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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/618)]

51/84. Universal realization of the right of
peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹ as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign

¹ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth,² thirty-seventh,³ thirty-eighth,⁴ thirty-ninth,⁵ fortieth,⁶ forty-first,⁷ forty-second,⁸ forty-third,⁹ forty-fourth,¹⁰ forty-fifth,¹¹ forty-sixth,¹² forty-seventh,¹³ forty-eighth,¹⁴ forty-ninth,¹⁵ fiftieth,¹⁶ fifty-first¹⁷ and fifty-second¹⁸ sessions,

² See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3 and corrigendum (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

³ Ibid., 1981, Supplement No. 5 and corrigendum (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

⁴ Ibid., 1982, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

⁵ Ibid., 1983, Supplement No. 3 and corrigendum (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

⁶ Ibid., 1984, Supplement No. 4 and corrigendum (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

⁷ Ibid., 1985, Supplement No. 2 (E/1985/22), chap. II, sect. A.

⁸ Ibid., 1986, Supplement No. 2 (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

⁹ Ibid., 1987, Supplement No. 5 and corrigenda (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁰ Ibid., 1988, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹¹ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

¹² Ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹³ Ibid., 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁴ Ibid., 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁵ Ibid., 1993, Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁶ Ibid., 1994, Supplement No. 4 and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁸ Ibid., 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Reaffirming its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982, 38/16 of 22 November 1983, 39/18 of 23 November 1984, 40/24 of 29 November 1985, 41/100 of 4 December 1986, 42/94 of 7 December 1987, 43/105 of 8 December 1988, 44/80 of 8 December 1989, 45/131 of 14 December 1990, 46/88 of 16 December 1991, 47/83 of 16 December 1992, 48/93 of 20 December 1993, 49/148 of 23 December 1994 and 50/139 of 21 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,¹⁹

1. Reaffirms that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. Declares its firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. Calls upon those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, particularly the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. Deplores the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour;

5. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

¹⁹ A/51/414.