

7. *Invites* all appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the 1993 report by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/5. Humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Expressing deep concern about the plight of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons,

Aware that the majority of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons are women, the elderly and children, who are particularly vulnerable to hardship,

Acknowledging the fact that coping with the enormous needs of Iraqi refugees is far beyond the capacities of host countries,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation in responding to the emergency needs of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons and the alleviation of human suffering,

Noting the heavy burden placed on the people and Governments of host countries,

1. *Commends* the efforts of the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey to provide Iraqi refugees with shelter, protection, food, health care and other humanitarian services, and welcomes the cooperation extended by host countries to the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered by States, various organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons;

3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General to alleviate the human suffering of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons, including the designation of an Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey Border Areas;

4. *Appeals* to all States, appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international financial institutions to continue to provide the necessary resources for responding to the enormous needs of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons and recognizes the need to continue and improve further the coordination between host countries, the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Calls upon* States concerned and the United Nations system to facilitate the safe and honourable return of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons to their homes;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance;

7. *Requests* the Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey Border Areas to continue coordination with the appropriate specialized agencies in order to ensure the continuation and consolidation of essential services to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/6. Critical social situation in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which provides the framework for international cooperation in the field of social development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 39/29 of 3 December 1984 and 40/40 of 2 December 1985, which led to the convening of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, at which the Assembly adopted by consensus resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, to which the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 is annexed,

Recalling further its resolution 1989/46 of 24 May 1989, in which the Secretary-General was requested, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, to prepare a report providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action,

Recognizing that progress in the social and economic fields is an essential priority for developing countries,

Taking into account the fact that in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990,⁶ the Governments of African States reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries, identified areas for priority action, and undertook to mobilize and utilize domestic resources for the achievement of their priority objectives,

Reiterating that the African social and economic crisis is a development crisis that concerns the international community as a whole and that greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent should be an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of peoples,

Recognizing the efforts being made by African Governments to redress some of the acute social problems confronting them,

Stressing that the prospects for concerted implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Eco-

⁶ A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHC/Decl I (XXI), annex.

conomic Recovery 1986-1990 are being affected by an unfavourable external economic environment, debt-servicing obligations and the rate of flow of development finance,

1. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation;⁴

2. *Appeals* to the international community, the States members of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase their cooperation and assistance to enhance the efforts made by the African countries to establish or improve their infrastructure, through the creation of a favourable economic environment;

3. *Regrets* that the report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa,⁷ prepared in response to Council resolution 1989/46, failed to meet the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of that resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to direct the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Development Bank and, as appropriate, the Organization of African Unity, to prepare once again, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session, a report providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa;

5. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should consider at its thirty-third session the report on the critical social situation in Africa, in the context of its review of the world social situation.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/7. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action in the field of social development

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, in which it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future⁸ and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of, and follow-up action to, the Guiding Principles,

"Reaffirming the continued importance and value of strategies and plans of action in different social policy areas directly related to the Guiding Principles, notably those concerning the status of women, the ageing, youth and disabled persons, as well as crime prevention and drug abuse, based on the Uni-

versal Declaration of Human Rights,⁹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁰ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹⁰ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,¹¹

"Recalling its resolution 44/65 of 8 December 1989, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that social issues as conceived in the Guiding Principles should become a major part of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

"Stressing the validity of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/48 of 28 May 1987 on the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to redeploy resources to ensure appropriate follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation,

"Concerned about the lack of appropriate follow-up action to the comprehensive programme of the Guiding Principles in the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia,

"1. Reaffirms the validity of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future as a major framework for action at the local, national, regional and interregional levels in the field of social welfare and development;

"2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups;¹²

"3. Stresses the interrelationship between economic growth and human welfare as one of the principal themes of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;¹³

"4. Appeals to Governments to make use of the Guiding Principles and to apply the recommendations therein, as appropriate and in accordance with their national structures, needs and objectives, to inform the Secretary-General of problems in implementation and to accelerate the follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes;

"5. Welcomes the fact that provision was made for the implementation of the Guiding Principles in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997¹⁴ and the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991,¹⁵ as requested in its resolution 44/65;

"6. Urges the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system concerned to continue to include the implementation of the Guiding Principles in their programmes of work and to assist Governments, particularly those of the developing countries, in formulating appropriate social

⁹ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁰ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

¹² E/CN.5/1991/3 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6 Rev.1)*, vol. II, programme 25.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6 Rev.1)*, vol. I.

⁷ E/CN.5/1991/8.

⁸ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.