

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and Member States to ensure that appropriate additional resources from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations are accorded to the Centre to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, the mandates contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action without diverting resources from development programmes and activities of the United Nations;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the strengthening of the Centre and on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.

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48/130. Right to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹⁵⁸ which it proclaimed at its forty-first session,

Recalling its resolutions 45/97 of 14 December 1990, 46/123 of 17 December 1991 and 47/123 of 18 December 1992, and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development, and taking note of Commission resolution 1993/22 of 4 March 1993,³³

Recalling also the report on the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Right to Development as a Human Right,¹⁵⁹

Recalling further the principles proclaimed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 14 June 1992,¹⁶⁰

Reiterating the importance of the right to development for all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Mindful that the Commission on Human Rights entered a new phase at its forty-ninth session in its consideration of this matter, which is directed towards the implementation and further enhancement of the right to development,

Reaffirming the need for an evaluation mechanism so as to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development, and welcoming in this regard the decision of the Commission at its forty-ninth session, in its resolution 1993/22, to establish a working group on the right to development,

Noting that the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, examined the relationship between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, recognizing the importance of creating the conditions whereby everyone may enjoy those rights as set out in the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹⁹

Recalling that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Welcoming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,

which reaffirms the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and reaffirms that the human person is the central subject of development.

Having considered the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolution 47/123,¹⁶¹

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the right to development for all countries, in particular the developing countries;

2. *Takes note with interest* of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/123;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session concrete proposals on the effective implementation and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development, taking into account the views expressed on the issue at the forty-ninth session of the Commission as well as any further comments and recommendations that may be submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of Commission resolution 1993/22;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the first meeting of the Working Group on the Right to Development from 8 to 19 November 1993 at Geneva;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue coordination of the various activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration;

6. *Urges* all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the specialized agencies, when planning their programmes of activities, to take due account of the Declaration and to make efforts to enhance their cooperation in its application;

7. *Urges* the regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations to convene meetings of governmental experts and representatives of non-governmental and grass-roots organizations for the purpose of seeking agreements for the implementation of the Declaration through international cooperation;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session and the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session of the activities of the organizations, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Declaration;

9. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Right to Development as a Human Right and the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the results of the World Conference on Human Rights, including its reaffirmation that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

11. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-ninth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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48/131. Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/146 of 15 December 1989, 45/150 of 18 December 1990, and especially 46/137 of 17 December 1991 and 47/138 of 18 December 1992, as well as the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51 of 7 March 1989,²⁹

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted by the World Conference of Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, especially the recognition therein that assistance provided upon the request of Governments for the conduct of free and fair elections, including assistance in the human rights aspects of elections and public information about elections, is of particular importance in the strengthening and building of institutions relating to human rights and the strengthening of a pluralistic civil society, and that special emphasis should be given to measures that assist in achieving those goals;¹⁶²

Reaffirming that electoral assistance is provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁶³

Noting the high level of requests for electoral assistance by Member States,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections;

2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided to Member States at their request by the United Nations, requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the proposed guidelines on electoral assistance, recognizing that the fundamental responsibility for ensuring free and fair elections lies with Governments, and also requests the Electoral Assistance Unit of the Secretariat to inform Member States on a regular basis about the requests received, the responses given to those requests and the nature of the assistance provided;

3. *Requests* that the United Nations attempt to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission for providing such assistance, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that provisions can be made for adequate and comprehensive reporting of the results of the mission;

4. *Recommends* that the United Nations, in order to ensure the continuation and consolidation of the democratization process in Member States requesting assistance, provide assistance before and after elections have taken place, including

needs-assessment missions aimed at recommending programmes which might contribute to the consolidation of the democratization process;

5. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Observation and the establishment by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of a separate fund, the Trust Fund for Technical Assistance to Electoral Processes, and calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the funds;

6. *Stresses* the importance of coordination by the focal point within the United Nations system, commends the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat for the advisory services and technical assistance it provides and the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme for the technical assistance they provide to requesting Member States, and requests the focal point to strengthen its collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, including through an exchange of personnel when appropriate, and with the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the United Nations Development Programme and inform them of requests submitted in the area of electoral assistance;

7. *Recommends* that the United Nations continue and strengthen its coordination of election preparation and observation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have an interest in such activities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Unit with adequate human and financial resources, under the regular budget of the United Nations and within existing resources, to allow it to carry out its mandate;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to reinforce the Centre for Human Rights through the redeployment of resources and personnel, so as to enable it to answer, in close coordination with the Electoral Assistance Unit, the increasing number of requests from Member States for advisory services in the area of electoral assistance;

10. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General, on the basis of the guidelines proposed in his report¹⁶⁴ and on the basis of experience acquired over the last two years, provide a revised set of guidelines for consideration at its forty-ninth session;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of resolution 47/138 and the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance and verification, and on the validity of the guidelines in the light of experience.

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48/132. Strengthening of the rule of law

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the achievement of international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion is one of the purposes of the United Nations,