful work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

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

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decision 1983/184 of 29 July 1983, in which the Council invited the General Assembly to consider at its thirty-eighth session the possibility of scheduling the meetings of the Human Rights Committee so that the Committee's report could be submitted to the Assembly through the Council at its first regular session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth sessions,<sup>167</sup> and expresses its satisfaction at the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to perform its functions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

<sup>162</sup> Resolution 1386 (XIV).

<sup>163</sup> See E/CN.4/1983/62.

<sup>164</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 3 (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XI.*

<sup>165</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>166</sup> A/38/392.

<sup>167</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/38/40).*

that have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee in submitting their reports under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Committee as speedily as possible;

3. *Urges* those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with that request;

4. *Commends* those States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have submitted their reports under article 16 of the Covenant and urges States that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible and, in those instances in which it is not possible to do so, to inform the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as to when those reports will be submitted;

5. *Notes with appreciation* that the majority of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and an increasing number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, have been represented by experts for the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in future;

6. *Again invites* all States that 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 to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

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 the Covenant;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

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, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to those bodies;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth 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. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take further positive steps to ensure that adequate publicity and other arrangements are made to enable the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council to carry out effectively, within existing resources, their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights;

12. *Also urges* the Secretary-General to expedite arrangements for publication of the official public records of the Human Rights Committee in bound volumes, starting with its first session, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 37/191;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all possible steps to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat is able to assist effectively the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976.

*100th plenary meeting  
16 December 1983*

### **38/117. Reporting obligations of the States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 37/44 of 3 December 1982,

*Mindful* of the obligation of all States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>165</sup> to comply fully with their provisions, including articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>165</sup> which require the submission of periodic reports in accordance with the programme established by the Economic and Social Council,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>168</sup> in which he indicates that a large number of delays occur in the submission of reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

*Noting* that the report of the Secretary-General emphasizes the interrelationship of problems affecting the reporting system under various human rights instruments,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reiterates* the importance it attaches to the reporting systems established by the International Covenants on Human Rights;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit his report to the Economic and Social Council, which is entrusted with the consideration of the reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights under article 16 thereof;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and its Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to consider the suggestions contained in the report of the Secretary-General with a view to improving the situation regarding the submission of reports under the Covenant;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening, in accordance with the suggestion contained in the report of the Human Rights Committee<sup>169</sup> and within existing resources, a meeting of the Chairmen of the bodies entrusted with the consideration of reports submitted under the relevant human rights instruments in order to consider the report of the Secretary-General, taking into account the results of General

<sup>168</sup> A/38/393.

<sup>169</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly: Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/38/40)*, para. 32.