

**1983/22. Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1979/18 of 9 May 1979 and 1981/20 of 6 May 1981 on strengthening developmental social welfare policies and programmes,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on developmental social welfare policies and programmes,<sup>38</sup>

*Aware* of the serious consequences of the world-wide economic recession for the welfare of peoples in all countries and for the funding and delivery of social services which are even more essential now than in periods of economic growth,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Social Aspects of the Development Activities of the United Nations<sup>39</sup> and of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Bangkok in October 1980,<sup>40</sup>

*Recognizing* the relevance to social development of the principles and objectives of the Arab Charter for Social Work, as formulated by the first Arab Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare, held at Cairo in 1971, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,<sup>41</sup> and the regional programme of action for the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America in its resolution 422 (XIX) of 15 May 1981,<sup>42</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the essential role of social welfare in overall development and in dealing with pressing contemporary social issues, namely, the social aspects of unemployment, rural-urban imbalances, problems of urbanization and decreasing resources for social needs;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the field of developmental social welfare, in full collaboration with the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate studies and field-oriented activities, within the limits of available resources, aimed at enhancing welfare services to lessen the problems of poverty and unemployment, at developing rural social welfare for balanced socio-economic growth, and at promoting better integrated, self-reliant and cost-effective patterns of social welfare administration and delivery of services, particularly involving families and local communities and strengthening training and research in social welfare;

4. *Further urges* the Secretary-General to take steps, within existing budgetary resources, for convening an interregional consultation at an appropriate policy-making level, preferably in 1986, to examine social welfare policies and provisions in relation to present problems and concerns of Governments, and against the background of experience gained since the 1968 International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, with the objective of setting specific goals in the social field for the year 2000;

<sup>38</sup> E/CN.5/1983/8.

<sup>39</sup> E/1981/3, para. 154.

<sup>40</sup> E/ESCAP/192, para. 43.

<sup>41</sup> A/S-11/14, annex I.

<sup>42</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 16 (E/1981/56)*, chap. IV

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the above areas, particularly with regard to the preparations for the interregional consultation.

*14th plenary meeting  
26 May 1983*

**1983/23. Role of the family in the development process**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development<sup>43</sup> and 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982 on the world social situation,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

*Having considered* the 1982 *Report on the World Social Situation*,<sup>44</sup>

*Taking note* of chapter II of the 1982 *Report on the World Social Situation* dealing with the family, in which is quoted article 4 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, where it is stated that the family as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children and youth, should be assisted and protected so that it may fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

*Recognizing* that the institution of the family takes many forms and is undergoing important transformations in the process of development,

*Concerned* that the changes have an impact on the social fabric and the solidarity network, and that ways and means, therefore, need to be evolved to analyse those changes and take them into consideration in social policies,

*Taking into account* article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>45</sup> which deals with the rights and responsibilities of women and men in marriage and family matters,

*Stressing* the fact that the relevant organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system should give due attention to the role of the family in the development process,

1. *Invites* Member States to expand their efforts at the national and community levels to consider, examine, identify and evaluate the needs of families and the ways in which those needs may be more effectively met;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to promote economic and social progress through the formulation and imple-

<sup>43</sup> For the text of the Declaration, see General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

<sup>44</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IV.2 and Corr.1 and 2.

<sup>45</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

mentation of measures addressed to the welfare of the family as a whole, in order to achieve goals and objectives within the framework of national priorities and interests and the development process;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance awareness among decision makers and the public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as effective ways of meeting those needs;

4. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue studies and field-oriented activities, within the limits of available resources, aimed at enhancing the role of the family in development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study the data available in the reports and action plans developed in the course of recent United Nations activities such as the International Year of the Child and the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, as well as the World Assembly on Aging, the International Year of Disabled Persons and others, taking into account the need to strengthen policies for the welfare of the entire society;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study further the impact of development on the family as a fundamental unit of society and to submit a progress report to the Council at its first regular session of 1985, through the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-ninth session, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, containing an analysis of policies influencing the role and nature of the family and its members in the context of development and, in particular, an examination of the changing forms and roles of families.

*14th plenary meeting  
26 May 1983*

#### **1983/24. Arbitrary or summary executions**

##### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 35/172 of 15 December 1980, in which the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its seventh session on arbitrary or summary executions, and 36/22 of 9 November 1981, in which the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control was requested to examine the problem with a view to making recommendations,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/172,<sup>46</sup>

*Having regard* to the provisions bearing on capital punishment in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>47</sup> in particular paragraph 1 of article 2 and articles 6, 14 and 15,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 2393 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968, in which the Assembly invited Governments of Member States, *inter alia*, to ensure the most careful legal procedures and the greatest possible safeguards for the accused in capital cases in countries where the death penalty obtains,

*Mindful* that a substantive relationship exists between the issue of human rights, on the one hand, and criminal

justice, on the other, which should be further recognized and promoted within the United Nations system,

*Concerned* about the statement made in the 1980 quinquennial report of the Secretary-General on the question of capital punishment,<sup>48</sup> indicating that extrajudicial executions were increasing in certain countries, retentionist and abolitionist alike,

*Taking note* of resolution 5 of 5 September 1980 of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in which the Congress deplored and condemned extra-legal executions,<sup>49</sup>

*Further recalling* the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;<sup>50</sup> the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials<sup>51</sup> and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and related recommendations adopted by the United Nations,<sup>52</sup>

*Taking account of* the work done by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in the areas of summary or arbitrary executions, and disappearances of persons, and the more general question of the human rights and protection of persons held under any form of detention and subjected to torture or any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,

*Hopeful* that work currently undertaken by competent bodies of the United Nations with a view to drafting a convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, a draft body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment and a draft code of medical ethics can be expedited,

1. *Strongly condemns and deplors* the brutal practice of summary executions in various parts of the world, and its apparent increase;

2. *Equally strongly condemns and deplors* the lack or non-observance in certain cases of the minimum legal guarantees and safeguards in respect of the use of capital punishment, which can lead to sham trials and arbitrary executions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its eighth session a report on the progress of the work done by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

4. *Decides* that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should further study the question of death penalties that do not meet the acknowledged minimum legal guarantees and safeguards, as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international instruments, and welcomes the Committee's intention that the issue should be discussed at the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of

<sup>46</sup> E/1980/9 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-3.

<sup>49</sup> See *Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4), part one.

<sup>50</sup> General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

<sup>51</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/169, annex.

<sup>52</sup> See *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 August-3 September 1955: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1956.IV.4), annex 1.

<sup>46</sup> E/AC.57/1982/4 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

<sup>47</sup> General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.