

12. *Encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

13. *Also encourages* Governments, when seeking the assistance of the United Nations programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights, to consider, where appropriate, including requests for assistance in the field of the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

14. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups to promote the implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to consider what further contribution they could make to its implementation and dissemination in all parts of the world;

15. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the necessary staffing, financial and material resources to enable him to discharge in full and on time his mandate;

18. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996*

51/94. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²³³ the International Covenants on Human Rights²³⁴ and the other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons and its resolutions 46/125 of 17 December 1991, 47/132 of 18 December 1992 and 49/193 of 23 December 1994 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Recalling also its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992 proclaiming the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Expressing concern that, according to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the practice of a number of States can run counter to the Declaration,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the intensification of enforced disappearances in various regions of the world and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Convinced that further efforts are needed to promote wider awareness of and respect for the Declaration, and taking note in this regard of the report of the Secretary-General,²³⁵

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/30 of 19 April 1996,²³⁶

1. *Reaffirms* that any act of enforced disappearance is an offence to human dignity and a grave and flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights²³³ and reaffirmed and developed in other international instruments in this field, as well as a violation of the rules of international law;

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances, in keeping with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to take action to that end at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations, including through technical assistance;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that, when a state of emergency is introduced, the protection of human rights is ensured, in particular as regards the prevention of enforced disappearances;

4. *Reminds* Governments of the need to ensure that their competent authorities conduct prompt and impartial inquiries in all circumstances, whenever there is reason to believe that an enforced disappearance has occurred in territory under their jurisdiction, and that, if allegations are confirmed, perpetrators should be prosecuted;

5. *Once again urges* the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they might be subjected;

6. *Encourages* States, as some have already done, to provide concrete information on measures taken to give effect to the Declaration, as well as obstacles encountered;

7. *Requests* all States to consider the possibility of disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in the national and local languages;

²³³ Resolution 217 A (III).

²³⁴ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²³⁵ A/51/561.

²³⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

8. *Notes* the action taken by non-governmental organizations to encourage implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to continue to facilitate its dissemination and to contribute to the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work;

10. *Requests* the Working Group, in the continued exercise of its mandate, to take into account the provisions of the Declaration and to modify its working methods, if necessary;

11. *Recalls* that the primary role of the Working Group, as described in its reports, is to act as a channel of communication between the families of disappeared persons and the Governments concerned, with a view to ensuring that sufficiently documented and clearly identified individual cases are investigated, and to ascertain whether such information falls under its mandate and contains the required elements, and invites the Group to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in preparing its report;

12. *Invites* the Working Group to identify obstacles to the realization of the provisions of the Declaration, to recommend ways of overcoming those obstacles and, in this regard, to continue a dialogue with Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Further encourages* the Working Group to continue to consider the question of impunity, in close collaboration with the rapporteur appointed by the Subcommission and with due regard for the relevant provisions of the Declaration;

14. *Requests* the Working Group to pay the utmost attention to cases of children subjected to enforced disappearance and children of disappeared persons and to cooperate closely with the Governments concerned to search for and identify those children;

15. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, in particular those which have not yet replied to the communications transmitted by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it and, in particular, to reply promptly to its requests for information so that, while respecting its working methods based on discretion, it may perform its strictly humanitarian role;

16. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to give serious consideration to inviting the Working Group to visit their countries so as to enable the Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

17. *Expresses its profound thanks* to the many Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information, and to the Governments that have invited the Group to visit their countries, asks them to give all necessary attention to the

recommendations of the Group, and invites them to inform the Group of any action they take on those recommendations;

18. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any steps it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group and to the follow-up of its recommendations when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its fifty-third session;

19. *Renews its requests* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all the facilities it requires to perform its functions, especially for carrying out missions and following them up;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he takes to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to consider the question of enforced disappearances, and in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-third session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996*

51/95. Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/124 of 18 December 1992, 48/126 of 20 December 1993 and 49/213 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed and supported the United Nations Year for Tolerance,

Recalling also that the Charter of the United Nations affirms in its preamble that to practice tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace,

Stressing that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as 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 distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Bearing in mind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²³⁷ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on

²³⁷ Resolution 217 A (III).