

2. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that all the necessary human, financial, material and personnel resources are provided from the regular budget of the United Nations without delay to the United Nations human rights programme to enable it to carry out its mandates efficiently, effectively and expeditiously, having due regard to the need to finance and implement activities of the United Nations relating to development;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the capability of the High Commissioner and the Centre to fulfil effectively their mandates and their ability to carry out mandated operational activities and to coordinate efficiently with other relevant departments of the Secretariat, as well as other organs, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including on logistical and administrative questions;

4. *Supports fully* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner in their efforts to strengthen the human rights activities of the United Nations, *inter alia*, through reorganization of the structure of the Centre to improve its efficiency and effectiveness;

5. *Encourages* increased cooperation and coordination on human rights issues between the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, and other departments and offices of the Secretariat;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for full participation of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights in all mechanisms related to the follow-up to major United Nations conferences, in particular the inter-agency task forces established for this purpose;

7. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide information and exchange of views with all States on a regular basis on the ongoing process of restructuring the Centre, *inter alia*, through informal open briefing sessions;

8. *Encourages* the High Commissioner, within his mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141, to continue to play an active role in promoting and protecting human rights, including by preventing human rights violations throughout the world, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to support activities proposed by the High Commissioner;

9. *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*

51/91. Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, as well as its subsequent resolutions on the Declaration on the

Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Concerned by the growing frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts concerning minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and concerned also that persons belonging to minorities are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, *inter alia*, population transfers, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Considering that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural heritage of society as a whole in the States in which such persons live,

Noting that the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held its second session from 30 April to 3 May 1996 and that its report will be made available to the Commission on Human Rights,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an increasingly important role to play regarding the protection of minorities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;²²⁰

2. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

3. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, including through the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country;

4. *Recognizes* that respect for human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by Governments as well as between and among minorities is central to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

5. *Urges* States to take, as appropriate, all the necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the principles contained in the Declaration;

6. *Appeals* to States to make bilateral and multilateral efforts, as appropriate, in order to protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic

²²⁰ A/51/536.

minorities in their countries, in accordance with the Declaration;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities;

8. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and, in accordance with his mandate, calls upon him to promote the implementation of the Declaration and to continue to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation of United Nations programmes and agencies which deal with minority issues in activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

10. *Urges* all treaty bodies to give due regard, within their respective mandates, to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

11. *Calls upon* States to continue to include in their reports to treaty bodies, in accordance with the relevant conventions, information on measures taken for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

12. *Calls upon* all special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations involving minorities;

13. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/92. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Considering that the subject of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has been discussed in the United Nations for many years²²¹ within the framework of discussions on human rights based on the general recognition of the right to life of every person as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights,²²² the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²²³ and a large number of other international human rights instruments, that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions can be fought effectively only through a genuine will on the part of Governments to enforce the safeguards and guarantees for the protection of the right to life of every person, that declarations of commitment to the protection of the right to life by Governments are only effective if they are translated into practice and respected by all and that, if the aim is protection of the right to life, the emphasis must be on prevention of all forms of violations of this fundamental right,

1. *Strongly condemns once again* all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to take place throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms;

3. *Reiterates* the obligation of all Governments to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, to identify and bring to justice those responsible, to grant adequate compensation to the victims or their families and to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such executions;

4. *Reiterates also* that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions needs to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, and invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in the elaboration of his report;

5. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council decision 1995/284 of 25 July 1995, in which the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/73 of 8 March 1995²²⁴ to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for a three-year period, and recommends that the Commission at its fifty-fourth session continue his mandate;

6. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;²²⁵

7. *Notes* the important role the Special Rapporteur has played towards the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

²²² Resolution 217 A (III).

²²³ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

²²⁵ A/51/457, annex.

²²¹ The most recent resolutions are General Assembly resolution 49/191 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/74 (for the latter, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.).