

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/113. Human rights and use of scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly.

Reaffirming the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, to maintain international peace and security and to develop friendly relations among peoples and international co-operation in promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁴⁸ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁴⁹ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁴⁹

Recalling also the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States¹⁵⁰ and the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,¹⁵¹

Recalling further the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security,¹⁵² the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind,¹⁵³ the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace,¹⁵⁴ the Declaration on the Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe¹⁵⁵ and General Assembly resolutions 36/92 I of 9 December 1981, on the non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war, and 37/100 C of 13 December 1982, on a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note with appreciation of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1982/7 of 19 February 1982¹⁵⁶ and 1983/43 of 9 March 1983,¹⁵⁷

Reaffirming the inherent right to life,

Profoundly concerned that international peace and security continue to be threatened by the arms race in all its aspects, particularly the nuclear arms race, as well as by violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the self-determination of peoples,

Aware that all the horrors of past wars and all other calamities that have befallen people would pale in comparison with what is inherent in the use of nuclear weapons capable of destroying civilization on Earth,

Noting the pressing need for urgent measures towards general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, for the sake of life on Earth,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law,

Recalling the historic responsibility of the Governments of all countries of the world to remove the threat of war

from the lives of people, to preserve civilization and ensure that everyone enjoys his inherent right to life,

Convinced that for no people in the world today is there a more important question than that of the preservation of peace and of ensuring the cardinal right of every human being, namely, the right to life,

1. *Reaffirms* that all peoples and all individuals have an inherent right to life and that the safeguarding of this cardinal right is an essential condition for the enjoyment of the entire range of economic, social and cultural, as well as civil and political, rights;

2. *Stresses once again* the urgent need for the international community to make every effort to strengthen peace, remove the growing threat of war, particularly nuclear war, halt the arms race and achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and prevent violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and self-determination of peoples, thus contributing to ensuring the right to life;

3. *Stresses further* the foremost importance of the implementation of practical measures of disarmament for releasing substantial additional resources, which should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries;

4. *Calls upon* all States, appropriate organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress are used exclusively in the interests of international peace, for the benefit of mankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Again calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take effective measures with a view to prohibiting by law any propaganda for war;

6. *Looks forward* to further efforts by the Commission on Human Rights with a view to ensuring the inherent right of all peoples and all individuals to life;

7. *Decides* to consider this question at its thirty-ninth session under the item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments".

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/114. Question of a convention on the rights of the child

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978, 34/4 of 18 October 1979, 35/131 of 11 December 1980, 36/57 of 25 November 1981 and 37/190 of 18 December 1982,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 20 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978,¹⁵⁸ 19 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,¹⁵⁹ 36 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980,¹⁶⁰ 26 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981,¹⁶¹ 1982/39 of 11 March 1982¹⁵⁶ and 1983/52 of 10 March 1983¹⁵⁷ as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/18 of 5 May

¹⁴⁸ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁴⁹ Resolution 2200 (XXI), annex.

¹⁵⁰ Resolution 3281 (XXXIX).

¹⁵¹ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

¹⁵² Resolution 2734 (XXXV).

¹⁵³ Resolution 3384 (XXX).

¹⁵⁴ Resolution 33/73.

¹⁵⁵ Resolution 36/100.

¹⁵⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 2 (E/1982/2 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 1983, *Supplement No. 3 (E/1983/3 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.*

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 1978, *Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/4), chap. XXVI, sect. A.*

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/6), chap. XXIV, sect. A.*

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 1980, *Supplement No. 3 (E/1980/3 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 1981, *Supplement No. 5 (E/1981/5 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.*

1978, 1978/40 of 1 August 1978, 1982/37 of 7 May 1982 and 1983/39 of 27 May 1983 and Council decisions 1980/138 of 2 May 1980 and 1981/144 of 8 May 1981,

Bearing in mind that children's rights are basic human rights and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as their development and education in conditions of peace,

Mindful of the need to keep up the momentum of positive action for the sake of children generated by the International Year of the Child,

Noting the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Aware of the importance of an international convention on the rights of the child for a more effective protection of children's rights, as well as of the widespread interest in the elaboration of such an international instrument displayed by a growing number of Governments and international organizations,

Considering that the year 1984 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child,¹⁶²

Reaffirming that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give,

Noting with appreciation that further progress was made in the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child prior to¹⁶³ and during¹⁶⁴ the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/39, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the fortieth session of the Commission to facilitate and speed up the completion of the work on a draft convention on the rights of the child;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to give the highest priority at its fortieth session to the question of completing the draft convention and to make every effort to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, as the Commission's tangible contribution to the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child;

3. *Invites* all Member States to offer their effective contribution to the completion without delay of the draft convention on the rights of the child;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the working group to ensure its smooth and efficient work;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Question of a convention on the rights of the child".

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/115. Arabic language services for meetings of the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Human Rights Committee

The General Assembly,

Aware of the need to achieve greater international co-operation and to promote harmonization of its activities in the field of human rights,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 3190 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 34/226 of 20 December 1979 and 35/219 of 17 December 1980 relating to the introduction of Arabic as an official and working language of the General Assembly and its Main Committees,

Authorizes the provision of Arabic language services required for meetings of the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁶⁵ as well as of the Human Rights Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to that end.

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/116. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/51 of 14 December 1978, 34/45 of 23 November 1979, 35/132 of 11 December 1980, 36/58 of 25 November 1981 and 37/191 of 18 December 1982,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶⁶ on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁶⁵ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹⁶⁵ and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁶⁵

Noting with appreciation that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹⁶⁵

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

Taking into account the useful work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1983/184 of 29 July 1983, in which the Council invited the General Assembly to consider at its thirty-eighth session the possibility of scheduling the meetings of the Human Rights Committee so that the Committee's report could be submitted to the Assembly through the Council at its first regular session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth sessions,¹⁶⁷ and expresses its satisfaction at the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to perform its functions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

¹⁶² Resolution 1386 (XIV).

¹⁶³ See E/CN.4/1983/62.

¹⁶⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 3 (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XI.*

¹⁶⁵ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁶⁶ A/38/392.

¹⁶⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/38/40).*