

eration and action, as appropriate, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

14th plenary meeting
25 May 1990

1990/45. International Covenants on Human Rights
The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind its important responsibilities in relation to the co-ordination of activities to promote the International Covenants on Human Rights,³²

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights 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,³¹ form the core of the International Bill of Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³² and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³² 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,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting and implementing the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as reflected in its report on its fourth session,⁸⁸ and taking note with appreciation of the general comments of the Human Rights Committee on the non-discrimination clauses of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session,⁸⁹

Noting, in this regard, that a number of States Members of the United Nations have yet to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established in accordance with the relevant provisions of international instruments on human rights plays a fundamental role and hence represents an important continuing concern of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of the international effort 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;

3. *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;

4. *Appeals* to States parties to the Covenants that have exercised their sovereign right to make reservations in accordance with relevant rules of international law to consider whether any such reservations should be reviewed;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify the systematic efforts to encourage States to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to provide technical assistance to the States that are not parties to the Covenants, with a view to assisting them in ratifying or acceding to the Covenants;

6. *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;

7. *Stresses* the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation and the need for strict observance of all the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

8. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its general comment on article 22 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted at its fourth session,⁹⁰ focused on the means by which the various United Nations agencies working in the field of development could seek to integrate measures designed to promote full respect for economic, social and cultural rights in their activities;

9. *Welcomes also* the continuing efforts of the Human Rights Committee to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and appeals to other bodies dealing with similar questions of human rights to respect those standards as expressed in the general comments of the Human Rights Committee;

10. *Welcomes further* the adoption by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of a general comment at both its third⁹¹ and fourth sessions,⁹⁰ and encourages the Committee to continue using that mechanism to develop a fuller appreciation of the obligations of States parties under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

11. *Invites* States parties, in conformity with article 2, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to consider identifying bench-marks to measure achievements in the progressive realization of the rights recognized in the

⁸⁸ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 3 (E/1990/23).

⁸⁹ E/1990/44, annex.

⁹⁰ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 3 (E/1990/23), annex III.

⁹¹ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 4 (E/1989/22), annex III.

Covenant and, in this context, to pay particular attention to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged;

12. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, to consider requesting the Secretary-General to devote a seminar, under the United Nations programme of human rights activities for the biennium 1992-1993, for the discussion of appropriate bench-marks to measure achievements in the progressive realization of the rights recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights informed of the relevant activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture and, where appropriate, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and of the activities of the relevant bodies of the specialized agencies, and to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to all those bodies;

14. *Encourages* all Governments to publicize the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in as many languages as possible, and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1991 an item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights" and to consider under that item the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

16. *Also decides* to transmit the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fourth session to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session for consideration under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

*14th plenary meeting
25 May 1990*

1990/46. Suppression of the traffic in persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1982/20 of 10 March 1982⁹² on the question of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of *apartheid* and colonialism, and 1988/42 of 8 March 1988,⁹³

⁹² *Ibid.*, 1982, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1982/12), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, 1988, *Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

1989/35 of 6 March 1989⁹⁴ and 1990/63 of 7 March 1990⁹⁵ on the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling also its resolutions 1982/20 of 4 May 1982 and 1983/30 of 26 May 1983 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and 1988/34 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/74 of 24 May 1989 on the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Considering that the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Economic and Social Council on the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others⁹⁵ still constitutes a useful basis for further action,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1983/30 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others,⁹⁶

Noting that only a few Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations have submitted information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30,

Gravely concerned that slavery, the slave trade and slavery-like practices still exist, that there are modern manifestations of those phenomena and that such practices represent some of the gravest violations of human rights,

Aware of the complexity of the issue of the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and the need for further co-ordination and co-operation to implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur and by various United Nations bodies,

1. *Reminds* States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926,⁹⁷ the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956,⁹⁷ and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949⁹⁷ of their obligation to submit to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the relevant conventions and under Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/30 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others;⁹⁶

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 1989, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

⁹⁵ E/1983/7 and Corr.1 and 2.

⁹⁶ E/1990/33.

⁹⁷ See *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. F.