

Reiterating its belief that further efforts are needed to help ensure adequate protection for all against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

1. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, to give maximum publicity to the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

2. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to give due priority to the examination of the draft code of conduct for law enforcement officials proposed by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control,³⁷ in order that the Council at its sixty-second session and the General Assembly at its thirty-second session may take further steps with a view to the adoption of this instrument;

3. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider with due priority the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its fourth session, contained in new draft rule 95 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,³⁸ seeking to assure the applicability of the Standard Minimum Rules to all persons arrested or imprisoned with or without charge and conviction, as well as the draft procedures for the effective implementation of the Rules;³⁹

4. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, through the Economic and Social Council, to submit a comprehensive report on the elaboration of a body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

5. *Invites* the World Health Organization to prepare a draft code on medical ethics relevant to the protection of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to bring it to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

*97th plenary meeting
13 December 1976*

31/86. Status 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

The General Assembly,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status 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,⁴⁰

Recalling its resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 and 3270 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, and in particular its belief that the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights will undoubtedly enhance the ability of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and thus contribute greatly to the co-operation of States in the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

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

Convinced that the International Covenants on Human Rights constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaty in the field of human rights,

Expressing its appreciation to those States which have become parties to the above instruments,

1. *Welcomes with deep satisfaction* the entry into force 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 as a major step in the international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Recognizes* that such resources as may be necessary should be allocated to enable the Secretary-General to provide the appropriate staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto;

3. *Recognizes* that appropriate arrangements should be made to enable the Human Rights Committee to hold sessions at such intervals and of such duration as may be necessary for it to carry out in an efficient manner the functions entrusted to it under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto;

4. *Endorses* the appeal to States made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 that they include in their delegations to the sessions of the Council at which reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are examined experts competent in the subject-matter of the relevant reports;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the status 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;

6. *Invites once again* all States to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto.

*97th plenary meeting
13 December 1976*

³⁷ See E/CN.5/536, annex V.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 95.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, annex VI.

⁴⁰ A/31/202.