

Recalling also that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Firmly convinced that, as stressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights,

Convinced that through their own national legal and judicial systems States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Aware of the need for the implementation of strengthened advisory services and technical assistance activities in the field of human rights,

Mindful of the significant role played by national institutions in the promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms in their respective countries,

Convinced that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat should play an important role in coordinating system-wide attention for human rights,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/51 of 3 March 1992,³² and taking note of Commission resolution 1993/50 of 9 March 1993,³³ both entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law",

Noting with appreciation that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, the Conference recommended that priority be given to national and international action to promote democracy, development and human rights,

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations and under the coordination of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;¹⁶⁵

2. *Expresses its conviction* that such a programme should be able to provide, upon the request of the interested Government, technical and financial assistance for the implementation of national plans of action as well as specific projects for the reform of penal and correctional establishments and the education and training of lawyers, judges and security forces in human rights, and in any other sphere of activity relevant to the good functioning of the rule of law;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the request contained in section II, paragraph 70, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to submit concrete proposals to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session containing alternatives for the establishment, structure, operational modalities and funding of the proposed programme, taking into account existing programmes and activities already undertaken by the Centre for Human Rights;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to remain actively seized of this question, with a view to further elaborating the outline of the proposed programme;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-ninth session in the light of the proposals of the Secretary-General.

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/133. International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993

The General Assembly.

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations set forth in the Charter is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing and respecting the value and the diversity of cultures, as well as the cultural heritage and the forms of social organization of the world's indigenous people,

Recalling its resolution 45/164 of 18 December 1990, in which it proclaimed 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health,

Conscious of the need to improve the economic, social and cultural situation of the indigenous people with full respect for their distinctiveness and their own initiatives,

Appreciative of the contributions made to the voluntary fund for the Year opened by the Secretary-General,

Noting the establishment of the fund for the development of indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean as one kind of support for the objectives of the Year,

Taking note of the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, that an international decade of the world's indigenous people should be proclaimed,¹⁶⁶

Noting the need to continue strengthening the initiatives taken as a result of the Year,

Recalling the request to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that it should complete its consideration of the draft universal declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples,

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Governments that have not yet done so to develop policies in support of the objectives and the theme of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and to strengthen the institutional framework for their implementation;

2. *Recommends* to all thematic rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups that they pay particular attention, within the framework of their mandates, to the situation of indigenous people;

3. *Urges* the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to continue to solicit actively the cooperation of specialized agencies, regional commissions, financial and development institutions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the promotion of a programme of activities in support of the objectives and the theme of the Year;

4. *Appeals* to the specialized agencies, regional commissions and financial and development institutions of the United Nations system to continue to increase their efforts to take into special account the needs of indigenous people in their budgeting and in their programming;

5. *Requests:*

(a) That reports of the three technical meetings, first provided for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 46/128 of 17 December 1991, be included in the final assessment proceedings provided for in paragraph 12 of the same resolution and that their conclusions be included in the report of the Coordinator for the Year to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

(b) That the Commission on Human Rights convene, from within existing resources, a meeting of participants in the programmes and projects of the Year, in the three days preceding the twelfth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to report to the Working Group on the conclusions that can be drawn from the activities of the Year with a view to the elaboration of a detailed plan of action and the establishment of a funding plan for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

6. *Stresses* the relevance for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities of the recommendations contained in chapter 26 of Agenda 21,⁹⁰ including their implementation;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding at Manila of a Global Youth Earth-saving Summit which, by its reaffirmation of the role of traditional cultures in the preservation of the environment, underscored the right to cultural survival;

8. *Welcomes* the proposal for a gathering of indigenous youth in 1995, an "Indigenous Youth Cultural Olympics", as a follow-up to the Year, to be held in conjunction with the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, to reaffirm the value of traditional cultures, folk arts and rituals as effective expressions of respective national identities and as a foundation for a shared vision for peace, freedom and equality;

9. *Also stresses* that the governmental and intergovernmental activities undertaken within the context of the Year and beyond should take fully into account the development needs of indigenous people and that the Year should contribute to enhancing and facilitating the coordination capabilities of Member States for collecting and analysing information;

10. *Notes* that there is a continuing need within the United Nations system to aggregate data specific to indigenous people

by means of enhancing and facilitating the coordination capabilities of Member States for collecting and analysing such data;

11. *Requests* the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its forty-sixth session, to complete its consideration of the draft universal declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and to submit its report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session;

12. *Requests* the Coordinator for the Year, in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the activities developed and the results achieved within the context of the Year, to include an account of the response of the United Nations system to the needs of indigenous people;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work undertaken for the Year by Governments, the Coordinator for the Year, the International Labour Organisation, the Goodwill Ambassador, Rigoberta Menchu, indigenous and non-governmental organizations, the Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

85th plenary meeting
20 December 1993

48/134. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions concerning national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, notably its resolutions 41/129 of 4 December 1986 and 46/124 of 17 December 1991 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1987/40 of 10 March 1987,²⁷ 1988/72 of 10 March 1988,²⁸ 1989/52 of 7 March 1989,²⁹ 1990/73 of 7 March 1990,³⁰ 1991/27 of 5 March 1991³¹ and 1992/54 of 3 March 1992,³² and taking note of Commission resolution 1993/55 of 9 March 1993,³³

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ the International Covenants on Human Rights¹⁹ and other international instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Affirming that priority should be accorded to the development of appropriate arrangements at the national level to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards,

Convinced of the significant role that institutions at the national level can play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Recognizing that the United Nations can play a catalytic role in assisting the development of national institutions by acting as a clearing-house for the exchange of information and experience,

Mindful in this regard of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46 of 14 December 1978,