

1. *Decides* that the approach to the future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the following concepts:

(a) All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent; equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political, and economic, social and cultural rights;

(b) "The full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is impossible; the achievement of lasting progress in the implementation of human rights is dependent upon sound and effective national and international policies of economic and social development", as recognized by the Proclamation of Teheran of 1968;⁷²

(c) All human rights and fundamental freedoms of the human person and of peoples are inalienable;

(d) Consequently, human rights questions should be examined globally, taking into account both the over-all context of the various societies in which they present themselves, as well as the need for the promotion of the full dignity of the human person and the development and well-being of the society;

(e) In approaching human rights questions within the United Nations system, the international community should accord, or continue to accord, priority to the search for solutions to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights of peoples and persons affected by situations such as those resulting from *apartheid*, from all forms of racial discrimination, from colonialism, from foreign domination and occupation, from aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, as well as from the refusal to recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination and of every nation to the exercise of full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources;

(f) The realization of the new international economic order is an essential element for the effective promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and should also be accorded priority;

(g) It is of paramount importance for the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms that Member States undertake specific obligations through accession to or ratification of international instruments in this field; consequently, the standard-setting work within the United Nations system in the field of human rights and the universal acceptance and implementation of the relevant international instruments should be encouraged;

(h) The experience and contribution of both developed and developing countries should be taken into account by all organs of the United Nations system in their work related to human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights:

(a) To undertake at its thirty-fourth session, as a matter of priority, an over-all analysis of the alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the light of the above concepts;

(b) To comply with the mandate established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1992 (LX) of 12 May 1976 and the Commission in its decision 4 (XXXIII) of 21 February 1977,⁷³ and in the light of the present resolution;

(c) To submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report with its conclusions and recommendations on the work done with respect to subparagraphs (a) and (b) above, and to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Council;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to all United Nations organs and specialized agencies concerned;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*105th plenary meeting
16 December 1977*

32/131. Question of the elderly and the aged

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3137 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 on the question of the elderly and the aged,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2077 (LXII) of 13 May 1977 on the elderly, and the views expressed during the debate on the question at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development,⁷⁴

Emphasizing that in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development⁷⁵ the General Assembly has proclaimed the necessity of protecting the rights and assuring the welfare of the aged,

Noting also that in the World Population Plan of Action all Governments were urged, when formulating their development policies and programmes, to take fully into account the implications of changing numbers and proportions of the aged, particularly where such changes are rapid,⁷⁶

Bearing in mind that people all over the world now can expect a longer life and that more people reach old age, thus changing the population structure in many countries,

Recognizing the growing interest for developing and developed societies in the fuller participation of the elderly in the mainstream of national societies,

Noting the need for old people to be included in the general social welfare and social security system, where such systems exist, and to provide for their special needs of security, service and care,

Bearing in mind the need to develop policies and programmes for the aging sector of society as an

⁷³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5927)*, chap. XXI, sect. B.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5 (E/5915).

⁷⁵ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

⁷⁶ *Report of the World Population Conference, 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), para. 63.

⁷² *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XIV.2), p. 3.

important part of comprehensive plans for economic and social development,

Stressing the importance of the role that the United Nations system should play in providing assistance to countries in carrying out their economic and social development plans, including those concerning the elderly and the aged,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged,⁷⁷

1. *Recommends* to the Governments concerned, in formulating their national policies and programmes, to take into account the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 3137 (XXVIII) and to consider developing, as required and in accordance with their national priorities, policies and programmes for the welfare, including housing and social services, health, humanitarian well-being and economic security, of older people as well as measures aimed at maximizing their economic independence and their social integration into society, especially older people living in slums and uncontrolled settlements;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue and to expand, within the limits of existing resources, activities in this field, in co-operation with the agencies concerned, particularly:

(a) To consider measures for strengthening the activities of the regional commissions designed to assist the planning, establishment and improvement of social and health services for the aging;

(b) To assist Governments, at their request and in accordance with their national priorities, in the planning, establishment and expansion of programmes for the older sector of the population in the context of their over-all development programmes;

(c) To conduct seminars and workshops and to undertake studies on special issues in this field, in particular those faced by the developing countries concerned with the problem;

(d) To conduct research into the possibility of preserving and promoting the strengthening of the family unit with a view to facilitating, where appropriate, the care of the elderly and the aged by their own families;

(e) To collect, collate and disseminate the information on aging through the Information Exchange System;

3. *Requests* the competent and concerned specialized agencies to give continued attention to regional and international meetings on the major problems of concern to the aging and suggests that these organizations should engage in regular exchanges of information about their plans and activities in this field, particularly at the regional level;

4. *Requests* the concerned United Nations bodies, organs and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to join with the United Nations in well-co-ordinated activities to assist all Governments concerned, especially those of the developing countries, in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for the welfare,

including housing and social services, health and protection, of older people, aimed at maximizing their economic independence and maintaining a suitable role in society;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in accordance with its mandate and the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action and the guidance of its Governing Council, to provide financial assistance to developing countries, upon request, in improving the conditions of the aging;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council in 1979, through the Commission for Social Development, a progress report on the action taken on the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session an item entitled "The elderly and the aged".

*105th plenary meeting
16 December 1977*

32/132. International year and world assembly on aging

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development⁷⁸ and the emphasis therein on the dignity and worth of the human being and the rights of the aged,

Reaffirming its resolution 3137 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged", and the recommendation therein to Governments on the need for well-designed policies and programmes relating to older people,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2077 (LXII) of 13 May 1977, by which the Council approved the progress report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged,⁷⁹

Recognizing that the concerns of aged persons in national populations must be addressed when considering economic and social development,

Convinced of the need for interchange and international review of policy alternatives affecting the elderly,

1. *Invites* all States to make known their views to the Secretary-General by 1 July 1978 concerning the usefulness of proclaiming an international year on aging for the purpose of calling world-wide attention to the serious problems besetting a growing portion of the populations of the world;

2. *Further invites* all States to communicate their views to the Secretary-General by 1 July 1978 regarding the desirability of convening a world assembly on aging in order to permit national leaders and government specialists to exchange experiences, explore solutions and devise programmes for amelioration of the problems unique to the elderly;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the reactions of Member States to the proclamation of an international year on aging as well as

⁷⁷ A/32/130 and Corr.1.

⁷⁸ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

⁷⁹ E/CN.5/531.