

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 1982<sup>92</sup> 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,<sup>93</sup>

1989/35 of 6 March 1989<sup>94</sup> and 1990/63 of 7 March 1990<sup>95</sup> 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 others<sup>95</sup> 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,<sup>96</sup>

*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,<sup>97</sup> the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956,<sup>97</sup> and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949<sup>97</sup> 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;<sup>96</sup>

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

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

<sup>94</sup> E/1983/7 and Corr.1 and 2.

<sup>95</sup> E/1990/33.

<sup>96</sup> See *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. F.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in its resolution 1983/30 by those Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations that have not yet submitted such information and to make that report available to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

4. *Endorses* the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/63, that the staff member appointed to serve the Working Group and undertake other activities relating to contemporary forms of slavery in the post which has been included in the budget of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat for questions relating to slavery and slavery-like practices be assigned on a full-time basis;

5. *Endorses* the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1989/35, which was reiterated in its resolution 1990/63, that the Secretary-General designate the Centre for Human Rights as the focal point for the co-ordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery;

6. *Decides* to consider the question of the suppression of traffic in persons at its first regular session of 1991 under the item entitled "Human rights".

*14th plenary meeting  
25 May 1990*

#### **1990/47. Developments relevant to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 44/135 of 15 December 1989 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/46 of 6 March 1989<sup>98</sup> and taking note of Commission resolution 1990/25 of 27 February 1990,<sup>78</sup>

*Considering* that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic aims of the United Nations according to the Charter and an issue of the utmost importance for the Organization,

*Recognizing* that the work-load of the Centre for Human Rights has increased rapidly in recent years,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation and developments regarding the logistical and human resources support for the activities of the Centre for Human Rights,<sup>98</sup> in particular the conclusion that the work-load of the Centre has increased, while resources have failed to keep pace with the increase in its responsibilities;<sup>99</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, programme and resource proposals for long-term solutions of the problems posed by this situation, taking also into account the proposals contained in the report

of the Task Force on Computerization,<sup>100</sup> as well as in the study<sup>101</sup> carried out by an independent expert, concerning the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a brief report on actions taken in 1990 and those planned for 1991, as interim solutions of these problems;

4. *Decides* to refer the report of the Secretary-General<sup>98</sup> to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session and the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies at their next meeting, for consideration.

*14th plenary meeting  
25 May 1990*

#### **1990/48. Enlargement of the Commission on Human Rights and the further promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 44/167 of 15 December 1989,

*Bearing in mind* the responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights under the Charter of the United Nations,

*Appreciating* the contribution made by the Commission to the cause of human rights and recognizing the need to reinforce it,

*Reaffirming* that the Commission shall be guided by the standards in the field of human rights laid down in the various international instruments concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights,

*Aware* of the fact that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as legitimate concerns of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends,

*Emphasizing* the importance of further improving the effective functioning of the Commission in the field of human rights,

*Convinced* that in order to achieve universally recognized objectives, improvements in the functioning of the Commission and measures of rationalization should be a matter for continuous consideration,

*Taking note* of the relevant section of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries adopted at Belgrade on 7 September 1989<sup>102</sup> stating the need to strengthen the role and efficiency of the United Nations and to reinforce its mechanisms,

*Stressing* that the special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights are some of the key elements for analysing, reporting on and monitoring human rights, which are essential for the

<sup>98</sup> E/1990/50.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 59.

<sup>100</sup> See E/CN.4/1990/39, annex.

<sup>101</sup> See A/44/668, annex.

<sup>102</sup> See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.