

General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights informed as he deems it appropriate;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to be host to a seminar of Member States of the Asian region to consider appropriate arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements, following finalization of the consultations with Member States of the Asian region, with a view to holding the above-mentioned seminar at Colombo in 1981 and to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session of the deliberations of the seminar.

*96th plenary meeting  
15 December 1980*

**35/198. Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers**

*The General Assembly,*

*Affirming* the need to establish international co-operation by resolving international problems of an economic, social, intellectual or humanitarian nature and by developing and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling* in this connexion the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>135</sup> of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>136</sup> and of the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>137</sup>

*Convinced* of the contribution made by migrant workers to the economic growth and the social and cultural development of the host countries,

*Bearing in mind* the international instruments elaborated for the protection of migrant workers by the specialized agencies and especially by the International Labour Organisation,

*Bearing in mind* the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975,<sup>138</sup> and the Recommendation concerning Migrant Workers, 1975,<sup>139</sup> adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

*Conscious*, however, of the need for further efforts to ensure the protection of the rights and the improvement of the living conditions of all migrant workers and their families,

*Concerned* by the fact that the problem of migrant workers is becoming more serious in certain regions, owing to current political and economic circumstances and for social and cultural reasons,

*Recognizing* the need for the Governments of host countries and of countries of origin to co-operate with a view to finding solutions conducive to improving the situation and ensuring the rights of all migrant workers and their families,

*Reaffirming* that the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and is entitled to protection by

society and the State and that, in that context, the families of migrant workers are entitled to the same protection as the migrant workers themselves,

*Recalling* its resolution 34/172 of 17 December 1979, in which it decided to create, at its thirty-fifth session, a working group open to all Member States to elaborate an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families has been able to commence its work during the thirty-fifth session in accordance with its terms of reference,

*Noting*, in particular, that it is important that the Working Group should make substantial progress before the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in order to facilitate the accomplishment of its task,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that at the current session the Working Group has begun its work with a view to the elaboration of a draft convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families;

2. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Chairman of the Working Group<sup>140</sup> as well as the documents annexed to it;

3. *Decides* that the Working Group shall hold an intersessional meeting of two weeks' duration in New York in May 1981, immediately after the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council of 1981, to enable it to continue its work in order to discharge its mandate to the best of its ability during the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to communicate to Governments the report of the Chairman of the Working Group and the documents annexed to it in order to enable the members of the Working Group, in the light of instructions from their respective Governments, to undertake during the second phase of its activities, at the intersessional meeting of May 1981, the preparation of a preliminary draft convention for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

5. *Also invites* the Secretary-General to communicate, for information purposes, the above-mentioned documents to the competent organs of the United Nations system and to the interested international organizations, in order to enable them to participate in the work of the Working Group and to co-operate in the preparation of the draft convention;

6. *Further invites* the Secretary-General to communicate to Governments, to the competent organs of the United Nations system and to the interested international organizations the report and the preliminary draft convention to be drawn up by the Working Group at its intersessional meeting of May 1981, in order to ensure effective preparation of the work of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the elaboration of a draft convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families;

7. *Decides* that the Working Group shall meet during the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly in order to continue its work on the elaboration of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families.

*96th plenary meeting  
15 December 1980*

<sup>135</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>136</sup> Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>137</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>138</sup> International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. LVIII, 1975, series A, No. 1, Convention No. 143.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 1, Recommendation No. 151.

<sup>140</sup> A/C.3/35/13.