

Convinced that the preservation and strengthening of international peace and security are prerequisites for a secure and happy future for the youth of all countries,

Recognizing the importance of integrating young people in the over-all life of society and of taking fully into account their special needs when formulating national plans and programmes,

Emphasizing the need for increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities for young people for their active and productive participation in the general development of society,

Reaffirming the necessity to intensify and consolidate the efforts of the United Nations so as to give effect to a co-ordinated and practical approach to youth programmes of all the United Nations agencies involved, as well as to strengthen co-operation with non-governmental organizations of youth or directly dealing with youth,

Noting the views on the question of youth in the contemporary world expressed in the report of the Secretary-General²⁸ and in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-seventh session,²⁹

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on youth in the contemporary world,²⁸ prepared for the Commission for Social Development;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring that report to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the views expressed on youth in the Commission for Social Development in the preparation of the documentation to be submitted to the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

4. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Youth in the contemporary world" in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development and that the Commission should consider under this item the second report on the situation of youth to be submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/16.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

1981/17. Social aspects of the access to culture

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of mankind's lofty ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966,³⁰

Recalling also the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,³¹

Convinced of the importance of the role culture has to play in meeting the common needs of all peoples, and in raising the quality of their lives,

Recognizing the relationship between the cultural progress of peoples, their co-operation, understanding and friendship, and world peace,

²⁸ E/CN.5/587.

²⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 6 (E/1981/26)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

³⁰ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³¹ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

Recognizing also that cultural values represent a basic component of the identity of nations, which promotes understanding of their respective cultures and their values, and that full utilization of the cultural heritage is an indispensable condition of each nation's self-affirmation,

Convinced that every person, without distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, family or social status and political conviction, has the right of access to cultural values,

Aware that unless special institutional forms of national assistance are established, it will soon not prove possible to overcome the legacy of long-standing backwardness and negligence,

1. *Reaffirms* that cultural development is one of the most important factors of social progress;

2. *Calls upon* States to pursue continuous efforts to protect and further develop cultural values as social and spiritual energy for authentic national development and as mankind's common heritage;

3. *Appeals* to all nations to create cultural values which enhance friendship among them and to establish better social relations in the world, in particular in mass culture;

4. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for its record of achievement thus far in the field of access to culture, including, in particular, the reduction of illiteracy, raising the level of general education and the protection and further development of cultural values;

5. *Urges* all Governments and other public and private institutions, both national and international, to intensify their organizational, intellectual and financial efforts with a view to expanding as effectively as possible wide access of all people to culture and cultural amenities for promoting a balanced social development.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

1981/18. Draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/28 of 9 May 1979, in which it submitted the draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally to the General Assembly for preliminary consideration at its thirty-fourth session,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General³² on views of Member States on the text of the draft declaration,

Convinced that adoption of the draft declaration will promote the well-being of children with special needs,

Requests the General Assembly to consider at its thirty-sixth session the draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally so that the further action proposed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/28 may proceed.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

³² A/35/336.