

Having considered the application for membership of the Principality of Andorra,²²

Decides to admit the Principality of Andorra to membership in the United Nations.

108th plenary meeting
28 July 1993

47/233. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2837 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 33/138 of 19 December 1978, 39/88 of 13 December 1984, 45/45 of 28 November 1990, 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 46/140 of 17 December 1991 and 46/220 of 20 December 1991,

Conscious of the increasingly important role of the United Nations in fulfilling the purposes set forth in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling that the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members,

Recognizing in this regard that the General Assembly is the only principal organ of the United Nations consisting of all the Members of the United Nations in which each Member State has equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making process,

Emphasizing the importance of the functions and powers of the General Assembly in any questions or any matters within the scope of the Charter, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter,

Desiring to undertake efforts to enhance the capacity of the General Assembly to fulfil the role envisaged for it under the Charter and increase its effectiveness in the interest of strengthening the overall work of the Organization,

Underlining that the revitalization of the General Assembly should be addressed in a comprehensive manner,

Recognizing in this regard the need, as a first step, to rationalize the Committee structure of the General Assembly to respond better to the requirements of the new phase of international relations,

Recognizing also the importance of the reports of the Security Council and other principal organs of the United Nations to the General Assembly and of their substantive and in-depth consideration by the Assembly,

1. Decides that the Main Committees of the General Assembly shall be as follows:

(a) Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee);

(b) Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);

(c) Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee);

(d) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee);

(e) Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee);

(f) Legal Committee (Sixth Committee);

2. Also decides to amend the rules of procedure of the General Assembly as set forth in the annex to the present resolution;

3. Further decides that, as an interim measure and pending a decision on the pattern of election of the six Chairmen of the Main Committees, the six Chairmen of the Main Committees at the forty-eighth session shall be elected as follows:

Two representatives from African States;

One representative from an Asian State;

One representative from an Eastern European State;

One representative from a Latin American or Caribbean State;

One representative from a Western European or other State;

4. Recommends that, pending further consideration of the revitalization process, the agenda items at present allocated to the Special Political Committee and to the Fourth Committee be allocated at the forty-eighth session to the new Special Political and Decolonization Committee;

5. Encourages Member States to participate actively in a substantive and in-depth discussion on, and consideration of, the reports of the Security Council and other principal organs of the United Nations, in order to fulfil the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Decides to continue consideration of the revitalization process of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in a comprehensive manner in an informal open-ended working group, which will make proposals as appropriate on questions relating to, *inter alia*, the rationalization of the agenda, the reports of the other principal organs of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter and the reports requested of the Secretary-General;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly".

109th plenary meeting
17 August 1993

ANNEX

Rule 31 shall read as follows:

"The General Assembly shall elect a President and twenty-one Vice-Presidents, who shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected, after the election of the Chairmen of the six Main Committees referred to in rule 98, in such a way as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee."

The first sentence of rule 38 shall read as follows:

"The General Committee shall comprise the President of the General Assembly, who shall preside, the twenty-one Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the six Main Committees."

Rule 98 is amended according to paragraph 1 of the present resolution.

47/237. International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990 and 46/92 of 16 December 1991 concerning the International Year of the Family, as expressions of the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling that major United Nations instruments on human rights and social policy, as well as relevant global

plans and programmes of action, call for the widest possible protection and assistance to be accorded to the family,

Convinced that equality between the sexes, women's equal participation in employment and shared parental responsibility are essential elements of modern family policy,

Conscious of the existence of various concepts of the family in different social, cultural and political systems,

Aware, at the same time, that families are the fullest reflection, at the grass-roots level, of the strengths and weaknesses of the social and developmental welfare environment, and as such offer a uniquely comprehensive and synthesizing approach to social issues,

Realizing that families, as basic units of social life, are major agents of sustainable development at all levels of society and that their contribution to that process is crucial for its success,

Stressing that the observance of the Year in 1994 will immediately precede the celebration by the family of nations of the historic fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session, on the state of preparations for the Year,²³

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the International Year of the Family;²³

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for a well-coordinated and impressive effort in the preliminary and preparatory phases to the Year, despite resource constraints, and for the considerable progress made towards its observance;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Year has gained increasing support at all levels and that the preparatory process has enhanced and strengthened the substantive orientation of the Year;

4. *Commends* all Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have undertaken special efforts to prepare for the observance of the Year;

5. *Urges* Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, especially those which have not yet done so, to intensify the efforts undertaken, *inter alia*, by the identification of national coordinating mechanisms and the elaboration of national programmes of action, in the preparations for and observance of the Year;

6. *Welcomes* the holding in 1993 of four regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the Year, organized by the secretariat for the Year in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the regional commissions, and hosted by the Governments of China, Colombia, Malta and Tunisia;

7. *Takes note with interest* of the proposal by the Government of Slovakia that the Bratislava International Centre of Family Studies be affiliated with the United Nations;²⁴

8. *Also takes note with interest* of the results of the Expert Group Meeting on the Social Consequences of Population Growth and Changing Social Conditions, with Particular Emphasis on the Family,²⁵ co-sponsored by the

Government of Germany and held at Vienna from 21 to 25 September 1992;

9. *Also welcomes* the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the Year, including the major global initiative to convene a world non-governmental organization forum entitled "Launching the International Year of the Family, 1994: Strengthening Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies", to be held at Valletta from 28 November to 2 December 1993, and calls upon all those concerned to support the event in every possible manner;

10. *Expresses its special gratitude* to Governments and other donors, especially those in the private sector, which have generously responded to earlier appeals to contribute resources to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family;

11. *Appeals* to all Governments concerned and all other prospective donors to pledge their contributions to the Voluntary Fund, notably during the pledging segments of the regional and interregional preparatory meetings in 1993, with a view to releasing new funds for specific family-oriented projects, particularly in developing countries, during both the Year and the follow-up thereto;

12. *Invites* policy-making organs of specialized agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system to consider, in the context of their substantive mandates, the principles and objectives of the Year and follow-up action to the Year for the benefit of the families of the world;

13. *Also invites* organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to include in their programme budgets for 1994 and 1995, as appropriate, programme elements for the observance of and follow-up to the Year;

14. *Decides* to devote one of its plenary meetings at its forty-eighth session, in early December 1993, to launching the International Year of the Family;

15. *Also decides* that, beginning in 1994, 15 May of every year shall be observed as the International Day of Families;

16. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, the Population Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women to include in the agendas of their sessions in 1993 or 1994 consideration of the principles and objectives of the Year in the context of their major areas of concern, and to propose specific follow-up measures regarding human rights, population issues and the advancement of women as each affects or is affected by families, including family-oriented components of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, to be held at Copenhagen on 11 and 12 March 1995, and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995;

17. *Further decides* to devote two plenary meetings at its forty-ninth session, in 1994, to the implementation of the follow-up to the Year, and to designate those meetings as an international conference on families, which should take place at an appropriate global policy-making level and in keeping with the procedures and practices of the General Assembly;

18. *Appeals* to Member States as well as to all other participants in the observance of the Year to highlight 1994 as a special occasion to benefit families of the world in their quest for a better life for all, based on the principle of subsidiarity, which seeks solutions to problems at the lowest level of the societal structure;

19. *Calls for* a concerted promotional and information campaign on behalf of the Year at the national, regional and international levels, with the strong participation of the mass media;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To seek the views of States members of the Commission for Social Development on the desirability of working out a declaration on the role, responsibilities and rights of families on the occasion of the Year;

(b) To plan adequate resources, including staff, through redeployment in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, with a view to ensuring effective observance of and follow-up to the Year, commensurate with its important principles and objectives;

(c) To continue taking specific measures, through all the communication media at his disposal, particularly within the mandates of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to give widespread publicity to the preparations for and observance of the Year, and to increase the dissemination of information on the subject;

(d) To report on the observance of the Year at the national, regional and international levels, and to submit specific proposals on the follow-up to the Year, including a draft plan of action, if deemed appropriate, to the Assembly at its fiftieth session;

21. *Decides* to consider the question of the International Year of the Family at its fiftieth session, on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General under the item entitled "Social development".

*112th plenary meeting
20 September 1993*

NOTES

¹Consequently resolution 47/20, in section II of the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/47/49)*, vol. I, becomes resolution 47/20 A.

²See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

³See A/46/231, annex, appendix.

⁴See A/46/550-S/23127, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1991*, document S/23127.

⁵A/47/908.

⁶Consequently resolution 47/120, in section II of the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/47/49)*, vol. I, becomes resolution 47/120 A.

⁷A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

⁸S/25036; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1992*, document S/25036.

⁹S/25493; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1993*, document S/25493.

¹⁰A/48/349-S/26358; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1993*, document S/26358.

¹¹*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 19, document A/47/863.

¹²*Ibid.*, document A/47/851-S/25045, annex.

¹³*Ibid.*, document A/47/864.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, document A/47/852-S/25046, annex.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, document A/47/923.

¹⁶See A/47/933.

¹⁷*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 19, document A/47/953.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, document A/47/948-S/25793, annex.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, document A/47/954.

²⁰*Ibid.*, document A/47/950-S/25796, annex.

²¹*Ibid.*, document A/47/976.

²²*Ibid.*, document A/47/973-S/26039, annex.

²³E/CN.5/1993/3.

²⁴*Ibid.*, para. 30.

²⁵See E/CN.5/1993/6.