

1983/43 of 9 March 1983¹⁷⁷ and 1984/28 of 12 March 1984.¹⁷⁸

Reaffirming the inherent right to life,

Profoundly concerned that international peace and security continue to be threatened by the arms race in all its aspects, particularly the nuclear arms race, as well as by violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the self-determination of peoples,

Aware that all the horrors of past wars and all other calamities that have befallen people would pale in comparison with what is inherent in the use of nuclear weapons capable of destroying civilization on Earth,

Noting the pressing need for urgent measures towards general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, for the sake of life on Earth,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law,

Recalling the historic responsibility of the Governments of all countries of the world to remove the threat of war from the lives of people, to preserve civilization and to ensure that everyone enjoys his inherent right to life,

Convinced that for no people in the world today is there a more important question than that of the preservation of peace and of ensuring the cardinal right of every human being, namely, the right to life,

1. *Reaffirms* that all peoples and all individuals have an inherent right to life and that the safeguarding of this cardinal right is an essential condition for the enjoyment of the entire range of economic, social and cultural, as well as civil and political, rights;

2. *Stresses once again* the urgent need for the international community to make every effort to strengthen peace, remove the growing threat of war, particularly nuclear war, halt the arms race and achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control and prevent violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and self-determination of peoples, thus contributing to ensuring the right to life;

3. *Stresses further* the foremost importance of the implementation of practical measures of disarmament for releasing substantial additional resources, which should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries;

4. *Calls upon* all States, appropriate organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress are used exclusively in the interests of international peace, for the benefit of mankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Again calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take effective measures with a view to prohibiting any propaganda for war, in particular the formulation, propounding and dissemination of propaganda for doctrines and concepts aimed at unleashing nuclear war;

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 1983, Supplement No. 3 (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 1984, Supplement No. 4 (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36), chap. XXIV, sect. A.

6. *Looks forward* to further efforts by the Commission on Human Rights with a view to ensuring the inherent right of all peoples and all individuals to life;

7. *Decides* to consider this question at its fortieth session under the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

101st plenary meeting
14 December 1984

39/135. Question of a convention on the rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978, 34/4 of 18 October 1979, 35/131 of 11 December 1980, 36/57 of 25 November 1981, 37/190 of 18 December 1982 and 38/114 of 16 December 1983,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 20 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978,¹⁷⁹ 19 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,¹⁸⁰ 36 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980,¹⁸¹ 26 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981,¹⁸² 1982/39 of 11 March 1982,¹⁸³ 1983/52 of 10 March 1983¹⁷⁷ and 1984/24 of 8 March 1984,¹⁷⁸ as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/18 of 5 May 1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978, 1982/37 of 7 May 1982, 1983/39 of 27 May 1983 and 1984/25 of 24 May 1984 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

Reaffirming that children's rights are basic human rights and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Recalling that the year 1984 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child¹⁸⁴ which was proclaimed to the end that the child might have a happy childhood and enjoy for his own good and for the good of society the rights and freedoms set forth therein and be, in all circumstances, among the first to receive protection and relief,

Aware of the fact that, twenty-five years after the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the situation of children in many parts of the world still continues to be far from satisfactory,

Stressing again the need to keep up the momentum of positive action for the sake of children, generated by the International Year of the Child,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced of the significance of an international convention on the rights of the child as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations, in the fields of social development and human rights, for protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being,

Noting with satisfaction the widespread interest in the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of the child displayed by a great number of Member States, representing all geographical regions and socio-political systems, as well as by international organizations,

Noting with appreciation that further progress was made in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 1980, Supplement No. 3 (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*, 1981, Supplement No. 5 (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*, 1982, Supplement No. 2 (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁸⁴ Resolution 1386 (XIV).

child during the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights,¹⁸⁵

1. *Stresses* the significance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child which has directly stimulated the idea of elaborating an international convention on the rights of the child;

2. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/25, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the forty-first session of the Commission to facilitate and speed up the completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority to this question and to make every effort at its forty-first session to complete the draft convention and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

4. *Invites* all Member States to offer their effective contribution to the completion of the draft convention on the rights of the child at the forty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the working group to ensure its smooth and efficient work in the fulfilment of this important task;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

101st plenary meeting
14 December 1984

39/136. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/51 of 14 December 1978, 34/45 of 23 November 1979, 35/132 of 11 December 1980, 36/58 of 25 November 1981, 37/191 of 18 December 1982 and 38/116 and 38/117 of 16 December 1983,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁸⁶ on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁸⁷ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁸⁷ and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁸⁷

Noting with appreciation that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹⁸⁷

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Taking into account the useful work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions,¹⁸⁸ and expresses its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to perform its functions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have submitted their reports to the Human Rights Committee under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports as speedily as possible;

3. *Urges* those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with that request;

4. *Commends* those States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have submitted their reports under article 16 of the Covenant and urges States that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the majority of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and an increasing number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, have been represented by experts for the presentation of their reports, thereby assisting the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in their work, and hopes that all States parties to both Covenants will arrange such representation in future;

6. *Again urges* 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, as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

7. *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;

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

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the relevant activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to those bodies;

10. *Looks forward* to the report of the Secretary-General, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1985, on the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other bodies established in accordance with existing international instruments in the field of human rights in order to facilitate the review which the Council will undertake in accordance with its resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982;

11. *Welcomes* the decision by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1984/9 of 24 May 1984 to conduct the review at an early stage of its first regular session

¹⁸⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 4 (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. XIII.*

¹⁸⁶ A/39/461.

¹⁸⁷ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁸⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/39/40 and Corr.1 and 2).*