

national legislation in order to ensure protection of the unity of families of documented migrants;

3. *Calls upon* all States to allow, in conformity with international legislation, the free flow of financial remittances by foreign nationals residing in their territory to their relatives in the country of origin;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to refrain from enacting, and to repeal if it already exists, legislation intended as a coercive measure that discriminates against individuals or groups of legal migrants by adversely affecting family reunification and the right to send financial remittances to relatives in the country of origin;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995

50/176. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Stressing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenants on Human Rights²² and other international instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Convinced of the important role national institutions play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Mindful in this regard of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46 of 14 December 1978,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,³ in which the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violations, in the dissemination of human rights information and in education in human rights,

Noting the diverse approaches adopted throughout the world for the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level, emphasizing the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, and emphasizing and recognizing the value of such approaches to promoting universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993, and recognizing the need for their continued dissemination,

Welcoming the growing interest shown worldwide in the creation and strengthening of independent and pluralistic national institutions,

Recognizing that the United Nations plays an important role in assisting the development of national institutions,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive participation of representatives of a number of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in international seminars and workshops,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the updated report of the Secretary-General;¹⁶³

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the development of effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in keeping with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and, *inter alia*, the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 48/134, and recognizes that it is the right of each State to choose the framework that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level;

3. *Encourages* Member States to establish or, where they already exist, to strengthen national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and, where appropriate, to incorporate those elements in national development plans or in their preparation of national action plans;

4. *Encourages* national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights established by Member States to prevent and combat all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international instruments;

5. *Affirms* the role of national institutions, where they exist, as appropriate agencies for the dissemination of human rights materials and public information activities, including those of the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights as part of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights, and invites Governments to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights for these purposes;

7. *Notes* the role of the coordinating committee created by national institutions at the second International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at Tunis from 13 to 17 December 1993, in close cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to assist Governments and institutions, when requested, to follow up on relevant resolutions and recommendations concerning the strengthening of national institutions;

8. *Also notes* the importance of finding an appropriate form of participation by national institutions in relevant United Nations meetings dealing with human rights;

9. *Recognizes* the important and constructive role that non-governmental organizations may play, in cooperation with national institutions, for the better promotion and protection of human rights;

10. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experi-

¹⁶³A/50/452.

ence concerning the establishment and effective operation of such national institutions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995

50/177. United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵

Reaffirming article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, according to which "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms",

Recalling the provisions of other international human rights instruments, such as those of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²² and article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵⁰ that reflect the aims of the aforementioned article,

Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/56 of 9 March 1993,³⁶ in which the Commission recommended that knowledge of human rights, both in its theoretical dimension and its practical application, should be established as a priority in educational policies,

Convinced that human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive life-long process by which people at all levels in development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies,

Convinced also that human rights education contributes to a concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages that takes into account the diverse segments of society such as children, indigenous people, minorities and disabled persons,

Taking into account the efforts to promote human rights education made by educators and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund,

Convinced further that each woman, man and child, to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social,

Believing that human rights education constitutes an important vehicle for the elimination of gender-based discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities through the promotion and protection of the human rights of women,

Aware of the experience in human rights education of United Nations peace-building operations, including the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia,

Considering the World Plan of Action on Education for

Human Rights and Democracy,¹⁶⁴ adopted by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Montreal from 8 to 11 March 1993, according to which education for human rights and democracy is itself a human right and a prerequisite for the realization of human rights, democracy and social justice,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,³ in particular section II, paragraphs 78 to 82 thereof,

Recalling that it is the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights,

Recalling its resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 1995 the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, welcomed the Plan of Action for the Decade,¹⁶² and requested the High Commissioner to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action,

Taking note of the report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly, in which he stated that human rights education was essential for the encouragement of harmonious intercommunity relations, for mutual tolerance and understanding and, finally, for peace.¹⁶⁵

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education,¹⁶⁶ submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/184;

2. *Appeals* to all Governments to contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action, and in particular, in accordance with national conditions, to establish a national focal point (national committee) for human rights education and a resource and training centre for human rights education or, where such a centre already exists, to work towards its strengthening, and to develop and implement an action-oriented national plan for human rights education, as foreseen in the Plan of Action;

3. *Requests* the High Commissioner to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action and to carry out the tasks enumerated therein;

4. *Requests* the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the existing human rights monitoring bodies, United Nations specialized agencies and programmes and other competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support efforts by the High Commissioner in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

5. *Requests* the existing human rights monitoring bodies to place emphasis on the implementation by Member States of their international obligation to promote human rights education;

6. *Invites* all relevant specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, United Nations bodies, especially the United Nations Children's Fund, and other intergovernmental organizations to

¹⁶⁴See A/CONF.157/PC/42/Add.6.

¹⁶⁵Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/50/36), para. 54.

¹⁶⁶A/50/698, annex.