

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 Subcommission 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>78</sup> 1989/35 of 6 March 1989<sup>79</sup> and 1990/63 of 7 March 1990,<sup>80</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 Subcommission 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 Subcommission 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 suppression

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 Subcommission 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 Subcommission 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.

the Committee on the Rights of the Child, when examining periodic reports of States parties, give particular attention to the implementation of, respectively, articles 8 and 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>10</sup> articles 10, 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>10</sup> article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>29</sup> and articles 32, 34, 35 and 36 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>52</sup> with a view to combating contemporary forms of slavery;

9. *Decides* to consider the question of the suppression of traffic in persons at its regular session of 1992 under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*13th plenary meeting  
31 May 1991*

**1991/36. Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 45/180 of 21 December 1990, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/23 of 5 March 1991<sup>61</sup> and Council resolution 1990/47 of 25 May 1990,

*Bearing in mind also* section V of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 concerning interim measures for additional human resources for the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,

*Recognizing* the important role of the Centre for Human Rights in the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights and the need to provide sufficient human resources to the Centre, particularly in view of the fact that its workload has greatly increased while resources have failed to keep pace with the expansion of its responsibilities,<sup>82</sup>

1. *Notes with regret* that the report requested in paragraph 3 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/23 has not been submitted to the Council;

2. *Notes* that the workload of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat has further increased owing to the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights;

3. *Expresses its concern* that unless appropriate financial measures are taken, the reduced efficiency of the servicing of human rights bodies by the Secretariat could be further impaired;

4. *Calls upon* the General Assembly to take into account the discrepancy between the resources of the Centre and its increased responsibilities and, in accordance with established procedures, to take appropriate and prompt action to rectify the problem;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/180 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/23, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a pro-

gress report on developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights.

*13th plenary meeting  
31 May 1991*

**1991/37. Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1989/82 of 24 May 1989, in which it requested the Secretary-General to persist in his efforts to ensure referral of the complaint made by the Congress of South African Trade Unions to the Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation,

*Recalling also* its resolution 1990/44 of 25 May 1990,

*Taking note* of the note by the Secretary-General on allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights,<sup>83</sup>

*Having examined* the relevant section of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>84</sup>

*Noting* the evolving situation in South Africa,

*Aware* of the ever-growing importance of the independent black trade union movement in the struggle against apartheid,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General,<sup>83</sup> submitted pursuant to Council resolution 1989/82, annex II to which contains the note verbale dated 27 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for persisting in his efforts to ensure the implementation of paragraph 9 of Council resolution 1989/82;

3. *Regrets* that the apartheid regime in South Africa has placed some conditions on its decision to agree that the allegations made by the Congress of South African Trade Unions should be referred to the Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation, and invites it to cooperate fully in the matter;

4. *Decides* to transmit to the Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association, through the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, the allegations of infringement of trade union rights made by the Congress of South African Trade Unions in May 1988;

5. *Demands once again* the unimpeded exercise of trade union rights, the immediate unconditional release of all trade unionists imprisoned for exercising their legitimate trade union rights and the cessation of the persecution of trade unionists and repression of the independent black trade union movement;

6. *Takes note* of the relevant section of the report

<sup>82</sup> See E/1990/50 and A/45/807.

<sup>83</sup> E/1991/57.