

interest of social development in connection with its review of the world social situation.

*17th plenary meeting  
28 May 1987*

**1987/37. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 41/146 of 4 December 1986 and Council resolution 1986/41 of 23 May 1986,

*Recalling further* that the objective of activities before and during the Year is to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by the end of 1987, according to national priorities, and to demonstrate by the year 2000 ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged,

*Recognizing with regret* that a considerable part of the world's population does not have adequate shelter and lives in extremely unhealthy and unsanitary conditions,

*Noting* that the lack of adequate housing for millions of people constitutes a serious social problem requiring urgent action at both the national and international levels,

*Taking note* of the fact that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>1</sup> the Declaration on Social Progress and Development<sup>44</sup> and the Declaration on the Right to Development<sup>49</sup> provide that all persons have the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing, and that States should take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of that right,

*Recognizing* that the provision of adequate shelter is essential for the promotion and achievement of national economic and social development and human health,

1. *Calls upon* all Governments and all institutions concerned, both national and international, to adopt decisive measures to achieve the objectives and goals of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and to inform the Secretary-General thereon;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when assessing the results of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, to pay due attention to the social and human aspects of housing for the poor and disadvantaged and, in this connection, to the practical follow-up to the Year through the Commission for Human Settlements;

3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to pay attention to the problem of inadequate shelter in the context of the review of the world social situation.

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**1987/38. Twentieth Anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development**

*The Economic and Social Council*

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

<sup>49</sup> General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration on Social Progress and Development based on the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly proclaimed on 11 December 1969 in its resolution 2542 (XXIV),

*Recalling also* its resolutions 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 32/117 of 16 December 1977, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 and 41/142 of 4 December 1986 on the implementation of the Declaration,

*Convinced* of the continuing need to achieve the full realization of the principles and objectives contained in the Declaration, which contribute to peaceful and friendly relations between nations,

*Noting* that the year 1989 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration,

1. *Reaffirms* the lasting validity and importance of the principles and objectives proclaimed in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;

2. *Decides* to observe in 1989 the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration;

3. *Invites* all States, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take appropriate measures, such as those set out in the annex to the present resolution, which are based on the measures recommended in General Assembly resolution 41/150 on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to support appropriate activities aimed at encouraging the promotion of human rights and social justice;

4. *Invites* all States to inform the Secretary-General of their views and comments concerning the impact of the Declaration, since its adoption, on the formulation and implementation of the national policies and measures of their Governments, as well as how the principles, objectives, and means and methods set out in the Declaration are taken into account in their policies, plans and programmes and in their bilateral and multilateral relations in the field of development;

5. *Invites* all States to convey to the Secretary-General their views and comments on possible ways and means of increasing the contribution of the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to achieving the full realization of the principles and objectives contained in the Declaration;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the information received pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 above in the report requested in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 41/142, to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to observe the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, bearing in mind the recommended possible measures contained in the annex to the present resolution, in order to draw attention to and emphasize the importance of the Declaration and the role played and the work done by the United Nations to ensure the effective fulfilment of the objectives of the Declaration;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled 'Twentieth Anniversary of the proclamation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development';

9. *Also decides* to devote one plenary meeting during its forty-fourth session to the observance of the

twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, which falls on 11 December 1989, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary preparations for the programme of that meeting."

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#### ANNEX

##### Recommended possible measures for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

1. The following measures are recommended for possible action at the national level:
  - (a) Formal proclamation of 11 December 1989 as Social Progress and Development Day;
  - (b) Issuance of special messages on 11 December 1989 by heads of State or Government or other prominent civil personalities;
  - (c) Special meeting of parliamentary and other public and private institutions on Social Progress and Development Day;
  - (d) Establishment or strengthening of national or local institutions for the promotion of social progress and development and social justice, and the encouragement of teaching programmes on social progress and development at various educational levels;
  - (e) Dissemination of the text of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development in national languages;
  - (f) Issuance in 1989 of postage stamps, first-day covers and special cancellations with the theme of social progress and development;
  - (g) Participation by non-governmental organizations in the observance of the anniversary, and the organization of activities by such organizations;
  - (h) Organization of activities within the framework and in support of current United Nations decades and international years being prepared on social development.
2. It is recommended that the following measures, among others, should be taken by the Secretary-General at the United Nations level:
  - (a) Issuance by 11 December 1989 in all official languages of the United Nations of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;
  - (b) Organization of commemorative events, according to standard practice, at United Nations Headquarters, at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, as well as at United Nations information centres, on or around 11 December 1989.

##### 1987/39. Critical social situation in Africa

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>44</sup> which provides the framework for international co-operation 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 the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,<sup>50</sup>

Alarmed at the acceleration in the deterioration of social conditions in most African countries,

Noting with concern the gravity of the continued acts of violence committed by the racist régime in South Africa against its people, Namibia and neighbouring States, which have resulted in a particularly disquieting social situation in the southern African countries,

Noting that in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990,<sup>51</sup> 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 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 is an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Noting that the prospects for concerted implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 are being affected by an unfavourable external economic environment and stagnation in the flow of developmental finance, particularly that of a concessionary nature,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Highlights of the world social situation 1987: recent developments and current issues";<sup>48</sup>
2. Requests the Secretary-General, within the framework of the United Nations system, to continue to pay special attention to the implementation of the social aspects of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;<sup>50</sup>
3. Appeals to the international community, the States members of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase their co-operation and assistance to establish or improve the infrastructure necessary for sustained social development in Africa;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, as part of the forthcoming report on the world social situation, a comprehensive annex to the report, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, providing information on the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the attainment of the objectives contained in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session;
5. Decides that the information contained in the above-mentioned annex shall be considered by the Commission at its thirty-first session in the context of its review of the world social situation.

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##### 1987/40. Social aspects of rural development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, containing the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,

<sup>50</sup> General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.