

*Desirous* of contributing to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,<sup>41</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the sovereign and inalienable right of every State to choose its economic and social system in accordance with the will of its people, without outside interference in whatever form it takes;

2. *Considers* that the exchange of national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress would contribute to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

3. *Invites* Member States to give special attention in their national development plans and programmes to the social aspects of development with a view to increasing the well-being of the population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make arrangements for holding, within the programme of advisory services, regular interregional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States, a report on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and for safeguarding national independence within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, taking into account social aspects of development and the role of existing concepts and practices in the development process, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress" and to consider under this item the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.

49th plenary meeting  
9 November 1981

### 36/20. Question of the elderly and the aged

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 34/153 of 17 December 1979 on the question of the elderly and the aged,

*Recalling also* its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978, in which it decided to convene a World Assembly on Aging in 1982 to launch an international programme of action on aging,

Considering that the international programme of action on aging should respond to the socio-economic implications of the aging of populations and to the specific needs of older persons, and should pay due regard to the special situation of developing countries, in particular of the least developed countries,

*Convinced* that the objectives of an international plan of action on aging must be adapted to the aims of the new international economic order and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,<sup>42</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the preparatory work for the World Assembly on Aging,<sup>43</sup> and the leading role being played by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in the work of the United Nations in the field of aging,

*Aware* of the need for the continuing role of the Commission for Social Development and other appropriate United Nations bodies in the monitoring and evaluation of the international plan of action that would result from the World Assembly on Aging,

*Appreciating* the efforts of the specialized agencies and regional commissions and of the non-governmental organizations concerned in the promotion of awareness of the situation of the aging,

*Recognizing* the important role of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in furthering solutions to the problems of the elderly and the aged,

*Noting* that a United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging has been established by the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/129 of 11 December 1980.

*Taking note with appreciation* of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged,<sup>44</sup>

1. *Recommends* that Governments should continue to give attention to the question of aging, particularly in the formulation of national development policies and programmes in accordance with their national priorities;

2. *Invites* Member States to consider designating in their respective countries a "Day for the Aging" devoted to activities by, and on behalf of, the elderly and the aged and to report their views and comments to the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session the views and comments received from Member States pursuant to the invitation contained in paragraph 2 above;

4. *Appeals* to Member States to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund to encourage further interest in the field of aging among developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, within the context of the World Assembly on Aging;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the status of the Trust Fund and to include in his report an account of project activities financed by the Fund;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen, within the limits of existing resources and voluntary contributions, activities in the field of aging in co-operation with the organizations concerned, and in particular:

(a) To assist Governments, at their request, in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the elderly;

(b) To continue to monitor and research the implications of aging populations, especially in developing countries;

(c) To promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the exchange of information and technology in this field;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of paragraph 7 above and also to report any views received from Member States on the problems of the elderly and the aged;

<sup>41</sup> Resolution 35/56, annex.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> See resolution 36/30 below.

<sup>44</sup> A/36/70.

9. *Invites* the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue to provide financial support in the field of aging, particularly for the implementation of the plan of action that would result from the World Assembly on Aging;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged".

*49th plenary meeting  
9 November 1981*

### 36/21. Crime prevention and criminal justice and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Concerned* at the escalation of crime and violence in many parts of the world,

*Conscious* of the forms and dimensions crime has assumed in the context of socio-economic development, and the increasing difficulties encountered,

*Stressing* the vital contribution that the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders make to improving the quality of life,

*Recalling* its resolution 35/171 of 15 December 1980, in which it endorsed the Caracas Declaration, annexed to that resolution, and recommendations relating to the new perspectives for international co-operation in crime prevention in the context of development, adopted by the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

*Recalling* its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which is one of the principal guarantees for the creation of better conditions so that all peoples may attain a decent life,

*Mindful* that in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the Assembly declared that the ultimate aim of development was the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and the fair distribution of the benefits therefrom,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice and development;<sup>45</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* that crime prevention and criminal justice should be considered in the context of economic development, political, social and cultural systems and social values and changes, as well as in the context of the new international economic order;

3. *Invites* Member States to intensify efforts to make their criminal justice systems more responsive to changing socio-economic conditions, also through the appropriate development of national forms of social control;

4. *Urges* the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme to increase their level of support to programmes of technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and to encourage technical co-operation among developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the fullest implementation of the Caracas Declaration and for the appropriate preparation of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and

the Treatment of Offenders, in close co-operation with all the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular with the regional commissions and the United Nations training and research institutes in crime prevention;

6. *Calls upon* the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, entrusted with the preparation of the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to give particular attention, in the formulation of the agenda of the Seventh Congress, to current and emerging trends in crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to defining new guiding principles for the future course of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development needs and the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and a new international economic order, taking into account the political, economic, social and cultural circumstances and traditions of each country and the need for crime prevention and criminal justice systems to be consonant with the principles of social justice;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 on the preparatory work for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, also to take into account the relevant recommendations made by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its seventh session, without prejudice to the existing reporting procedures.

*49th plenary meeting  
9 November 1981*

### 36/22. Arbitrary or summary executions

*The General Assembly,*

*Having regard* to the provisions bearing on capital punishment in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>46</sup> particularly its articles 6, 14 and 15,

*Recalling* its resolution 2393 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968, in which it invited Governments of Member States, *inter alia*, to ensure the most careful legal procedures and the greatest possible safeguards for the accused in capital cases in countries where the death penalty obtained,

*Recalling also* its resolution 35/172 of 15 December 1980 on arbitrary or summary executions,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 35/171 of 15 December 1980, in which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the Caracas Declaration, adopted by consensus at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, annexed to that resolution,

1. *Condemns* the practice of summary executions and arbitrary executions;

2. *Strongly deplores* the increasing number of summary executions as well as the continued incidence of arbitrary executions in different parts of the world;

3. *Notes with concern* the occurrence of executions that are widely regarded as being politically motivated;

4. *Urges* all States concerned to respect the minimum standard of legal safeguards referred to in paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 35/172;

5. *Again requests* the Secretary-General to use his best endeavours in cases where this minimum standard of legal safeguards appears not to be respected;

6. *Invites* Member States, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-

<sup>45</sup> A/36/442.

<sup>46</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.