

11. *Invites* States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in conformity with article 2, paragraph 1, of the Covenant, to consider identifying benchmarks to measure achievements in the progressive realization of the rights recognized in the Covenant and, in that context, to pay particular regard to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights informed of the relevant activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, the Group of Three of the Commission on Human Rights, established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and, where appropriate, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies, and to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to all those bodies;

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

14. *Invites* States parties to the Covenants, at their regular meetings in 1992, to consider the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

15. *Decides* to transmit the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for consideration under the agenda item entitled "Human rights questions".

*13th plenary meeting  
31 May 1991*

#### **1991/34. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, by which it authorized the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to establish a Working Group on Slavery, re-named the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of

Slavery by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1988/42 of 8 March 1988,<sup>76</sup>

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/58 of 6 March 1991,<sup>61</sup> in which the Commission requested the Council to take further action on its recommendation to the General Assembly to establish a voluntary fund on contemporary forms of slavery,

*Gravely concerned* that slavery, the slave trade, slavery-like practices and even modern manifestations of this phenomenon still exist, representing some of the gravest violations of human rights,

*Convinced* that the establishment of a voluntary fund on contemporary forms of slavery would constitute a significant development for the protection of the human rights of victims of contemporary forms of slavery,

1. *Requests* the General Assembly to establish a voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery in accordance with the following criteria:

(a) The name of the fund shall be the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

(b) The purposes of the fund shall be, first, to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance and, secondly, to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery;

(c) Funding shall be obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities;

(d) The only types of activity to be supported by the fund shall be those described in subparagraph (b) above;

(e) The only beneficiaries from the Fund shall be:

(i) Representatives from non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery:

a. Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the fund, as described in subparagraph (f) below;

b. Who would not, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the fund;

c. Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery;

(ii) Individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the fund;

(f) The fund shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, 1988, *Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Nations and other relevant provisions, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five persons with relevant experience in the field of human rights and contemporary forms of slavery in particular, who will serve in their personal capacity; the members of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year term renewable in consultation with the current Chairman of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution.

*13th plenary meeting  
31 May 1991*

### **1991/35. Suppression of the traffic in persons**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1982/20 of 10 March 1982<sup>77</sup> on the question of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, 1988/42 of 8 March 1988,<sup>76</sup> 1989/35 of 6 March 1989<sup>78</sup> and 1990/63 of 7 March 1990,<sup>60</sup> and taking note of Commission resolution 1991/58 of 6 March 1991<sup>61</sup> on the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 1982/20 of 4 May 1982 and 1983/30 of 26 May 1983 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, 1988/34 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/74 of 24 May 1989 on the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and 1990/46 of 25 May 1990 on the suppression of the traffic in persons,

*Considering* that the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Economic and Social Council on the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others<sup>79</sup> still constitutes a useful basis for further action,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1983/30 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others,<sup>80</sup>

*Noting* that only a few Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations have submitted information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30,

*Gravely concerned* that slavery, the slave trade and slavery-like practices still exist, that there are modern manifestations of those phenomena and that such practices represent some of the gravest violations of human rights,

*Aware* of the complexity of the issue of the suppres-

sion of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and the need for further coordination and cooperation to implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur and by various United Nations bodies,

1. *Reminds* States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926,<sup>81</sup> the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956,<sup>81</sup> and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949<sup>81</sup> that they should submit to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the relevant conventions and under Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1983/30 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others;<sup>80</sup>

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the Council, at its regular session of 1992, on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30 by those Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations that have not yet submitted such information and to make that report available to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

4. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure effective servicing of the Working Group and of other activities related to contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices, and requests him to report to the Council at its regular session of 1992 on the steps taken in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to designate the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat as the focal point for the coordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery;

6. *Urges* the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to collaborate closely with the Centre for Human Rights on the issue of the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery;

7. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1991/58, that the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organisation give particular attention in their work to the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure the protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery;

8. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1991/58, that the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, 1982, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1982/12), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, 1989, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>79</sup> E/1983/7 and Corr.1 and 2.

<sup>80</sup> E/1991/18.

<sup>81</sup> See *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. F.