

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, social progress and development shall be founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and shall ensure the promotion of human rights and social justice,⁷⁸

Convinced that more extensive regional and interregional co-operation is important in strengthening national efforts to promote social progress,

Mindful of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,⁷⁹

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to develop a comprehensive approach to developmental social welfare, including better integrated and mutually supportive economic and social development policies, aimed at the achievement of social justice,

1. *Considers* that the common purpose of the international community must be to create from varied economic, social and political conditions a global environment conducive to sustained development, the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, social justice and peace;

2. *Recognizes* that social justice is one of the most important goals of social progress;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of co-operation among countries in promoting a climate conducive to the achievement by individual countries of the goals of development and social justice and progress;

4. *Considers* that such co-operation should continue to be a major focus of the activities of the United Nations and its bodies in accordance with the principles of the Charter;

5. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development and other relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies take into account the necessity of achieving social justice for all when considering problems of social development.

16th plenary meeting
27 May 1988

1988/47. Extreme poverty

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned that a significant percentage of the world's population lives in conditions of extreme poverty and is forced to live increasingly at the margins of society,

Noting the insufficient attention paid to the phenomenon of extreme poverty, a phenomenon that frequently eludes international and intergovernmental action and current statistical methods,

Recalling its resolution 1987/48 of 28 May 1987, in which it called upon non-governmental organizations to participate in follow-up activities to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Taking into account the provision of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development to the effect that social progress and development are the common concerns of the international community, which shall supplement, by concerted international action, national efforts to raise the living standards of peoples,⁸⁰

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Noting the results of the International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development, held at Khartoum from 5 to 8 March 1988, and the Khartoum Declaration adopted by the Conference,⁸¹

Concerned that a deteriorating international economic situation has adverse social consequences, particularly for developing countries, and contributes to extending the boundaries of extreme poverty and increases the number of people living in such conditions,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to take account of the social costs of adjustment policies,

Calling for the strengthening of efforts being made by the international community to alleviate the impact of such policies on those who live in conditions of extreme poverty,

Considering that the Commission for Social Development is the most appropriate United Nations organ for recommending social development policies,

1. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to study the phenomenon of extreme poverty with a view to examining the interrelationship between social development and the eradication of poverty and report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1989;

2. *Invites* all Member States to transmit to the Commission for Social Development any studies or reports that they may have on the problem of extreme poverty or, if they have none, invites them to consider undertaking such studies and to transmit them to the Commission;

3. *Also invites* non-governmental organizations to continue to support follow-up activities to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in accordance with Council resolution 1987/48;

4. *Urges* the Commission for Social Development to suggest, on the basis of an assessment of its studies, strategies that will help put an end to the marginalization of people living in extreme poverty, irrespective of the economic and social system to which they belong, and to submit its views to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its first regular session of 1991;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the results of the studies of the Commission for Social

⁸⁰ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV), article 9.

⁸¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 13 (E/1988/37)*.

⁷⁸ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV), article 2.

⁷⁹ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

Development in his report on the world social situation.

*16th plenary meeting
27 May 1988*

1988/48. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Taking note of General Assembly resolutions 42/60 of 30 November 1987 and 42/105 of 7 December 1987 and recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/3 of 26 May 1987,

Recalling in particular the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventh session, notably general recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 8 and suggestion 1 on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention,⁸²

Noting that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of States parties to the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so as soon as possible;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventh session;

⁸² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38)*, sect. V.

5. *Reaffirms* the decision of the General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of resolution 42/60, that no action should be taken on decision 4 adopted by the Committee at its sixth session;⁸³

6. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial reports on the implementation of the Convention, as well as their second and subsequent periodic reports, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines of the Committee;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports, and encourages the Committee to continue those efforts;

8. *Notes with deep concern* the problems encountered by the Committee as a result of the lack of resources, including technical and substantive support, and the backlog of reports awaiting examination;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, to take due account of article 17, paragraph 9, of the Convention by providing the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee, in order to enable it to carry out its mandate as efficiently as other human rights treaty bodies;

10. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its forty-third session consider the request made by the Committee⁸⁴ for additional meetings, on an exceptional basis, in order to advance consideration of reports already submitted to the Committee;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources and drawing, in particular, on funds available to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to provide for, facilitate and encourage public information activities relating to the Committee and the Convention, giving priority to the dissemination of the Convention in the official languages of the United Nations;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for information.

*16th plenary meeting
27 May 1988*

⁸³ *Ibid.*, *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/42/38)*, sect. V.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, *Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38)*, sect. V, suggestion 1.