

(f) Rules relative to the behaviour of combatants;

(g) Measures intended to reinforce the implementation, in armed conflicts, of existing international humanitarian law;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the second session of the Conference of Government Experts will make recommendations for the further development of international humanitarian law in this field, including, as appropriate, draft protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, for subsequent consideration at one or more plenipotentiary diplomatic conferences;

4. *Calls upon* States parties to the existing international instruments to review, as a matter of priority, any reservations they may have made to those instruments;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To transmit his latest report,⁴² together with any further observations received from Governments as well as the records of relevant discussions and resolutions of the General Assembly, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration, as appropriate, by the Conference of Government Experts at its second session;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at its twenty-seventh session.

2027th plenary meeting,
20 December 1971.

2854 (XXVI). Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 concerning, in particular, the studies to be undertaken by the Secretary-General in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations with regard, *inter alia*, to the need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,

Recalling also its resolution 2673 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, in which it expressed its conviction that there was a need for an additional humanitarian international instrument to ensure the better protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, particularly in areas where an armed conflict was taking place,

Being aware that the provisions of the humanitarian conventions at present in force do not cover some categories of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and do not correspond to their present needs,

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII) of 24 March 1971,⁴³ in which the Commission expressed its conviction that there was an urgent need to examine the question of the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, both on

humanitarian grounds and in order to enable journalists with due respect for the law to seek, receive and impart information fully, objectively and faithfully in the spirit of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning freedom of information,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1597 (L) of 21 May 1971, in which the Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly the preliminary draft international convention on the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, submitted to it by the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the relevant records of the Commission and of the Council, as a valid basis for the discussions of the Assembly at its twenty-sixth session,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General⁴⁴ containing the preliminary draft international convention on the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, the observations received from Governments concerning the preliminary draft and the observations of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which was held at Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971 at the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Noting with appreciation the report⁴⁵ of the Working Group established by the Secretary-General in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII), and the annexed draft protocol relating to the composition and functions of the International Professional Committee for the Protection of Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Missions referred to in article 3 of the aforementioned preliminary draft convention,

Having considered the observations submitted by some Member States in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII) and the observations of the Conference of Government Experts as well as the discussions on the item and the alternate draft convention submitted during the debate at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Believes* that it is necessary to adopt a convention providing for the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict;

2. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to consider as a matter of priority at its twenty-eighth session the preliminary draft convention contained in Council resolution 1597 (L), taking into consideration the draft conventions submitted by Australia⁴⁶ and by the United States of America,⁴⁷ and the observations of Governments,⁴⁸ as well as all subsequent documents including the draft protocol⁴⁹ prepared by the Working Group in accordance with resolution 15 (XXVII) of the Commission;

3. *Further requests* the Commission on Human Rights to transmit its report on its twenty-eighth session to the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts at its second session to be convened in 1972 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order that

⁴² A/8371 and Add.1 and 2.

⁴³ A/8438 and Add.1.

⁴⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 49, document A/8589, para. 26.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 27.

⁴⁶ A/8371, annex II; A/8371/Add.1 and 2.

⁴⁷ A/8438, annex.

⁴² A/8370 and Add.1.

⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/4949)*, chap. XIX.

the International Committee may submit its observations to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session;

4. *Invites* Governments to transmit their observations on that part of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its twenty-eighth session relating to this question;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the replies received and an analytic report on those replies to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session;

6. *Decides* to examine this question as a matter of the highest priority at its twenty-seventh session, taking into consideration the recommendations transmitted to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council.

2027th plenary meeting,
20 December 1971.

2855 (XXVI). United Nations Children's Fund

The General Assembly,

Having considered the section of the report of the Economic and Social Council dealing with the United Nations Children's Fund,⁵⁰

Recognizing that, in countries assisted by the Fund, children and adolescents represent about half of the total population, and that their number will increase by nearly a third in the decade of the 1970s,

Convinced of the importance of ensuring that children and adolescents receive their due share of attention and investment in the developing process of developing countries,

Recognizing the valuable role the Fund is playing, in co-operation with Governments, the relevant technical and other agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, in furthering the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Welcoming the efforts of the Fund to bring the needs of children and adolescents in developing countries to world-wide attention and the practical aid the Fund gives to developing countries to enable them to provide services for children and adolescents within a unified approach to economic and social development,

Noting with approval the prompt and effective assistance that the Fund has provided in natural and other disasters to meet the urgent needs of mothers and children, who are particularly vulnerable and constitute the large majority of those affected by disasters,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Children's Fund for its very substantial and significant achievements during its twenty-five years of operation, and expresses its appreciation to all who helped contribute to those achievements;

2. *Endorses* the policies of the Fund;

3. *Requests* the Fund to continue and expand its co-operation with countries for the protection of the younger generation and their preparation for future responsibilities;

4. *Appeals* to Governments and other donors to make every effort to increase their contributions to the Fund, so as to enable it to reach its target figure of \$100 million by 1975.

2027th plenary meeting,
20 December 1971.

⁵⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8403), chap. VIII, sect. F.

2856 (XXVI). Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the pledge of the States Members of the United Nations under the Charter to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Reaffirming faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms and in the principles of peace, of the dignity and worth of the human person and of social justice proclaimed in the Charter,

Recalling the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the standards already set for social progress in the constitutions, conventions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations concerned,

Emphasizing that the Declaration on Social Progress and Development has proclaimed the necessity of protecting the rights and assuring the welfare and rehabilitation of the physically and mentally disadvantaged,

Bearing in mind the necessity of assisting mentally retarded persons to develop their abilities in various fields of activities and of promoting their integration as far as possible in normal life,

Aware that certain countries, at their present stage of development, can devote only limited efforts to this end,

Proclaims this Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons and calls for national and international action to ensure that it will be used as a common basis and frame of reference for the protection of these rights:

1. The mentally retarded person has, to the maximum degree of feasibility, the same rights as other human beings.

2. The mentally retarded person has a right to proper medical care and physical therapy and to such education, training, rehabilitation and guidance as will enable him to develop his ability and maximum potential.

3. The mentally retarded person has a right to economic security and to a decent standard of living. He has a right to perform productive work or to engage in any other meaningful occupation to the fullest possible extent of his capabilities.

4. Whenever possible, the mentally retarded person should live with his own family or with foster parents and participate in different forms of community life. The family with which he lives should receive assistance. If care in an institution becomes necessary, it should be provided in surroundings and other circumstances as close as possible to those of normal life.

5. The mentally retarded person has a right to a qualified guardian when this is required to protect his personal well-being and interests.

6. The mentally retarded person has a right to protection from exploitation, abuse and degrading treatment. If prosecuted for any offence, he shall