

Mindful of the need to ensure better continuity in the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

1. *Decides* that, from 1987 onwards, members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities shall be elected for a term of four years;

2. *Further decides* that half of the membership of the Sub-Commission and the corresponding alternates, if any, shall be elected every two years and that accordingly, at the elections held in 1987, the Chairman shall draw lots to select those members whose terms will expire in two years;

3. *Authorizes* the Chairman of the forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights to draw lots to select the members and, as applicable, their corresponding alternates, whose terms will expire after two years in accordance with the following pattern: three members from African States; three members from Asian States; three members from Latin American States; one member from Eastern European States; and three members from Western European and other States;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements so that elections of members of the Sub-Commission can be conducted from 1987 onwards in accordance with the procedures set out in the present resolution.

*19th plenary meeting
23 May 1986*

1986/36. Summary or arbitrary executions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵⁷ which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Having regard to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁵⁸ in which it is stated that every human being has the inherent right to life, that this right shall be protected by law and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/175 of 17 December 1979, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that mass and flagrant violations of human rights were of special concern to the United Nations and urged the Commission on Human Rights to take timely and effective action in existing and future cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights,

Mindful of General Assembly resolutions 36/22 of 9 November 1981, 37/182 of 17 December 1982, 38/96 of 16 December 1983, 39/110 of 14 December 1984 and 40/143 of 13 December 1985,

Taking note of resolution 1982/13 of 7 September 1982 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,⁵⁹ in which the Sub-Commission recommended that effective measures should be adopted to prevent the occurrence of summary or arbitrary executions,

Bearing in mind the endorsement by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death

penalty,⁶⁰ as well as the ongoing work on summary or arbitrary executions within the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control,

Deeply alarmed at the occurrence on a large scale of summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions,

1. *Strongly condemns*, once again, the large number of summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions, which continue to take place in various parts of the world;

2. *Appeals urgently* to Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take effective action to combat and eliminate summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. S. Amos Wako;⁶¹

4. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. S. Amos Wako, for another year, in order to enable him to submit further conclusions and recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights;

5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur in carrying out his mandate to continue to examine situations of summary or arbitrary executions;

6. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to respond effectively to information that comes before him, in particular when a summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened, or when such an execution has occurred;

7. *Takes note* of the need to develop international standards designed to ensure effective legislation and other domestic measures so that proper investigations are conducted by appropriate authorities into all cases of suspicious death, including provisions for adequate autopsy;

8. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to receive information from appropriate United Nations agencies and other international organizations and to consider the elements to be included in such standards and report to the Commission on Human Rights on progress made in this respect;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

10. *Urges* all Governments and all others concerned to co-operate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that he may carry out his mandate effectively;

11. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of summary or arbitrary executions as a matter of high priority at its forty-third session under the item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories".

*19th plenary meeting
23 May 1986*

1986/37. Question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

The Economic and Social Council,

⁶⁰See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. E, resolution 15. For the safeguards, see Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50, annex.

⁶¹E/CN.4/1986/21.

⁵⁷General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁵⁸See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁵⁹See E/CN.4/1983/4 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.