

with the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to exercise its functions;

8. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Human Rights Committee to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and appeals to other bodies dealing with similar questions of human rights to respect those uniform standards, as expressed in the general comments of the Human Rights Committee;

9. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which is entrusted with the important task of examining the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

10. *Encourages* the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to strive towards the application of universally recognized criteria in the implementation of the Covenant, and to give due consideration to improving the efficiency of its proceedings;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider ways and means, within existing resources, of assisting States parties to the Covenants in the preparation of their reports, including the awarding, upon request, of fellowships to government officials engaged in the preparation of such reports, the arrangement of regional and sub-regional training courses and the exploration of other possibilities available under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

12. *Again urges* the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps, within existing resources, to give more publicity to the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to improve administration and related arrangements so as to enable them to carry out their respective functions effectively under the International Covenants on Human Rights;

13. *Encourages once again* all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol 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. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which have important and specific tasks entrusted to them, are provided with the necessary sessions and summary records;

15. *Decides* to include the question of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1988 and to consider under that question the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987*

1987/5. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of its central responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹

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

Recalling also its resolutions and decisions relating to its Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, which remain in force in so far as they are not superseded or modified by resolution 1985/17,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing public awareness of the Committee and the role that non-governmental organizations can play in that regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/121 of 4 December 1986 on reporting obligations under United Nations instruments on human rights, which is of relevance to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of maintaining summary records, and bearing in mind the relevance to the work of the Committee of the activities and experience of other United Nations treaty bodies,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its first session,⁷ including suggestions and recommendations of a general nature approved by the Committee;⁸

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

3. *Invites* States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to follow the recommendations made by the Committee to address the problems of non-submission and extended delays in the submission of periodic reports, in particular those recommendations regarding the need for States parties to submit and present their reports in a timely manner and to cover the entire cycle of initial reports before submitting second reports;

4. *Invites also* States parties to the Covenant to review the processes followed in the preparation of their periodic reports on implementation of the Covenant, including consultation and co-ordination with relevant governmental departments and agencies, compilation of data and training of staff, with a view to ensuring full compliance with relevant guidelines, improving the quality of description and analysis in such reports and limiting reports to a reasonable length;

5. *Urges* the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other relevant United Nations bodies to extend their full co-operation and support to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by, *inter alia*, enabling their representatives to attend meetings of the Committee and submitting relevant information to the Committee;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to submit to it written statements that might contribute to full and universal recognition and realization of the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and requests the Secretary-General to make those statements available to the Committee in a timely manner;

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 17 (E/1987/28)*

⁸ *Ibid.*, chap III

7. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee with regard to future sessions of the Committee but considers that the current provision of one annual session of three weeks' duration should be maintained for the time being and invites the Committee to explore further ways of expediting its consideration of periodic reports, such as imposing time limits on oral interventions, avoiding duplication in questioning, requesting supplementary written material, and encouraging States parties to present reports that are as succinct as possible;

8. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Committee to set up a sessional working group to consider its methods of work and invites the Committee to develop as a matter of priority its general guidelines for the preparation of reports pursuant to articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, taking due account of the compilation of guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General and focusing on such specific information as would assist the Committee to carry out its mandate more effectively;

9. *Invites* the Committee to consider again at its next session the compilation of recommendations in the summary records of the Committee relating to its future work, paying particular regard to practices followed by other treaty bodies, including the preparation of general comments by the Human Rights Committee;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the report of the Committee to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations organs and their subsidiaries, specialized agencies concerned with providing technical assistance and the regional commissions;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights to assist States parties in discharging their reporting obligations under the Covenant, including holding training courses on the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Covenant, and to advise States parties of the availability of such assistance;

12. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to give publicity to the proceedings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to ensure that it receives full administrative support so as to enable it to discharge its functions as effectively as possible;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a compilation from official United Nations sources of statistics relevant to the Committee's consideration of the reports of States parties;

14. *Decides* to transmit the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-second session for consideration under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987*

1987/6. Indicative patterns of consumption: qualitative indicators of development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/179 of 17 December 1985 on patterns of consumption and qualitative aspects of development,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-four session,⁹ in particular the section on development indicators,

1. *Takes note* of the information on action to be taken in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 40/179, contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-fourth session;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the regional commissions for the considerable progress achieved in the elaboration of development indicators, in accordance with the guidelines defined by the General Assembly;

3. *Recommends* that a report setting forth the views of Governments and containing a small number of case studies or national monographs on the preparation of a set of indicators in the fields identified in paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 40/179 and the indicative patterns of consumption referred to in paragraph 3 thereof be prepared by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, in consultation with other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the regional commissions and other appropriate research institutes;

4. *Recommends* that appropriate extrabudgetary resources be allocated for the preparation of the above-mentioned case studies or national monographs, and invites interested donor countries, appropriate international organizations and other organizations wishing to participate in the research work on patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development, to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for that purpose;

5. *Also recommends* that the report be considered by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session, and that the recommendations of the Commission on the report be submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1989, the results of the Council's consideration thereon to be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987*

1987/7. Water resources and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68 and 1979/70 of 3 August 1979, 1981/80 of 24 July 1981, 1983/57 of 28 July 1983 and 1985/49 of 25 July 1985, concerning the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,¹⁰

Recalling also its resolution 1981/81 of 24 July 1981, concerning co-operative measures among international river and lake organizations and related activities within the United Nations system,

⁹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 6 (E/1987/19).

¹⁰ *Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I