

agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Economic and Social Council,⁴⁰¹

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁴⁰² in particular chapter IX, entitled "1998: Human Rights Year",

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the promotion of universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

2. *Reaffirms also* the views of the World Conference on Human Rights on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights;

3. *Recognizes* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;

5. *Urges* all States to continue to give widespread publicity to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including through training programmes, human rights education and public information, in order to promote increased awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system related to human rights to take further action with a view to the full implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference;

7. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue to coordinate the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system, as set out in resolution 48/141, including through a permanent dialogue with the United Nations agencies and programmes whose activities deal with human rights;

8. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to discuss the implications of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for the United Nations system, with the participation of the High Commissioner;

9. *Takes note* of the intention of the High Commissioner to invite all States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights to carry

out a thorough evaluation of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as part of the 1998 five-year review foreseen in part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

10. *Welcomes* the inter-agency consultations of the High Commissioner with all United Nations programmes and agencies whose activities deal with human rights for the preparation of the 1998 five-year review, and calls upon them to contribute actively to this process;

11. *Encourages* regional and national human rights institutions as well as non-governmental organizations to present, on this occasion, their views on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

12. *Welcomes and supports* Economic and Social Council decision 1996/283 of 24 July 1996, in which the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights to consider devoting the coordination segment at its substantive session of 1998 to the question of the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as part of the 1998 five-year review foreseen in part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular concerning the preparation of the 1998 five-year review;

14. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

*82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996*

51/119. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, establishing the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁴⁰³ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993

Recalling its decision 50/465 of 22 December 1995, concerning the organization of work of the Third Committee and the biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1996-1997, which includes in its programme of work the item

⁴⁰¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III, para. 22.

⁴⁰² See A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36*.

⁴⁰³ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. II.

entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights",

Recognizing, in accordance with resolution 48/141, the crucial and important role that the High Commissioner's functions play in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁴⁰⁴

Stressing the importance of enabling the smooth running of the United Nations human rights machinery,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights⁴⁰⁴ on the effective promotion and protection of all human rights;

2. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to continue his activities in discharging his responsibilities under resolution 48/141;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the constructive manner in which the High Commissioner is carrying out his functions;

4. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/120. Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994, in which it approved the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,⁴⁰⁵ and bearing in mind the report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,⁴⁰⁶ held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996, entitled "Implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime", in which the Council decided, *inter alia*, that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should establish an in-session open-ended working group at its sixth session, for the purpose, *inter alia*, of considering the possibility of elaborating a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime and identifying elements that could be included therein,

Recalling also the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime,⁴⁰⁷ adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,

Deeply disturbed by the increasingly alarming threat posed by organized transnational crime to the rule of law, stability and security of States, which calls for an urgent and appropriate response,

Concerned about the growing number and variety of crimes committed by organized criminal groups,

Convinced of the need for closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating organized transnational crime, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in this respect,

Considering that there is a need to examine the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime,

Taking note of the proposed draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime introduced by Poland,⁴⁰⁸

Bearing in mind the discussion on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime which took place in the Third Committee during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all States to submit their views on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, including, *inter alia*, their comments on the proposed draft United Nations framework convention, not later than two months before the commencement of the sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider, as a matter of priority, the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, taking into account the views of all States on this matter, with a view to finalizing its work on this question as soon as possible;

3. *Further requests* the Commission to report through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of its work on this question;

4. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

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⁴⁰⁴ A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36*.

⁴⁰⁵ See A/49/748, annex, sect. I, A.

⁴⁰⁶ A/CONF.169/16.

⁴⁰⁷ E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

⁴⁰⁸ A/C.3/51/7, annex.