

Alarmed by the unrelentingly destructive effects of the locust and grasshopper infestation on many African countries,

Fully aware of the urgent need to spare no effort to counter and eradicate the infestation, as well as the need to take adequate preventive measures against future outbreaks,

Noting that the resources of Africa are insufficient to control the infestation, which will need to be countered by concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the worsening desert locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa, which may adversely affect food production and cause renewed famine, and reaffirms the need to accord the highest priority to locust and grasshopper control and eradication;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of affected countries, donors and regional and international organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, acting individually and jointly, to contain the infestation;

3. *Urges* donors to increase financial and technical assistance for current and future programmes of locust and grasshopper control, in keeping with the increased requirements of the evolving situation;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to support fully the locust and grasshopper control activities undertaken by African countries, including the gathering and dissemination of information and prevention, co-ordination and funding activities, as well as the strengthening and establishment of national, regional and international early warning systems for the monitoring of locust and grasshopper infestations;

5. *Supports* the efforts of the Maghreb countries within the framework of their joint programme of co-ordination to fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, and invites those countries willing to participate in the eradication of that scourge to contribute resources to the common fund established for that purpose by the Governments of Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia;

6. *Invites* the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to undertake an assessment of the prevailing techniques used in the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, with a view to identifying and applying more effective and environmentally sound methods;

7. *Invites* the appropriate bodies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to give the necessary priority, in their regular activities, to the fight against the locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to take the necessary measures in this regard;

9. *Invites* the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep the situation under constant review and to strengthen that organization's capabilities with regard to the overall co-ordination of the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session the text of the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to be made to the Council at its second regular session of 1988.

*12th plenary meeting
24 May 1988*

1988/4. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of its central responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³

Recalling its resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, by which it established the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to be entrusted, as from 1987, with the important task of overseeing the implementation of the Covenant,

Recalling also its resolutions and decisions relating to its Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, which remain in force in so far as they are not superseded or modified by the provisions of resolution 1985/17,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing public awareness of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the role that non-governmental organizations can play in that regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 41/121 of 4 December 1986 and 42/105 of 7 December 1987 on reporting obligations under United Nations instruments on human rights, which are of relevance to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of maintaining summary records of the proceedings of the bodies supervising the implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights, and bearing in mind the relevance to the work of the Committee of the activities and experience of other United Nations treaty bodies,

Recalling also the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/105, that the Council consider changing the periodicity of reporting under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the endorsement by the Assembly, in its resolution 42/102 of 7 December 1987, of the invitation extended by the Economic and Social Council to the Committee to consider recommendations relating to its future work,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural

³ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Rights on its second session,⁴ including the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Committee with respect to its future methods of work;⁵

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

3. *Invites* States parties to the Covenant to follow the recommendations made by the Committee to address the problems of non-submission and extended delays in the submission of periodic reports, in particular regarding the need to submit and present the reports in a timely manner and to complete the entire cycle of initial reports before submitting second reports, and requests the Secretary-General to send appropriate reminders to those States parties whose reports are overdue;

4. *Welcomes* the decisions taken by the Committee on the action it should take to seek supplementary information in cases where reports are incomplete;

5. *Invites* States parties to the Covenant to review the processes followed in the preparation of their periodic reports on the implementation of the Covenant, including consultation and co-ordination with appropriate governmental departments and agencies, compilation of data and training of staff, and to hold, as appropriate, consultations with interested non-governmental organizations, with a view to ensuring full compliance with relevant guidelines, improving the quality of description and analysis in such reports and limiting reports to a reasonable length;

6. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that States parties be requested to submit a single report within two years of the entry into force of the Covenant for the State party concerned and thereafter at five-year intervals, and requests the Secretary-General to inform States parties to the Covenant of this decision;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee to revise and simplify the guidelines for reports of States parties and to place limits on the time devoted to the consideration of the report of each State party;

8. *Endorses* the request of the Committee that the Secretary-General prepare a report showing clearly the extent and nature of any overlapping of issues dealt with in the principal human rights treaties, with a view to reducing, as appropriate, duplication in the different supervisory bodies of issues raised with respect to any given State party;

9. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee on its future sessions, but considers that, in view of the various recommendations made by the Committee to expedite its consideration of periodic reports, the current provision for one annual session of three weeks' duration should be maintained for the time being;

10. *Authorizes* the Committee to establish, within available resources, a pre-sessional working group to meet for a period of up to one week prior to each session;

11. *Agrees* that an effort should be made to avoid overlapping future sessions of the Committee with sessions of the Commission on Human Rights;

12. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee to devote one day during each session to a general discussion of one specific right or a particular article of the Covenant in order to develop in greater depth its understanding of the relevant issues;

13. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee to prepare general comments, based on the various articles and provisions of the Covenant, with a view to assisting States parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, paying particular attention to relevant practices followed by other treaty bodies, and takes note of the methods of work to be followed at future sessions of the Committee;

14. *Urges* the Committee to encourage States parties, in conformity with article 2, paragraph 1, of the Covenant, to consider identifying bench-marks for measuring achievements in the progressive realization of the rights recognized in the Covenant and, in this context, to pay particular regard to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged persons;

15. *Urges* the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other appropriate United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to extend their full co-operation and support to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by, *inter alia*, enabling their representatives to attend meetings of the Committee and submitting relevant information to the Committee;

16. *Invites* non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to submit to the Committee written statements that might contribute to full and universal recognition and realization of the rights set forth in the Covenant, requests the Secretary-General to make those statements available to the Committee in a timely manner and thanks those organizations that submitted written statements to the Committee for consideration at its second session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the report of the Committee to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights, its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, other United Nations organs and their subsidiaries, specialized agencies concerned with providing technical assistance and the regional commissions;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights to assist States parties in discharging their reporting obligations under the Covenant, including the holding of training courses on the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Covenant, and to advise States parties of the availability of such assistance;

19. *Takes note with appreciation* of the conclusions of the Committee on the importance of greater

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 4 (E/1988/14).*

⁵ *Ibid.*, chap. IV.

publicity for its work, and encourages the Secretary-General to give publicity to the proceedings of the Committee and to ensure that it receives full administrative support so as to enable it to discharge its functions as effectively as possible;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee, upon its request, with relevant data from official United Nations sources, including information from the specialized agencies and the regional commissions;

21. *Decides* to transmit the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-third session for consideration under the agenda item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

*12th plenary meeting
24 May 1988*

1988/5. International Covenants on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights³ constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁶ form the core of the International Bill of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in the co-ordination of activities to promote the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Considering that the year 1988 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which, conceived as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations and having provided the basis for the International Covenants on Human Rights, has been and rightly continues to be a fundamental source of inspiration for national and international efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 1987/4 of 26 May 1987, General Assembly resolutions 41/150 of 4 December 1986, 42/103 and 42/131, both of 7 December 1987, and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1988/23 and 1988/27, both of 7 March 1988,⁷

Convinced of the continuing need to promote the universal observance and enjoyment of human rights, which contribute to peaceful and friendly relations among nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights in international efforts

⁶ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 2 (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.*

to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Appeals strongly* to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, so that those instruments acquire genuine universality;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties to the Covenants with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. *Invites* the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

5. *Stresses* the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation and the necessity for strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification and appropriateness of measures taken in those circumstances can be assessed;

6. *Reaffirms* the important role of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with respect to the implementation by States parties of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and expresses its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which the Committees are exercising their functions;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General and Member States to implement the measures set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 41/150 in order to ensure the success of the activities in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

8. *Decides* to include the question of the International Covenants on Human Rights in the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1989 and to consider under that question the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

*12th plenary meeting
24 May 1988*

1988/6. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the purpose set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an