

1. *Calls upon* all States to make every effort to use the achievements of science and technology in order to promote peaceful social, economic and cultural development and progress;

2. *Recalls* the historic responsibility of the Governments of all countries of the world to preserve civilization and to ensure that everyone enjoys his or her inherent right to life, and calls upon them to do their utmost to assist in implementing the right to life through the adoption of appropriate measures at both the national and the international levels;

3. *Also calls upon* all States, appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress and the material and intellectual potential of mankind are used for the benefit of mankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

*68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990*

45/94. Need to ensure a healthy environment for the well-being of individuals

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³³ everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for his or her own health and well-being and that of his or her family and to the continuous improvement of living conditions,

Recognizing the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms in all their aspects,

Considering that a better and healthier environment can help contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights by all,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,³⁶ men and women have the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and that they bear a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations,

Bearing in mind the fact that increasing environmental degradation could endanger the very basis of life,

Bearing in mind also that the economic growth and development of the developing countries are essential in order to address the problems of the degradation and protection of the environment,

Emphasizing the increasing role of the United Nations in addressing global environmental problems,

³⁶ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, will elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of strengthened national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries,

Stressing the importance for all countries to take effective actions for the protection and enhancement of the environment in accordance with their respective capacities and responsibilities and taking into account the specific needs of developing countries and that, as the major sources of pollution, the developed countries have the main responsibility for taking appropriate measures urgently,

Welcoming Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/41 of 6 March 1990³⁷ and Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolution 1990/7 of 30 August 1990,³⁷ in which they decided to study the problems of the environment and its relation to human rights,

1. *Recognizes* that all individuals are entitled to live in an environment adequate for their health and well-being;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with environmental questions to enhance their efforts towards ensuring a better and healthier environment;

3. *Encourages* the Commission on Human Rights, with the assistance of its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to continue studying the problems of the environment and its relation to human rights, with a view to submitting to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made on the matter;

4. *Believes* that appropriate organs of the United Nations, within their respective competences, should pursue active efforts in seeking to promote a better and healthier environment.

*68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990*

45/95. Guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/132 of 15 December 1989,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/42 of 6 March 1990³⁷ and Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/38 of 25 May 1990, entitled "Guidelines on the use of computerized personal files",

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Louis Joinet, for his report containing a revised version of the draft guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files;³⁸

³⁷ See E/CN.4/1991/2-F/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/59.

³⁸ E/CN.4/1990/72.

2. *Conveys its thanks* to the Governments that have communicated to the Secretary-General their comments and suggestions³⁹ concerning the previous version of the draft guidelines;⁴⁰

3. *Adopts* the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files in their revised version;

4. *Requests* Governments to take into account those guidelines in their legislation and administrative regulations;

5. *Requests* governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to respect those guidelines in carrying out the activities within their field of competence.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990

45/96. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Charter of the United Nations the peoples of the United Nations declared their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter to achieve international co-operation 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,

Emphasizing the significance and validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights³³ in promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling further its resolutions relating to the right to development and its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

Noting with concern that many of the principles enunciated therein have not yet been taken under consideration by the international community with all the necessary dynamism and objectivity,

Emphasizing also the special importance of the purposes and principles proclaimed in the Declaration on the Right to Development,⁴¹

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1990/17 and 1990/18 of 23 February 1990,³

Taking into account the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989,⁴²

Reiterating that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of development opportunities is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals within nations,

Expressing its particular concern about the progressive worsening of living conditions in the developing world and the negative impact thereof on the full enjoyment of human rights, and especially about the very serious economic situation of the African continent and the disastrous effects of the heavy burden of the external debt for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America,

Reiterating its profound conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil and political rights and of economic, social and cultural rights,

Deeply convinced that today more than ever, economic and social development and human rights are complementary elements leading to the same goal, that is, the maintenance of peace and justice among nations as the foundation for the ideals of freedom and well-being to which mankind aspires,

Reiterating that co-operation among all nations on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of every people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system, is essential for the promotion of peace and development,

Convinced that the primary aim of such international co-operation must be the achievement by all human beings of a life of freedom and dignity and freedom from want,

Considering that the efforts of the developing countries for their own development should be supported by an increased flow of resources and by the adoption of appropriate and substantive measures for creating an external environment conducive to such development,

1. *Reiterates its request* that the Commission on Human Rights should continue its current work on overall analysis with a view to further promoting and strengthening human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and working methods of the Commission, and on the overall analysis of the alternative approaches and ways and means for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Affirms* that a primary aim of international co-operation in the field of human rights is a life of freedom, dignity and peace for all peoples and for every human being, that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from promoting and protecting the others;

3. *Reaffirms* that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promo-

³⁹ See A/44/606 and Add.1.

⁴⁰ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/22.

⁴¹ Resolution 41/128, annex.

⁴² A/44/551-S/20870, annex.