

minorities in their countries, in accordance with the Declaration;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities;

8. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and, in accordance with his mandate, calls upon him to promote the implementation of the Declaration and to continue to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation of United Nations programmes and agencies which deal with minority issues in activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

10. *Urges* all treaty bodies to give due regard, within their respective mandates, to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

11. *Calls upon* States to continue to include in their reports to treaty bodies, in accordance with the relevant conventions, information on measures taken for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

12. *Calls upon* all special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations involving minorities;

13. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996*

51/92. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Considering that the subject of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has been discussed in the United Nations for many years²²¹ within the framework of discussions on human rights based on the general recognition of the right to life of every person as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights,²²² the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²²³ and a large number of other international human rights instruments, that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions can be fought effectively only through a genuine will on the part of Governments to enforce the safeguards and guarantees for the protection of the right to life of every person, that declarations of commitment to the protection of the right to life by Governments are only effective if they are translated into practice and respected by all and that, if the aim is protection of the right to life, the emphasis must be on prevention of all forms of violations of this fundamental right,

1. *Strongly condemns once again* all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to take place throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms;

3. *Reiterates* the obligation of all Governments to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, to identify and bring to justice those responsible, to grant adequate compensation to the victims or their families and to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such executions;

4. *Reiterates also* that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions needs to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, and invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in the elaboration of his report;

5. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council decision 1995/284 of 25 July 1995, in which the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/73 of 8 March 1995²²⁴ to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for a three-year period, and recommends that the Commission at its fifty-fourth session continue his mandate;

6. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;²²⁵

7. *Notes* the important role the Special Rapporteur has played towards the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

²²² Resolution 217 A (III).

²²³ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

²²⁵ A/51/457, annex.

²²¹ The most recent resolutions are General Assembly resolution 49/191 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/74 (for the latter, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.).

8. *Notes* that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1996/74,²²⁶ requested the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate:

(a) To continue to examine situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and to submit his findings, together with conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission, as well as such other reports as the Special Rapporteur deems necessary in order to keep the Commission informed about such serious situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that warrant its immediate attention;

(b) To respond effectively to information that comes before him, in particular when an extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened, or when such an execution has occurred;

(c) To enhance further his dialogue with Governments, as well as to follow up on recommendations made in reports after visits to particular countries;

(d) To continue to pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of children and women and to allegations concerning violations of the right to life in the context of violence against participants in demonstrations and other peaceful public manifestations or against persons belonging to minorities;

(e) To pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions where the victims are individuals who are carrying out peaceful activities in the defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(f) To continue monitoring the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment, bearing in mind the comments made by the Human Rights Committee²²⁷ in its interpretation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²²³ as well as the Second Optional Protocol thereto;²²⁸

(g) To apply a gender perspective in his work;

9. *Strongly urges* all Governments to respond to the communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and urges them and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that he may carry out his mandate effectively, including, where appropriate, by issuing invitations to the Special Rapporteur when he so requests;

10. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and to support projects with a view to training or educating military forces, law enforcement officers

and government officials, as well as members of the United Nations peacekeeping or observer missions, in human rights and humanitarian law issues connected with their work, and appeals to the international community to support endeavours to that end;

11. *Urges* the Special Rapporteur to continue to draw to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights such situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as are of particularly serious concern to him or where early action might prevent further deterioration;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights, as well as with medical and forensic experts, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue efforts in this regard;

13. *Encourages* the Governments of all States in which the death penalty has not been abolished to comply with their obligations under the relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, taking into account the safeguards and guarantees referred to in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and 1989/64 of 24 May 1989;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Human Rights of the implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1995/284, keeping in mind the comments on this matter by the Special Rapporteur in his report,²²⁹ in order to enable him to carry out his mandate effectively, including through country visits;

15. *Again requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appears not to have been respected;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an interim report on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and his recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon.

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51/93. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

²²⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

²²⁷ See A/51/40, paras. 396-399; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 40*.

²²⁸ Resolution 44/128, annex.

²²⁹ E/CN.4/1996/4, para. 619.