

enant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>5</sup> and reaffirming 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 the promotion and protection of the other rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, by which it noted the important responsibilities placed upon the Economic and Social Council by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular those resulting from articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant, and expressed its readiness to fulfil those responsibilities,

*Recalling also* its decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, by which it decided to establish a Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant,

*Recalling further* its resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, by which it decided to establish the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which will be entrusted, as from 1987, with the important task of overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

*Having considered* the report of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>6</sup>

1. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

2. *Commends* the States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have submitted their reports under article 16 of the Covenant;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Covenant;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the work it has accomplished since its establishment;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Sessional Working Group;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at its session in 1987, the suggestions and recommendations of the Sessional Working Group;

7. *Urges* all States parties to the Covenant to extend their full co-operation and support to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

8. *Decides* to include the question of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1987.

*16th plenary meeting  
21 May 1986*

#### **1986/4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which the Assembly adopted the

<sup>6</sup>E/1986/49.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, annexed thereto,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 35/140 of 11 December 1980, 36/131 of 14 December 1981, 37/64 of 3 December 1982, 38/109 of 16 December 1983, 39/130 of 14 December 1984 and 40/39 of 29 November 1985, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/1 of 17 May 1983, 1984/8 of 22 May 1984, 1984/10 of 24 May 1984 and 1985/18 of 28 May 1985,

*Aware* of the important contribution which the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women<sup>7</sup> can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and *de facto* equality between women and men,

*Noting* the emphasis placed by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on the ratification of and accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifth session,<sup>8</sup> notably the general recommendation, suggestion and general observations of the Committee, as well as its resolution on the International Year of Peace,

*Recalling* the decision of the third meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to request the Secretary-General to seek the views of States parties to the Convention on reservations which could be considered to come within the scope of article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention and to include those comments in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, and to include in the agenda of their next meeting the question of reservations to the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. *Urges* States parties to make all possible efforts to submit their initial implementation reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifth session;

6. *Notes with concern* the Committee's account of the present constraints within which it operates with regard to the backlog of reports awaiting consideration and encourages a continuing discussion on ways and means of dealing with this problem, including possible adjustment of the reporting system;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure adequate servicing of the Committee;

8. *Takes note* of the general recommendation and suggestion adopted by the Committee pursuant to its discussion

<sup>7</sup>Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>8</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/41/45 and Corr.1).

at its fifth session on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention;<sup>9</sup>

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the General Assembly at its forty-first session and to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information.

*16th plenary meeting  
21 May 1986*

#### **1986/5. Twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that 1986 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>10</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>10</sup> as well as the tenth anniversary of their entry into force,

*Aware* that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter 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 to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

*Conscious* that the General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>11</sup> as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations and that the International Covenants on Human Rights develop its provisions, constitute the first all-embracing and legally-binding international treaties in the field of human rights and establish standards to which States should conform,

*Recalling* that responsibility for the discharge of the functions of the United Nations in promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, is vested in the General Assembly and, under the authority of the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council,

*Welcoming* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 40/114 of 13 December 1985, to convene during its forty-first session a commemorative plenary meeting devoted to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights,

*Noting* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1986/17 of 10 March 1986,<sup>12</sup> in which the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major elements of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Noting* that only half of the States Members of the United Nations have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights and conscious of the desirability of participation of all States in the Covenants,

1. *Invites* States to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by continuing and strengthening measures designed to conform with the provisions of the Covenants;

2. *Appeals strongly*, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Covenants, to all States that have not yet become parties to these instruments to do so, so that the Covenants acquire genuine universality, and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the same occasion, to continue systematically encouraging States to become parties to the Covenants and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to provide technical assistance to the States that are not parties to the Covenants with a view to helping them to ratify those instruments or accede thereto;

4. *Encourages* all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in as many languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

5. *Invites* all States and international organizations to carry out special activities on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Covenants.

*16th plenary meeting  
21 May 1986*

#### **1986/6. University for Peace**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 33/109 of 18 December 1978, 34/111 of 14 December 1979 and 35/55 of 5 December 1980,

*Considering* that the primary task of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 1 of the Charter,

*Bearing in mind* that article 2 of the Charter of the University for Peace establishes that the University shall contribute to the great universal task of educating for peace,

*Taking note* of the report submitted by the University for Peace to the Secretary-General in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/2 of 24 May 1985,<sup>13</sup>

*Considering also* the important tasks carried out by the University for Peace since its inception, in fulfilment of its goals and purposes,

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the co-operation that the Government of the host country has extended to the University during its first stage,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the University for Peace for the report submitted;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adhere to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, particularly during 1986, the year solemnly proclaimed by the General Assembly as the International Year of Peace;

3. *Invites* Member States and non-governmental organizations to lend all possible material and other assistance that may contribute to the realization of the efforts carried out by the University for Peace;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of establishing an agreement of co-operation between the United Nations and the University for Peace;

<sup>13</sup>See E/1986/17.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, chap. IV.

<sup>10</sup>See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>11</sup>General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>12</sup>See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 2 (E/1986/22), chap. II.*