

structural socio-economic changes for the strengthening of national independence and achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress and considered it appropriate to study the experience of various countries in this field,

Recalling that, in resolution 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of every State to carry out fundamental social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and the necessity to continue the studies of national experience in this field,

Desirous of securing a speedy and complete removal of obstacles to the economic and social progress of peoples, especially colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, aggression, foreign occupation or domination and all forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples,

Convinced that peaceful coexistence and friendly relations among States would contribute to economic and social development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶ prepared on the basis of information received from Governments on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of all nations to pursue freely their economic and social development and to exercise full sovereignty over all their riches and natural resources;

2. *Considers* that the elimination of all forms of subjugation and dependence such as aggression, foreign occupation, colonialism, *apartheid*, racism and all forms of racial discrimination constitutes a prerequisite for social and economic advancement;

3. *Emphasizes* that the carrying out of internal basic socio-economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure speedy improvement of the well-being of the population is of great importance for the achievement of social and economic progress;

4. *Re-emphasizes* the advisability of holding, within the programme of advisory services, regular inter-regional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

5. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions to pay special attention, on a regular basis, to studies and analyses of national experience in carrying out far-reaching socio-economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Commission for Social Development and/or the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report prepared on the basis of information received from Governments on national experience in carrying out far-reaching changes for the purpose of social progress;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress".

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30 November 1976

¹⁶ A/10166.

31/39. Preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

Referring to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁷ in particular to article 15, which reaffirms the right of everyone to participate in the preservation and development of culture, and being aware that one of the bases of international co-operation in the cultural field is mutual respect for cultural integrity,

Considering that the cultural dimension of development is integral to the whole development process,

Convinced that the development of cultural values, cultural exchange and co-operation contribute to a better understanding among States, peoples and individuals and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security, which is an important pre-condition for socio-economic progress,

Stressing the need to evolve a harmonious blend of the cultural values of the traditional civilizations with developments in science and technology,

Profoundly convinced of the urgent need to develop international cultural relations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of the preservation and further development of cultural values,¹⁸

Noting with satisfaction the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in increasing awareness of the need for concerted action in the field of preservation and further development of cultural values,

1. *Requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the General Assembly early in 1978 a progress report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII);

2. *Further requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue efforts and research in this field and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values".

83rd plenary meeting
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31/40. Protection and restitution of works of art as part of the preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

¹⁷ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁸ A/31/111, annex.