

11. *Requests* the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in accordance with article 45 (a) of the Convention, to invite the United Nations Children's Fund, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to submit reports on specific issues related to, *inter alia*, the exploitation and abuse of children, in order to increase awareness of the provisions of the Convention and their implementation and to support concrete action at national and international levels;

12. *Expresses concern* at the increasingly heavy workload of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the resulting difficulties it faces in the fulfilment of its functions;

13. *Approves* the recommendation contained in the resolution adopted by consensus at the meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 10 October 1994, in which the States parties reaffirmed the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the increase to three of the number of annual sessions of the Committee as from 1995, as well as the number of sessions of the pre-session working group;

14. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to implement that recommendation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities, within the overall existing budget framework, for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

16. *Requests* bodies and organizations of the United Nations, within the scope of their respective mandates, to intensify their efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, promote understanding of it and assist Governments in its implementation;

17. *Invites* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on the Convention to adults and children alike and to promoting understanding of it;

18. *Notes* the establishment by the Economic and Social Council of two open-ended working groups to elaborate, respectively, (a) a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, and (b) guidelines for a possible draft optional protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for their prevention and eradication;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the status of the Convention;

20. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-first session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

94th plenary meeting
23 December 1994

49/212. The plight of street children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/136 of 20 December 1993,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/93 of 9 March 1994,³²

Welcoming the special attention given to the rights of children in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁵ in particular in section I, paragraph 21,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, as a major

contribution to the protection of the rights of all children, including street children,

Reaffirming that children are a particularly vulnerable group in society whose rights require special protection, and that children living under especially difficult circumstances, such as street children, deserve special attention, protection and assistance from their families and communities and as part of national efforts and international cooperation,

Recognizing that all children have the right to health, shelter and education, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom from violence and harassment,

Deeply concerned about the growing number of street children worldwide and the squalid conditions in which these children are often forced to live,

Profoundly concerned that the killing of and violence against street children threaten the most fundamental right of all, the right to life,

Alarmed at continuing serious offences of this nature against street children,

Recognizing the duty and responsibility of Governments to investigate all cases of offences against street children and to punish offenders,

Recognizing also that legislation *per se* is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including those of street children, and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action, *inter alia*, in the fields of law enforcement and in the administration of justice, and in social, educational and public health programmes,

Welcoming the efforts made by some Governments to take effective action to address the question of street children,

Welcoming also the publicity given to and the increased awareness of the plight of street children, and the achievements of non-governmental organizations in promoting the rights of those children and in providing practical assistance to improve their situation, and expressing its appreciation of their continued efforts,

Welcoming further the valuable work of the United Nations Children's Fund and its National Committees in reducing the suffering of street children,

Noting with appreciation the important work carried out in this field by the United Nations, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,

Bearing in mind the diverse causes of the emergence and marginalization of street children, including poverty, rural-to-urban migration, unemployment, broken families, intolerance, exploitation and war, and that such causes are often aggravated and their solution made more difficult by serious socio-economic difficulties,

Recognizing that the prevention and solution of certain aspects of this problem could be facilitated in the context of economic and social development,

Bearing in mind that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action all States are urged, with the support of international cooperation, to address the acute problem of children in especially difficult circumstances, and that national and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the defence and protection of children, including street children,

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the continued growth in the number of incidents worldwide and at reports of street children being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution;

2. *Urges* Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions to tackle the problems of street children and to take measures to restore their full participation in society and to provide, *inter alia*, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education;

3. *Strongly urges* all Governments to guarantee the respect for fundamental human rights, particularly the right to life, and to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of street children and to combat torture and violence against them;

4. *Emphasizes* that strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes a significant step towards solving the problems of street children, and calls upon all States that have not done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of street children, and encourages States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to bear this problem in mind and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving the situation of street children, in accordance with article 45 of the Convention;

6. *Commends* the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the attention it pays in its monitoring activities to the situation of children who, to survive, are forced to live and work in the streets, and reiterates its invitation to the Committee to consider the possibility of a general comment on street children;

7. *Recommends* that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty-monitoring bodies give attention to this growing problem when examining reports from States parties;

8. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with each other to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of street children by, among other measures, initiating and supporting development projects that can have a positive impact on the situation of street children;

9. *Calls upon* special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, within their mandates, to pay particular attention to the plight of street children;

10. *Decides* to consider the question further at its fiftieth session under the agenda item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".

94th plenary meeting
23 December 1994

49/213. United Nations Year for Tolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/126 of 20 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1995 the United Nations Year for Tolerance,

Recalling also that the Charter of the United Nations affirms in its preamble that to practise tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace,

Stressing that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging

respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Mindful of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹¹ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹⁷

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna on 25 June 1993,⁵

Convinced that tolerance is the sound foundation of any civil society and of peace,

Bearing in mind its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

Noting that the observance of the United Nations Year for Tolerance will not involve any financial implications for the United Nations,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General of 30 September 1994²¹⁴ transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will assume the role of lead organization for the United Nations Year for Tolerance;

2. *Recommends* that the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system consider in their respective forums the contributions they could make to the success of the Year;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the observance of the national and international programmes for the Year and to participate actively in the implementation of the activities to be organized within the framework of the Year;

4. *Invites* interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exert efforts in their respective fields to contribute adequately to the programmes for the Year and to the follow-up programme;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare for the conclusion of the Year a declaration of principles and a programme of action as a follow-up to the Year, and to submit them to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

6. *Decides* to mark the end of the Year at a special commemorative plenary meeting at its fiftieth session and to review the follow-up to the Year at its fifty-first session.

94th plenary meeting
23 December 1994

49/214. International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,