

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,<sup>210</sup> in particular section IX thereof entitled "1998: Human Rights Year", in which proposals to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary were made, including the convening of a ceremonial meeting of the General Assembly, and welcoming the intention of the High Commissioner to facilitate cooperation between various initiatives aimed at the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary,

1. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to coordinate the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>208</sup> bearing in mind the provisions set out in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>209</sup> for evaluation and follow-up;

2. *Invites* Governments to review and assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome to achieve progress in this area, to undertake additional efforts and to develop programmes of education and information, with a view to disseminating the text of the Declaration and arriving at a better understanding of the universal message;

3. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies to give appropriate attention, within their mandates and methods of work, to the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration and to reflect on their possible contribution to the preparations;

4. *Endorses* the intention of the relevant United Nations organs and agencies, in the light of the purposes set forth in the Declaration, to make an assessment of and to put forward pertinent conclusions on the state of implementation and impact of existing international human rights instruments;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations organs and agencies, in coordination with the High Commissioner, to mark the anniversary by intensifying their own contributions to United Nations system-wide efforts to promote and protect human rights;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and national institutions to participate fully in the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration, to intensify their campaign for greater understanding and better use of the Declaration and to communicate their observations and recommendations to the High Commissioner;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 appropriate activities to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration;

8. *Decides* to convene, during its fifty-third session, a one-day plenary meeting, on 10 December 1998, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration;

9. *Also decides* to review during its fifty-second session the state of preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration and to consider appropriate measures in this regard, including its own contribution.

*82nd plenary meeting  
12 December 1996*

**51/89. Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

*Recalling* the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>211</sup>

*Stressing* that, as stated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>212</sup> family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration and that remittances by documented migrants to their countries of origin often constitute a very important source of foreign exchange and are instrumental in improving the well-being of relatives left behind,

*Recalling* its resolution 50/175 of 22 December 1995,

1. *Once again calls upon* all States to guarantee the universally recognized freedom of travel to all foreign nationals legally residing in their territory;

2. *Reaffirms* that all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its incorporation into national legislation in order to ensure protection of the unity of families of documented migrants.

3. *Calls upon* all States to allow, in conformity with international legislation, the free flow of financial remittances by foreign nationals residing in their territory to their relatives in the country of origin;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to refrain from enacting, and to repeal if it already exists, legislation intended as a coercive measure which discriminates against individuals or groups of legal migrants by adversely affecting family reunification and the right to send financial remittances to relatives in the country of origin;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*82nd plenary meeting  
12 December 1996*

<sup>210</sup> A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36*.

<sup>211</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>212</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.