

*Bearing in mind* that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly entrusted the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with, *inter alia*, providing through the Centre and other appropriate institutions advisory services and technical and financial assistance in the field of human rights, enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and coordinating human rights activities throughout the United Nations system,

*Recalling* the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations and under the coordination of the Centre with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures that have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law,<sup>243</sup>

*Recognizing* that the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights remains the focal point for coordinating system-wide attention for human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

*Recalling* its resolution 50/179 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/56 of 19 April 1996,<sup>244</sup>

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>245</sup>

2. *Takes note with interest* of the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General for strengthening the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in order to comply fully with the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning assistance to States in strengthening their institutions which uphold the rule of law;

3. *Praises* the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre to accomplish their ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at their disposal;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Centre for the fulfilment of its tasks;

5. *Notes* that the programme of advisory services and technical assistance does not have assistance funds sufficient to provide any substantial financial assistance to national projects that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to those ends but that face economic hardship;

6. *Welcomes* the consultations and contacts initiated by the High Commissioner with other relevant bodies and programmes of the United Nations system aiming at the

enhancement of inter-agency coordination and cooperation in providing assistance for the strengthening of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to pursue these consultations, taking into account the need to explore new synergies with other organs and agencies of the United Nations system with a view to obtaining increased financial assistance for human rights and the rule of law;

8. *Also encourages* the High Commissioner to continue to explore the possibility of further contact with and support of financial institutions, acting within their mandates, with a view to obtaining technical and financial means to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to provide assistance to national projects aiming at the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to accord high priority to the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Centre with regard to the rule of law;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal of the High Commissioner to convene a high-level meeting of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, in order to analyse means, modalities, financing and allocation of responsibilities for the implementation of a comprehensive United Nations programme of assistance for the rule of law, taking into account the experience of the technical cooperation programme of the Centre;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of the contacts established in accordance with the present resolution, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights.

*82nd plenary meeting  
12 December 1996*

## **51/97. Human rights and extreme poverty**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>246</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>247</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>247</sup> and other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

*Considering* the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>248</sup> and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,<sup>249</sup>

<sup>243</sup> See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 69.

<sup>244</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>245</sup> A/51/555.

<sup>246</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>247</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>248</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>249</sup> A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Recalling its resolutions 44/148 of 15 December 1989, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/199 of 21 December 1990, 49/179 of 23 December 1994 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, and 50/107 of 20 December 1995, by which it proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1992/11 of 21 February 1992,<sup>250</sup> 1993/13 of 26 February 1993,<sup>251</sup> 1994/12 of 25 February 1994,<sup>252</sup> 1995/16 of 24 February 1995<sup>253</sup> and 1996/10 of 11 April 1996,<sup>254</sup> as well as resolution 1996/23 of 29 August 1996 of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,<sup>255</sup>

Recalling its resolution 47/134 of 18 December 1992, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constituted a violation of human dignity and stressed the need for a complete and in-depth study of extreme poverty, based on the experience and the thoughts of the poorest,

Recognizing that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty continues to spread in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and seriously affects the most vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and groups, who are thus hindered in the exercise of their human rights and their fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the elimination of widespread poverty and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights are interrelated goals,

Welcoming the work of the Special Rapporteur on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, and taking into account his final report,<sup>256</sup>

1. Reaffirms that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. Reaffirms also that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>248</sup> it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the communities in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty;

3. Notes with satisfaction that the Special Rapporteur, in the process of preparing his final report,<sup>256</sup> has implemented the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights by paying special attention to the efforts of the poorest themselves and the conditions in which they can convey their experiences;

4. Again calls upon States, the specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, including intergovernmental organizations, to give the necessary attention to this problem and to the necessary follow-up to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur as contained in his final report;

5. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty;

6. Notes with appreciation the specific action taken by the United Nations Children's Fund to mitigate the effects of extreme poverty on children and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give priority to the search for some means of alleviating poverty within the framework of the relevant resolutions, and urges them to continue in this work;

7. Decides to consider this question further at its fifty-third session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

82nd plenary meeting  
12 December 1996

## 51/98. Situation of human rights in Cambodia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>257</sup> and the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>258</sup>

Taking note of the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,<sup>259</sup> including part III thereof, relating to human rights,

<sup>250</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*, 1993, *Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*, 1994, *Supplement No. 4 and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>253</sup> *Ibid.*, 1995, *Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>254</sup> *Ibid.*, 1996, *Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>255</sup> See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>256</sup> E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13.

<sup>257</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>258</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>259</sup> A/46/608-S/23177, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1991*, document S/23177.