

in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, namely in the Middle East, Africa and Asia,

Realizing also that women in war-torn areas are often victims of many forms of assault on personal dignity,

1. *Expresses appreciation* to the Secretary-General for giving special consideration, in his reports to the General Assembly on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, to the suggestion made by the Commission on the Status of Women in its resolution 4 (XXII) regarding the necessity of taking specific measures for the protection of women and children in periods of armed conflict and in occupied territories;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Commission on the Status of Women to continue their efforts aiming at the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1515 (XLVIII) and to consider, in the light of the results of the work done in this respect within the framework of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the desirability of drafting a declaration on the subject;

3. *Welcomes* the fact that the Conference of Government Experts, convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva from 3 May to 3 June 1972, is giving consideration, *inter alia*, to the problem of special measures for the protection of women and children in periods of armed conflict and occupation, with the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict;

4. *Notes* that the Secretary-General, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Commission on the Status of Women, has transmitted the views of the Commission on the question of the protection of women and children in periods of armed conflict to the aforementioned Conference of Government Experts;

5. *Requests* Governments of Member States, the United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations to mobilize world public opinion in support of women and children referred to in the Secretary-General's report on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence and in the discussions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and requests these bodies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to develop ways and means of rendering all possible humanitarian support to them and to inform the Secretary-General of the steps taken in this respect;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Commission on the Status of Women based on replies received under paragraph 5 above;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the Commission on the Status of Women every two sessions reports on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence based on information available from appropriate United Nations bodies, in official United Nations documents, and any other information furnished by Governments and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Decides* to include the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed con-

flikt in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence in the programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

*1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972*

1688 (LII). Report of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-fourth session,⁵²

*1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972*

1689 (LII). Question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the study of special problems relating to human rights in developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1421 (XLVI) of 6 June 1969, 1502 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970 and 1595 (L) of 21 May 1971,

Reiterating the importance of implementing the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, especially the goals and policy measures enumerated therein, for the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights in developing countries,

Believing that the elaboration of a methodology will be indispensable for the rational consideration of this question in the future,

Impressing upon the Special Rapporteur appointed under Commission on Human Rights resolution 14 (XXV) the urgent need to complete his report—together with his conclusions and recommendations, including the question of the role of the Commission in this respect—on the realization, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, of the economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, taking particular account of the special problems of the developing countries in this regard,

Believing it desirable to consult its regional economic commissions on the question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, taking into account special problems relating to human rights in developing countries, especially in connexion with the twenty-fifth anniversary in 1973 of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

1. *Urges* the Special Rapporteur to complete his study, taking into account opinions expressed during

⁵² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5109 and Add.1).*

the discussion of this question at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights⁵³ and without prejudice to what is proposed in the succeeding paragraphs, to submit the final report to the Commission on Human Rights not later than three months in advance of its twenty-ninth session in 1973 and not later than 30 November 1972;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue providing all possible assistance to the Special Rapporteur and to urge once again those Governments and specialized agencies that have not yet done so to submit information on the effectiveness of the methods and means used by them in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, so that the Special Rapporteur may utilize this information as he may deem it appropriate;

3. *Requests* each regional economic commission to consider the feasibility of including in the agenda of its next session the consideration of "the question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, taking into account special problems relating to human rights in developing countries", and to indicate particular aspects of these rights;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Committee for Development Planning to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights all available information relevant to this item;

5. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider, within their respective spheres of competence, the question of the effective methods and means to be used for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to forward their suggestions to the Commission on Human Rights in time for consideration at its twenty-ninth session;

6. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study the problem at its twenty-ninth session as a matter of priority, including the feasibility of the observance at an appropriate time of an international year for eradication of poverty.

*1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972*

1690 (LII). Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting General Assembly resolution 2854 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and the documents related thereto, particularly the draft conventions submitted by Australia⁵⁴ and by the United States of America,⁵⁵

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 6 (XXVIII) of 31 March 1972,⁵⁶

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has proclaimed in its article 19 the right of everyone to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information through any media and regardless of frontiers,

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113), chap. IV.

⁵⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 49, document A/8589, para. 26.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 27.

⁵⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113), chap. XIII.*

Considering that it is important to promote the right to complete, objective and truthful information,

Considering that mass media of information play a vital role in that connexion,

Considering that the quest for information may expose journalists to dangerous situations when their mission leads them to carry on their activity in areas where there is armed conflict,

Considering that those whose recognized function is to gather information for dissemination through an information organ should be afforded adequate protection in time of armed conflict,

Considering that, without prejudice to the application of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,⁵⁷ it is desirable to guarantee for all categories of journalists, in view of the present-day requirements of their profession, effective protection when they carry out dangerous missions,

Transmits to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session:

(a) The draft articles of the International Convention on the Protection of Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Professional Missions in Areas of Armed Conflict, as approved by the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-eighth session as the basis for further work;⁵⁸

(b) Proposed amendments and the records of the discussion at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights;⁵⁹

(c) The relevant observations submitted by the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

*1818th plenary meeting
2 June 1972*

1691 (LII). Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering General Assembly resolution 2583 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969 in which the Assembly drew attention to the special need for international action in order to ensure the prosecution and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2712 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 in which the Assembly expressed deep concern at the fact that in present-day conditions, as a result of aggressive wars and the policies and practices of racism, *apartheid* and colonialism and other similar ideologies and practices, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed in various parts of the world, and called upon all the States concerned to intensify their co-operation in the collection and exchange of information which will contribute to the detection, arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity,

⁵⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

⁵⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113), chap. XIII, resolution 6 (XXVIII), annex.*

⁵⁹ E/CN.4/L.1199 and Corr.1, E/CN.4/L.1202-1210, E/CN.4/SR.1165, 1166 and 1168-1176.