Chapter I

Promotion of human rights

United Nations efforts to promote human rights continued in 2000 through the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued its human rights coordination and implementation activities, and provided advisory services and technical cooperation.

Human rights instruments and their monitoring bodies promoted civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and aimed to eliminate racial discrimination and discrimination against women, to protect children and to end the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In May, the General Assembly adopted an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as an optional protocol to that Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The international community observed the International Year for the Culture of Peace, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1997.

UN machinery

Commission on Human Rights


UN machinery

Commission on Human Rights


On 21 March [dec. 2000/101], the Commission invited special representatives, special rapporteurs, chairpersons and chairpersons-rapporteurs of various working groups and experts to participate in its meetings.

Regarding enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission's mechanisms, pursuant to a 1999 Subcommission request [YUN 1999, p. 567], the Secretary-General submitted, in February, financial data relating to meeting costs for the Commission, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child [E/CN.4/2000/114]. The Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, established in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 567], adopted its report by consensus [E/CN.4/2000/112], following meetings in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 568], on 18 and 19 January and from 7 to 11 February 2000. The Commission Chairperson, on 22 March, outlined the logistics of consideration of the Group's report [E/2000/23]. On 26 April [dec. 2000/109], the Commission decided to approve and implement the report and emphasized its importance and relevance. It also decided to facilitate the report's implementation, to transmit to the Economic and Social Council for approval a draft resolution on the procedure for dealing with communications concerning violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, established by Council resolution 1503(XLVIII) [YUN 1970, p. 530] (the 1503 procedure), and a draft decision on enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission's mechanisms. Pending the Council's adoption of the draft on the 1503 procedure, the Commission, on 26 April [dec. 2000/110], decided that communications and replies thereto, on which the Subcommission in 1999 had decided to defer action to its next session, should be referred back to the Working Group on Communications, to be examined at its next annual session, following the Subcommission's 2000 session, to determine whether they should be brought to the attention of the Working Group on Situations, in accordance with the draft resolution.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

Procedure for dealing with communications concerning human rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 728 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 concerning the handling of communications concerning human rights and its decision 79 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975 relating thereto,

Recalling also its resolution 123 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 authorizing the Commission on Human Rights to examine information relevant to gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, its resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970 establishing a procedure for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and its resolution 1900/41 of 25 May 1990 concerning the establishment, composition and designation of the members of the Working Group on Situations of the Commission,

Recalling further resolution 1 (XXIV) of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (now the Subcommission on the Prevention and Protection of Human Rights) of 13 August 1971 concerning criteria for the admissibility of communications, as well as Subcommission resolution 2 (XXIV) of 16 August 1971 concerning the establishment, composition and designation of the members of the Working Group on Communications,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights decisions 3 (XXX) of 6 March 1974, 5 (XXXIV) of 3 March 1978 and 9 (XXXVI) of 7 March 1980, all aimed at facilitating government participation and cooperation under the procedure, and decision 3 (XXXIV) of 3 March 1978 inviting the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Communications to be present during the deliberations of the Commission on that item,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000, in which the Commission, inter alia, approved the recommendations of its inter-sessional open-ended Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights concerning the review of the procedure governed by Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and related resolutions and decisions,

1. Endorses Commission on Human Rights decision 2000/109 insofar as it concerns the review of the procedure governed by Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and related resolutions and decisions;

2. Decides, accordingly, that the Working Group on Communications designated in conformity with paragraph 37 of the report of the inter-sessional open-ended Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights shall henceforth meet annually for two weeks, immediately following the annual session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, to examine the communications received under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) that have been transmitted to the Governments concerned not later than twelve weeks prior to the meeting of the Working Group on Communications, and any government replies relating thereto, in conformity with the criteria for the admissibility of communications contained in resolution 1 (XXIV) of the Subcommission, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Working Group on Situations any particular situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Communications, to screen out manifestly ill-founded communications in the preparation of the monthly confidential summaries of communications (confidential lists of communications) communicated to the members of the Working Group, it being understood that communications screened out would not be transmitted to the Governments concerned for reply;

4. Calls upon the Secretary-General to inform the countries concerned, immediately after the conclusion of the meeting of the Working Group on Communications, of the actions taken in regard to them;

5. Entrusts to the Working Group on Situations designated in conformity with paragraph 40 of the report of the inter-sessional open-ended Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, which shall meet annually for one week not less than one month prior to the annual session of the Commission, the role of examining the confidential report and recommendations of the Working Group on Communications and determining whether or not to refer a particular situation thus brought before it to the Commission, as well as of examining the particular situations kept under review by the Commission under the procedure, and, accordingly, of submitting to the Commission a confidential report identifying the main issues of concern, normally together with a draft resolution or draft decision recommending the action to be taken by the Commission in respect of the situations referred to it;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to make the confidential files available, at least one week in advance of the first closed meeting, to all members of the Commission on Human Rights;

7. Authorizes the Commission on Human Rights, as it deems appropriate, to consider the particular situations placed before it by the Working Group on Situations, as well as the situations kept under review, in two separate closed meetings, employing the following modalities:

(a) At the first closed meeting, each country concerned would be invited to make opening presentations; a discussion would then follow between members of the Commission and the Government concerned, based on the contents of confidential files and the report of the Working Group on Situations;

(b) In the interim between the first and second closed meetings, any member or members of the Commission could submit an alternative or an amendment to any texts forwarded by the Working Group on Situations; any such draft texts would be circulated confidentially by the secretariat, in advance of the second closed meeting;

(c) At the second closed meeting, members of the Commission would discuss and take action on the draft resolutions or decisions; a representative or representatives of the Governments concerned would have the right to be present during the adoption of the final resolution or decision taken in regard to the human rights situation in that country; as has been the established practice, the Chairperson of the Commission
would subsequently announce in a public meeting which countries had been examined under the 1503 procedure, as well as the names of countries no longer being dealt with under the procedure; the 1503 dossiers would remain confidential, except where the Government concerned has indicated the wish that they become public;

(d) In accordance with the established practice, the action taken in respect of a particular situation should be one of the following options:

(i) To discontinue consideration of the matter when further consideration or action is not warranted;

(ii) To keep the situation under review in the light of any further information received from the Government concerned and any further information which may reach the Commission under the 1503 procedure;

(iii) To keep the situation under review and to appoint an independent expert;

(iv) To discontinue consideration of the matter under the confidential procedure governed by Council resolution 1503(XLVIII) in order to take up consideration of the same matter under the public procedure governed by Council resolution 1235(XLI);

8. Decides that the provisions of Council resolution 1503(XLVIII) and related resolutions and decisions not affected by the present reorganization of work shall remain in force, including:

(a) Provisions relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary-General, it being understood that, in respect of the handling of communications and government replies relating thereto, the duties and responsibilities are as follows:

(i) The compilation, as before, of monthly confidential summaries of incoming communications concerning alleged violations of human rights; the identity of authors may be deleted upon request;

(ii) The transmittal of a copy of each summarized communication, in the language received, to the Government concerned for reply, without divulging the identity of the author if he or she so requests;

(iii) Acknowledging the receipt of communications to their authors;

(iv) The reproduction and circulation to the members of the Commission on Human Rights, as before, of the replies received from Governments;

(b) Provisions aimed at facilitating government cooperation and participation in the procedure, including the provisions of Commission decision 3(XXX), now to be applied following the meetings of the Working Group on Communications;

9. Also decides that all actions envisaged in the implementation of the present resolution by the Working Group on Communications, the Working Group on Situations and the Commission on Human Rights shall remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Council;

10. Further decides that the procedure as amended may continue to be referred to as the 1503 procedure.

On 28 July, the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights [E/2000/23 & Corr.1], adopted decision 2000/284 without vote [agenda item 14 (g)].

**Enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights**

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 28 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000, by which the Commission decided to approve and implement comprehensively and in its entirety the report of the inter-sessional open-ended Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, endorsed the following specific decisions of the Commission:

(a) To merge the mandates of the independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies on economic, social and cultural rights and the Special Rapporteur on the effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, thus creating a post of independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;

(b) To establish a time-limit of two terms of three years for membership of special procedures working groups, as well as for special rapporteurs, whose position in relation to time-limits is covered by the statement made by the Chairperson of the Commission on 29 April 1999. In the case of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, as a transitional measure, turnover of membership in both groups shall be accomplished incrementally over a three-year period. In order to provide the appropriate continuity during this transitional period, two members shall be replaced in year one, two in year two and one in year three;

(c) To reduce the duration of the annual meeting of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to five working days from the present eight days;

(d) To request the Chairperson of the Commission to convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the consideration of the item on human rights by the General Assembly. Such a meeting shall be convened for the first time in September 2000;

(e) That the annual session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights shall, from this year, be of three weeks' duration;

(f) That chairpersons of standard-setting working groups shall, if the working group considers it appropriate and in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, be provided with the necessary financial assistance to undertake informal consultations during the inter-sessional period with a view to advancing progress in respect of the working group's mandate.

On 14 August [dec. 2000/105], the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with the object of implementing Com-
mission decision 2000/109 (see p. 595), decided to include on an experimental basis in its annual report an overview of its discussions on human rights violations. The Subcommission, on 18 August, revised its decision and asked the Commission's advice as to how it could best inform the Commission of its deliberations under the item on human rights violations.

Pursuant to Commission decision 2000/109, the Commission Chairperson held a one-day informal meeting of the Commission on 15 September [E/CN.4/IM/2000/1] to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly.

Organization of work in 2001

On 26 April [dec. 2000/111], the Commission decided that its fifty-seventh session should take place from 19 March to 27 April 2001. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision on 28 July (decision 2000/285).

Also on 26 April [dec. 2000/112], the Commission recommended that the Council authorize 30 fully serviced additional meetings, to be used only if necessary, for the Commission's 2001 session, and requested the Chairperson of that session to make every effort to organize its work within the times normally allotted. By decision 2000/286 of 28 July, the Council authorized the additional meetings and approved the Commission's request to its Chairperson.

Thematic procedures

A meeting of the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission and of the advisory services programme was held in 2000 (see p. 623).

Commission action. On 27 April [res. 2000/86], the Commission asked the thematic special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups to make recommendations to prevent human rights violations; follow progress made by Governments; continue close cooperation with relevant treaty bodies and country rapporteurs; include in their reports information provided by Governments on follow-up action, as well as their own observations thereon; include in their reports gender-disaggregated data and address human rights violations directed against women, or to which women were particularly vulnerable; and address human rights violations directed against children, or to which children were particularly vulnerable, and include age-disaggregated data. The Commission requested them to include in their reports comments on problems of responsiveness and the result of analyses, and suggestions as to areas where Governments might request assistance through the programme of advisory services administered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Secretary-General was asked to convene periodic meetings of thematic special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups and treaty bodies to enable them to exchange views, cooperate and coordinate more closely and make recommendations. He should issue annually their conclusions and recommendations; present annually a list of all persons currently constituting the thematic and country procedures; and ensure the availability of resources to implement all thematic mandates.

The Commission's requests to the Secretary-General to convene periodic meetings and to ensure the availability of resources were approved by the Economic and Social Council by decision 2000/281 of 28 July.

Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

2000 session

The Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, at its fifty-second session (Geneva, 31 July-18 August) [E/CN.4/2001/2], adopted 27 resolutions and 20 decisions, and recommended 14 draft decisions for adoption by the Commission.

The Subcommission approved the composition of its working groups for 2001 [dec. 2000/119], took note of items proposed by the Bureau for the Subcommission's draft provisional agenda for 2001 [dec. 2000/120] and asked its Chairperson to submit a written report to the Commission in 2001 regarding significant aspects of the Subcommission's work [dec. 2000/106]. It expressed concern that the reduction in length of its annual session would adversely affect the effectiveness of the sessional working group on the administration of justice [res. 2000/5].

The Subcommission adjourned until 2001 the debates on State cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms [dec. 2000/117] and on the adverse effects on human rights of the proliferation and transfer of small arms and light weapons [dec. 2000/118].

Report of Subcommission Chairperson. The Commission considered a January report [E/CN.4/2000/87], submitted in response to its 1999 request [YUN 1999, p. 568] and prepared by the Subcommission's 1999 Chairperson, Ribot Hatano (Japan), describing various aspects of the Subcommission's work, including its methods of work, the rationalization of its work, and studies, reports

**Commission action.** On 26 April [res. 2000/83], the Commission decided to consider the Subcommission’s work in 2001.

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Reports of High Commissioner.** In her annual report to the Commission [E/CN.4/2000/12], the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson (Ireland), discussed the prevention of human rights violations. She stated that the evolution of a human rights situation was often a barometer of conflict, which she believed would assist the Security Council in its efforts to prevent conflicts. Preventive measures currently in use included urgent appeals by special rapporteurs and thematic mechanisms; requests by treaty bodies for emergency reports; the urgent discussion of situations in such bodies as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the indication of interim measures of protection under petition procedures for which treaty bodies were responsible; the urgent dispatch of personal envoys of the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner or other organizations, as well as human rights and humanitarian observers or fact-finders; the establishment of international courts; and proposals to establish a rapid reaction force. It was the High Commissioner’s intention to strengthen those activities and to seek the assistance of partners to maintain a list of eminent persons who could offer their good offices to defuse situations where gross violations of human rights appeared imminent; develop a capacity for the rapid dispatch of human rights and humanitarian observers or fact-finders in situations of need; dispatch personal envoys of the High Commissioner to incipient crisis situations; and submit urgent reports to the Bureau of the Commission and to the Secretary-General, requesting that he make them available to Council members.

In an addendum to her annual report [E/CN.4/2000/12/Add.1], the High Commissioner described activities taken to promote tolerance and pluralism, pursuant to a 1998 Commission request [YUN 1998, p. 653]; provided an assessment of OHCHR field presences, as requested in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 570]; and described OHCHR efforts to promote democracy, also in response to a 1999 request [ibid., p. 630].

In a June report [E/2000/83], the High Commissioner described action taken by human rights mechanisms regarding racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (see p. 640), social development and women’s human rights and national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (see p. 636). On 28 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of that report (decision 2000/289).

In an August report [A/55/36], the High Commissioner invited the General Assembly to outline new strategies for the more effective protection of human rights, particularly to consider steps to prevent gross violations of human rights and for the integration of human rights and development, as well as of human rights in efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the implementation of the right to development. She drew the Assembly’s attention to new foundations that had been developed for more effective human rights protection and, regarding the prevention of human rights violations, updated the human rights situations in Chechnya (Russian Federation), East Timor and Sierra Leone. A review of developments in areas of structural significance included human rights and development; human rights and social strategies; women’s human rights; human rights issues at the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations (2000); and perspectives on the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 641). In an annex to the report, the High Commissioner discussed the international human rights treaty system. She urged universal ratification, accompanied by the strengthening and rationalization of the treaty system, better integration of treaty-body jurisprudence into UN activities, and expansion and improvement in Secretariat servicing. It was critical, she said, to allocate adequate resources for the servicing of the treaty bodies.

On 4 December, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/55/602/Add.5] pertaining to the August report of the High Commissioner (decision 55/422).

**Commission action.** On 7 April [res. 2000/1], the Commission called on the High Commissioner to continue to emphasize the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and encouraged her to continue to strengthen her relationship with the relevant UN bodies, funds and specialized agencies. It also called on her to continue to strengthen the management of her Office and to improve OHCHR’s responsiveness in all priority areas, especially economic, social and cultural rights. The High Commissioner was asked to submit information pursuant to the Commission’s resolution in her annual report to the Commission. The Commission recom-
mended that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly provide OHCHR with means commensurate to its increasing tasks, as well as more resources for special rapporteurs. By decision 2000/244 of 28 July, the Council endorsed the Commission's recommendation.

On 25 April [E/2000/23 & Corr.1], the Commission adopted by consensus a statement of its Chairperson, reaffirming its appeal to the Council and the Assembly for additional resources. On 28 July, the Council, taking note of the statement, approved the Commission's recommendation to the Council regarding the allocation of additional resources (decision 2000/287).

Annual Appeal 2000

The Annual Appeal 2000, launched by the High Commissioner, sought $53.1 million in voluntary contributions for support to national human rights institutions and to develop regional strategies with partners in the five UN regional groups established by the General Assembly (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and other States, Eastern Europe) to promote and protect human rights through national capacity-building, national plans of action, the ratification and implementation of international conventions and the pursuit of regional cooperation. As at 31 October, $36 million had been received.

Commission action. On 7 April [res. 2000/1], the Commission welcomed the Annual Appeal 2000 and asked the High Commissioner to inform Member States on all aspects of follow-up to, and preparation of, annual appeals. It noted the High Commissioner's request that voluntary contributions should be unearmarked and asked Governments to take account of her request. The High Commissioner was asked to submit information pursuant to the resolution in her annual report to the Commission.

OIOS audit

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/244 [YUN 1999, p. 1274], the Secretary-General, in April [A/54/836], transmitted a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the audit of the OHCHR Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR), which was established in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 1071] and had closed in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 736]. The audit, carried out at OHCHR's request, covered the period September 1998 to February 1999.

The audit determined that HRFOR's internal controls relating to finance, personnel, procurement and property management either were not in place or did not function effectively. There were also serious breakdowns in communications and cooperation between the field and headquarters. Based on the audit results, OHCHR recognized that it needed to change the administration of its field operations to improve management accountability. OIOS made a series of recommendations and, although HRFOR had already closed, OIOS expressed the view that OHCHR had benefited from the lessons learned and the related recommendations. Annexed to the report were the observations of OHCHR.

The General Assembly, on 15 June (decision 54/462 B), deferred consideration of the report until its fifty-fifth session. On 23 December (decision 55/458), it decided that the agenda items under which the report was submitted remained for consideration at the resumed fifty-fifth (2001) session.

Composition of staff


Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/73], by a roll-call vote of 35 to 17, with 1 abstention, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to ensure that particular attention was paid to recruiting personnel from developing countries for existing vacancies and additional OHCHR posts to ensure an equitable geographical distribution, giving priority to high-level and Professional posts and the recruitment of women. It asked the High Commissioner to report in 2001.

Strengthening action to promote human rights

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 54/174 [YUN 1999, p. 571], the Secretary-General, in an August report with later addenda [A/55/213 & Add.1,2], summarized replies received from five Member States in response to his request for information on proposals for strengthening UN action in human rights, through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/104 without vote [agenda item 114 (b)].
Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving 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,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in this field should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Recalling its previous resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,

Affirming the importance of the objectivity, independence and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and on countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. Reiterates that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. Reaffirms that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. Calls upon all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. Considers that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. Reaffirms that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. Requests all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. Expresses its conviction that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. Stresses, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

9. Invites Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to take duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;

11. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to present practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

12. Decides to consider this matter at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".
By decision 55/458 of 23 December, the Assembly decided that human rights questions remained for consideration during its resumed fifty-fifth (2001) session.

**International cooperation and promotion of dialogue**

**Commission action.** On 26 April [res. 2000/70], the Commission considered that international cooperation in human rights should contribute to preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It reaffirmed that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and transparency.

**Subcommission action.** On 18 August [res. 2000/22], the Subcommission, reiterating its commitment to international cooperation in human rights, invited governmental and non-governmental observers of the Subcommission to carry out constructive dialogue and consultations based on equality and mutual respect. It endorsed the cooperative approach in search of common understanding and reasonable accommodation of divergent views.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/109 without vote [agenda item 114 (b)].

**Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/181 of 17 December 1999, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/70 of 26 April 2000 on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, and recalling also Assembly resolution 54/113 of 10 December 1999 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, and underlining the importance of the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, in particular, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all the activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the adoption of resolution 1999/25 of 26 August 1999, entitled "Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues", by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-first session, and noting its consideration of the question of a dialogue among civilizations at its fifty-second session,

1. Reaffirms that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. Considers that international cooperation in this field, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and of fundamental freedoms for all;

3. Reaffirms that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

4. Calls upon Member States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

5. Invites States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

6. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-sixth session.

On the same date, the Assembly, also on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/101 by recorded vote (104-52-15) [agenda item 114 (b)].

**Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character**

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in accordance with Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action in
cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55, including universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling also the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with its purposes and principles, in particular the purpose of international cooperation, and that, within the framework of these purposes and principles, the promotion and protection of all human rights are a legitimate concern of the international community,

Considering the major changes taking place in the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples to an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recognizing 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, as well as continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations and that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, the protection and promotion of such rights and freedoms being the first responsibility of Governments,

Reaffirming also that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming further the various articles of the Charter setting out the respective powers and functions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as the paramount framework for the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations under other important instruments of international law, in particular those of international human rights and humanitarian law,

Taking into account that, in accordance with Article 103 of the Charter, in the event of a conflict between the obligations of the Members of the United Nations under the Charter and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the Charter shall prevail,

1. Affirms the solemn commitment of all States to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights and in the solution to international problems of a humanitarian character in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, inter alia, by the strict observance of all the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 thereof;

2. Stresses the vital role of the work of United Nations and regional arrangements, acting consistently with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter, in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as in solving international problems of a humanitarian character, and affirms that all States in these activities must fully comply with the principles set forth in Article 2 of the Charter, in particular respecting the sovereign equality of all States and refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or acting in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms that the United Nations shall promote universal respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion;

4. Calls upon all States to cooperate fully, through constructive dialogue, in order to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights for all and in promoting peaceful solutions to international problems of a humanitarian character and, in their actions towards that purpose, to comply strictly with the principles and norms of international law, inter alia, by fully respecting international human rights and humanitarian law;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, organs, bodies and other components of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

6. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 55/101:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Guatemala, Nauru, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay.
Right to promote and protect human rights

In response to a 1999 Commission request [YUN 1999, p. 572], the Secretary-General, in January [K/CN.4/2000/95], summarized the views of Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) regarding the implementation of the 1998 Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 53/144 [YUN 1998, p. 608].

The Secretary-General presented possible ways to implement the Declaration, including its wide distribution; the establishment by the Commission of a new mandate on human rights defenders; the enhancement of its implementation into existing UN mandates; the establishment by the Commission of a new mandate on human rights defenders; the promotion and implementation of the Declaration by all Member States. He stated that OHCHR was preparing a fact sheet on human rights defenders for wide distribution.

Human rights defenders

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/61], the Commission, by a roll-call vote of 50 to none, with 3 abstentions, calling on States to promote and give effect to the Declaration, asked the Secretary-General to appoint, for three years, a special representative to report on the situation of human rights defenders and on possible means to enhance their protection in full compliance with the Declaration. The Commission outlined the activities of the special representative. It asked the Secretary-General to assist the special representative to report annually to the Commission and the General Assembly and to suggest ways to better enable him/her to carry out activities.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION


Human rights defenders

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 16 June 2000, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/61 of 26 April 2000, endorsed the Commission’s decision to request the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of three years, a special representative who shall report on the situation of human rights defenders in all parts of the world and on possible means to enhance their protection; the main activities of the special representative shall be:

(a) To seek, receive, examine and respond to information on the situation and the rights of anyone, acting individually or in association with others, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;
(b) To establish cooperation and conduct dialogue with Governments and other interested actors on the promotion and effective implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
(c) To recommend effective strategies better to protect human rights defenders and follow up on these recommendations.

In August, Hina Jilani (Pakistan) was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which is annexed to that resolution,

Reiterating the importance of the Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

Taking note of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2000/61 of 26 April 2000 to
request the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of three years, a special representative who shall report on the situation of human rights defenders in all parts of the world and on possible means to enhance their protection in full compliance with the Declaration.

Welcoming the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative on human rights defenders,

Noting with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms are facing threats, harassment and insecurity as a result of those activities,

1. Calls upon all States to promote and give effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

2. Invites all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders in fulfilling her mandate;

3. Requests all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Representative in the implementation of her programme of activities;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders;

5. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the report to be prepared by the Special Representative pursuant to Commission resolution 2000/61;

6. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

Human rights and human responsibilities

By a roll-call vote of 22 to 21, with 10 abstentions, the Commission, on 26 April [res. 2000/63], stressing the urgent need to give practical effect to the specific responsibilities defined in human rights instruments, asked the Subcommission to undertake a study on human rights and human responsibilities; it should submit an interim study in 2001 and a complete study in 2002.

On 18 August [dec. 2000/111], the Subcommission, by a roll-call vote of 14 to 4, with 5 abstentions, appointed Miguel Alfonso Martinez (Cuba) to undertake the study and asked the Commission in 2001 to recommend that the Economic and Social Council authorize him to do so and to submit a preliminary report in 2002 and a final report in 2003.

Other aspects

Good governance

Commission action. By a roll-call vote of 50 to none, with 2 abstentions, the Commission, on 26 April [res. 2000/64], asked the High Commissioner to invite States to provide examples of effective activities in strengthening good governance practices for the promotion of human rights at the national level, including activities in the context of development cooperation between States, for inclusion in a compilation of practices that could be consulted by interested States.

Note by Secretariat. A note by the Secretariat [E/CN.4/2001/117] stated that, in response to Commission resolution 2000/64, as at 7 December, nine States had provided practical examples of activities that had been effective in strengthening good governance.

Human rights instruments

General aspects


On 18 August [res. 2000/27], the Subcommission recommended that the Commission consider the implications of withdrawal from, or limitation of the scope of, international treaty obligations at its next session. It decided to consider the question in 2001.

Human rights treaty bodies

Reports of Secretary-General. In a January report with later addendum [E/CN.4/2000/98 &
the Secretary-General summarized comments received on the recommendations of the independent expert on enhancing the long-term effectiveness of the UN human rights treaty system, contained in the expert's final report [YUN 1997, p. 593], and gave his own views on the legal, administrative and other implications of the recommendations. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/138 [YUN 1998, p. 612], the Secretary-General, in August [A/55/313], stated that consultations with Governments, UN bodies, specialized agencies, NGOs and interested persons on the final report were held and a report thereon was submitted to the Commission (see above). On 4 December, the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note (decision 55/420).

The Secretary-General, also in January [E/CN.4/2000/106], reported on the effective functioning of human rights mechanisms. The report outlined measures taken to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the treaty bodies. It also described assistance provided to States parties regarding the preparation of their reports and the publication status in all official UN languages of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting [Sales No. E.GV.97.0.16]. In August [A/55/278], the Secretary-General updated information contained in his January report.

In response to Assembly resolution 49/178 [YUN 1994, p. 1060], the Secretary-General transmitted the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their twelfth meeting (Geneva, 5-8 June) [A/55/206]. The three plans of action for strengthening the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been converted into projects that were harmonized as part of a consolidated Annual Appeal by the High Commissioner to donors for extrabudgetary contributions (see p. 600). The Secretariat updated the chairpersons on efforts to develop human rights indicators and the Special Adviser of the High Commissioner briefed them on regional strategies on the new OHCHR regional approaches for the promotion and protection of human rights. The chairpersons updated each other on their treaty bodies' contributions to the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 641). On 7 June, a joint meeting was held between the chairpersons and the special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures system of the Commission and of the advisory services programme. The meeting identified areas of common concern, including the need to improve the exchange of information between the treaty bodies and the special procedures mandates; an exchange of best practices in the follow-up to concluding observations, decisions and opinions on individual cases and recommendations made by special rapporteurs that would be beneficial to both sets of mechanisms; and the possibility of joint or coordinated contributions to the 2001 World Conference.

The chairpersons agreed on the need to harmonize practices regarding the examination of States parties' reports, welcomed the organization of a workshop in 2001 to develop indicators on the right to education and recommended that they should be granted formal status within the Economic and Social Council.

The chairpersons had before them a report of the Secretary-General updating the status of the human rights instruments and the general situation of overdue reports as at 15 March [HRI/MC/2000/2]. A note by the Secretariat contained a compilation of the general comments or general recommendations adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee, CERD, CEDAW and the Committee against Torture [HRI/GEN/1/Rev.4]. During the year, OHCHR produced a document outlining the reporting history of States parties to the principal international human rights instruments as at 31 March [HRI/GEN/4].

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/75], the Commission urged States parties to identify proposals to improve the functioning of the treaty bodies and to meet their reporting obligations. States parties that had not submitted their initial reports were invited to avail themselves of technical assistance to do so. Chairpersons of the treaty bodies were encouraged to pursue the reform process aimed at improving the effective implementation of human rights instruments. The Commission asked the Secretary-General to report in 2002 on measures taken to implement its resolution and on measures to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the treaty bodies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.1], adopted resolution 55/90 without vote [agenda item 114 (a)].
Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 53/138 of 9 December 1998, as well as other relevant resolutions, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/75 of 26 April 2000,
Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,
Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
Considering that the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,
Conscious of the importance of coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,
Recalling that the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies in encouraging the realization by States parties of their obligations under United Nations human rights instruments requires constructive dialogue aimed at assisting States parties in identifying solutions to human rights problems, which should be based on the reporting process supplemented by information from all relevant sources, which should be shared with all interested parties,
Recalling also the initiatives taken by a number of human rights treaty bodies to elaborate early warning mechanisms and urgent procedures, within their mandates, with a view to preventing the occurrence or recurrence of serious human rights violations,
Reaffirming its responsibility for the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies, and reaffirming also the importance of:
(a) Promoting the effective functioning of the periodic reporting by States parties to those instruments,
(b) Securing sufficient financial, human and information resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enable the human rights treaty bodies to carry out their mandates effectively, including in regard to their ability to work in the applicable working languages,
(c) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks,
(d) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications when elaborating any further instruments on human rights,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,
1. Welcomes the submission of the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their eleventh and twelfth meetings, held at Geneva from 31 May to 4 June 1999 and 5 to 8 June 2000, respectively, and takes note of their conclusions and recommendations;
2. Encourages each treaty body to continue to give careful consideration to the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, and in this context also encourages enhanced cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies;
3. Welcomes the initiative of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies of inviting representatives of Member States to participate in a dialogue within the framework of their meetings, and encourages them to continue this practice in the future;
4. Also welcomes the comments by Governments, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and interested persons on the final report of the independent expert on enhancing the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations human rights treaty system and the report of the Secretary-General thereon;
5. Emphasizes the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies, and with this in mind:
(a) Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources in respect of each human rights treaty body, while making the most efficient use of existing resources, in order to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;
(b) Calls upon the Secretary-General to seek, in the next biennium, the resources within the regular budget of the United Nations necessary to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information without diverting resources from the development programmes and activities of the United Nations;
(c) Welcomes the plans of action prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance the resources available to all the human rights treaty bodies and thereby strengthen the implementation of the human rights treaties, and encourages all Governments, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and interested persons to consider contributing to the appeal for extrabudgetary resources for the treaty bodies made by the High Commissioner until the regular budget funding meets their needs;
6. Encourages ongoing efforts to identify measures for more effective implementation of the United Nations human rights instruments;
7. Takes note of the measures taken by each of the human rights treaty bodies to improve their functioning, as reflected in their respective annual reports, and encourages continuing efforts by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General to assist States parties in meeting their reporting obligations and to reduce the backlog in the consideration of reports by the treaty bodies;
8. Welcomes the continuing efforts by the human rights treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing, rendering more transparent and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and encourages the Secretary-General, the treaty bod-
ies and the persons chairing the treaty bodies at their next meeting to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on States parties, including through an ongoing examination of proposals for reports focused on a limited range of issues, the harmonization of the general guidelines regarding the form and content of reports, the possibility of consolidating overdue reports, the timing of consideration of reports and the methods of work of the treaty bodies;

9. Calls upon the Secretary-General to complete as soon as possible the detailed analytical study comparing the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is being prepared with a view to identifying duplication of reporting required under those instruments;

10. Urges States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying practical proposals and ideas for improving the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies;

11. Welcomes the publication of the revised Manual on Human Rights Reporting, and encourages the updating of the Manual to reflect new developments in the field of human rights, including the adoption of new instruments;

12. Underlines the importance of providing technical assistance to a State, upon its request, in the process of ratifying human rights instruments and in the preparation of its initial and subsequent reports;

13. Welcomes the work done by the Secretary-General to compile in a single volume all the general guidelines regarding the form and content of reports to be submitted by States parties that have been issued by the human rights treaty bodies, and encourages the Secretary-General also to compile the rules of procedure for the treaty bodies;

14. Reiterates its concern about the persistent backlog of reports on the implementation by States parties of certain United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in the consideration of reports of the human rights treaty bodies;

15. Also reiterates its concern about the large number of overdue reports, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

16. Urges all States parties whose reports have been examined by human rights treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

17. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to continue to identify specific possibilities for technical assistance, to be provided at the request of the State concerned, in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties, and encourages States parties to consider carefully the concluding observations of the treaty bodies in identifying their needs for technical assistance;

18. Urges each State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the human rights treaty bodies;

19. Welcomes the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and encourages the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, the Commission on Human Rights, including its special procedures, and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to explore specific measures to intensify cooperation between them and to improve communication and information flow in order to improve further the quality of their work, including by avoiding unnecessary duplication;

20. Recognizes the important role played by nongovernmental organizations in all parts of the world in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments, and encourages the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

21. Recalls, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the importance of giving consideration to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance of the membership and to the representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged independence and recognized competence in the field of human rights, and encourages States parties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how to give better effect to these principles;

22. Takes note of the discussion of the payment of honorariums to the members of the human rights treaty bodies included in the report of the Secretary-General, and of other work being done by the Secretary-General on this subject, and encourages Member States to consider possible follow-up;

23. Encourages the Economic and Social Council, as well as its functional commissions and their subsidiary bodies, other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to consider the feasibility of participation by representatives of the human rights treaty bodies in their meetings;

24. Welcomes the continuing emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on closely monitoring the enjoyment of the human rights of women within their mandates;

25. Also welcomes the contributions of the human rights treaty bodies, within their mandates, to the prevention of violations of human rights, in the context of their consideration of reports submitted under their respective treaties;

26. Invites the Secretary-General to submit the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on measures taken to implement the present resolution, on obstacles to its implementation and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and in-
formation resources for the effective operation of the human rights treaty bodies;

28. Decides to continue to give priority consideration at its fifty-seventh session to the conclusions and recommendations of the periodic meetings of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

Reservations to human rights treaties

Commission action. On 26 April [dec. 2000/108], the Commission, taking note of a 1999 Subcommission resolution and a working paper submitted by Francoise Hampson (United Kingdom) [YUN 1999, p. 574], requested the Subcommission to ask her to submit in 2000 revised terms of reference for her proposed study on reservations to human rights treaties, further clarifying how the study would complement work already under way on such reservations, in particular by the International Law Commission (ILC).


Subcommission action. On 18 August [res. 2000/26], the Subcommission appointed Ms. Hampson as Special Rapporteur to prepare a comprehensive study on reservations to human rights treaties, involving the examination of the actual reservations and interpretative declarations made to human rights treaties in the light of the legal regime applicable to reservations and interpretative declarations. A preliminary report was called for in 2001, a progress report in 2002 and a final report in 2003. The Subcommission asked the Secretary-General to assist the Special Rapporteur, who would seek the advice and cooperation of the ILC Special Rapporteur and of the relevant treaty bodies. The Subcommission requested the authorization of a meeting between its Special Rapporteur, the ILC Special Rapporteur and the chairpersons of the relevant treaty bodies or their nominees, when ILC and the Subcommission were in session.

States not parties to 1966 Covenants

Desiring to provide States that had not ratified the 1966 International Covenants on Human Rights (see below and next page) with assistance in the promotion and observance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 217 A (III) [YUN 1948-49, p. 535], the Subcommission, on 18 August [res. 2000/23], asked the High Commissioner to convene a seminar of States not parties to the Covenants, before the Subcommission's 2001 session or as soon as possible, with a view to examining obstacles to ratification of those Covenants and ways of surmounting them. In preparation for that seminar, it requested OHCHR to seek the views of States and NGOs concerned, and to gather information regarding obstacles to the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms embodied in the Declaration and obstacles to ratification of the Covenants and the measures taken by States to remove them. The seminar should define areas of UN assistance that might be useful for States concerned and adopt specific recommendations on the provision of assistance to those States in meeting their needs. It should also formulate agreed recommendations concerning the creation of a permanent or temporary mechanism for encouraging efforts by States to observe the human rights and fundamental freedoms contained in the Declaration and for encouraging their ratification of the Covenants.

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocols

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December 2000, parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 423], totalled 147 and 98 States, respectively. During the year, Bangladesh, Botswana and Ghana became parties to the Covenant; Cape Verde, Guatemala and Lesotho acceded to the Optional Protocol and Ghana ratified it.

In 2000, Cape Verde, Monaco and Turkmenistan acceded to the Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty—adopted by the Assembly in resolution 44/128 [YUN 1989, p. 484]—bringing the total number of States parties to 44 at year's end.

On 26 April [res. 2000/67], the Commission asked the Secretary-General to report in 2001 and 2002 on the status of the Covenant and the Optional Protocols.

The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Covenant and its Optional Protocols as at 15 November [K/CN.4/2001/87] and provided the status of withdrawals and reservations [E/CN.4/2000/96].

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Human Rights Committee, established under article 28 of the Covenant, held three sessions in 2000: its sixty-eighth

In 2000, the Committee considered reports from 13 States—Argentina, Australia, Congo, Denmark, Gabon, Guyana, Ireland, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Crown Dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man)—under article 40 of the Covenant. It adopted views on communications from individuals claiming that their rights under the Covenant had been violated, and decided that other such communications were inadmissible. Those views and decisions were annexed to the Committee's reports [A/55/40, vol. II; A/56/40 vol. II].


The twentieth meeting of States parties to the Covenant met in New York on 14 September [CCPR/SP/57] to elect nine members of the Committee to replace those whose terms were due to expire on 31 December [CCPR/SP/56 & Add.1-4].

The Commission, on 17 April [res. 2000/9], invited the Committee to contribute to the preparatory process for the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 641). The resulting document was annexed to the Committee's report [A/56/40, vol. I].

On 26 April [res. 2000/67], the Commission asked the Secretary-General to ensure that OHCHR assisted the Committee.

**Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

**Accessions and ratifications**

As at 31 December 2000, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 419], had 143 States parties. During the year, Ghana ratified the Covenant.


The Economic and Social Council, by decision 2000/289 of 28 July, took note of the Committee's report on its twentieth and twenty-first sessions, held in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 575].

In 2000, the Committee examined reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant submitted by Australia, Belgium, the Congo, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Portugal, the Sudan and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). In addition, the Committee considered the state of implementation of recommendations it had made in 1998 regarding Israel and Nigeria [YUN 1998, p. 617].

On 27 November, the Committee held a day of general discussion on the right of everyone to benefit from the protection of the moral and ma-
terial interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he/she was the author, organized in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization.

The Committee adopted General Comment No. 14 on the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

As its contribution to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 641), the Committee decided to submit its General Comment Nos. 11 on plans of action for primary education and 13 on the right to education [YUN 1999, p. 575].

On 26 April [res. 2000/67], the Commission asked the Secretary-General to ensure that OHCHR assisted the Committee.

**Convention against racial discrimination**

**Accessions and ratifications**

As at 31 December 2000, there were 157 parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2106 A (XX) [YUN 1965, p. 440]. Ireland and Liechtenstein became parties during the year.

On 17 April [res. 2000/14], the Commission appealed to States that had not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention, and to States parties to consider making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention (see below).

The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 30 June [A/55/203].

**Implementation**

**Monitoring body.** The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), set up under article 8 of the Convention, held its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions, both in Geneva, from 6 to 24 March and from 31 July to 25 August, respectively [A/55/18].

The Committee considered reports, comments and information submitted by 24 States parties—Australia, Bahrain, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Holy See, Lesotho, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tonga, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe—on measures they had taken to implement the Convention and summarized its members’ views on each country report and the statements made by the States parties concerned.

In conformity with article 14 of the Convention, CERD considered communications from individuals or groups of individuals claiming violation of their rights under the Convention by a State party recognizing CERD’s competence to receive and consider such communications. Thirty States parties (Algeria, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Ukraine, Uruguay) had declared such recognition.

Under article 15, the Committee was empowered to consider copies of petitions, reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. CERD noted that it had been difficult to fulfil its functions under article 15 as the documents did not include copies of petitions and contained scant information directly related to the Convention’s principles and objectives. The Committee asked that the appropriate information be furnished.

In March, the Committee adopted general recommendations XXV (on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination), XXVI (on article 6—the right to seek just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for damage suffered as a result of racial discrimination) and XXVII (on discrimination against Roma).

The Committee asked the General Assembly to implement its March decision to hold its fifty-eighth session in New York from 8 to 26 January 2001. An October addendum to the Committee’s report [A/55/18/Add.1] contained the programme budget implications of the decision. By decision 55/419 of 4 December, the Assembly decided to refer the decision back to CERD for further consideration and consultation with States parties.

Reporting on the financial situation of the Committee [A/55/266], the Secretary-General stated that, as at 30 June, the total outstanding in arrears amounted to $173,572.

As at 31 December, 30 States parties had accepted an amendment to the Convention regarding the financing of CERD [YUN 1992, p. 714]. The amendment was to enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties.

**General Assembly action**

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/600], adopted resolution 55/81 without vote [agenda item 112].

**International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**

The General Assembly,
Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, in particular section II.B of the Declaration, relating to equality, dignity and tolerance,

Reiterating the need to intensify the struggle to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination throughout the world, especially its most brutal forms,

Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance no later than 2001,

Recalling also its resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1998, in which it decided to observe 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/14 of 17 April 2000 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Reiterating the importance of the Convention, which is one of the most widely accepted human rights instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of achieving universal ratification of the Convention, which will contribute to the fight against racism and racial discrimination,

Mindful of the importance of the contributions of the Committee to the effective implementation of the Convention and to the efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and all other forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin,

Noting that the reports submitted by States parties under the Convention contain, inter alia, information about the causes of, as well as measures to combat, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Emphasizing the obligation of all States parties to the Convention to take legislative, judicial and other measures in order to secure full implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, in which it welcomed the decision, taken on 15 January 1992 by the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to amend paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention and to add a new paragraph, as paragraph 7 of article 8, with a view to providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations, and reiterating its deep concern that the amendment to the Convention has not yet entered into force,

Stressing the importance of enabling the Committee to function smoothly and to have all necessary facilities for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention,

I

Reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

1. Takes note of the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth and its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions;

2. Commends the Committee for its continuing efforts to contribute to the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, especially the examination of reports under article 9 and action on communications under article 14 of the Convention, which contribute to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

3. Calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligation, under paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Convention, to submit their periodic reports on measures taken to implement the Convention in due time;

4. Expresses its concern at the fact that a great number of reports are overdue and continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention;

5. Encourages States parties to the Convention whose reports are seriously overdue to avail themselves of the advisory services and technical assistance that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights can provide, upon their request, for the preparation of the reports;

6. Commends the Committee for its continuing contribution to the prevention of racial discrimination, and welcomes its relevant action thereon;

7. Encourages the Committee to continue to contribute fully to the implementation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and its revised Programme of Action, including by continuing to cooperate and exchange information with United Nations bodies and mechanisms and intergovernmental organizations, in particular with the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as with non-governmental organizations;

8. Encourages States parties to continue to include a gender perspective in their reports to the Committee, and invites the Committee to take into account a gender perspective in the implementation of its mandate;

9. Takes note with interest of the contributions by the Committee to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, including undertaking a series of studies, making suggestions for the agenda and draft programme of action of the World Conference, and preparing an assessment of the best practices of States parties in combating racial discrimination;

10. Invites the Committee to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the World Conference and at the Conference itself;

11. Encourages all States, relevant United Nations bodies, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to draw attention to the Convention and to the work of the Committee during the information and awareness-raising campaign for the World Conference and the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;
II
Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
2. Expresses its profound concern about the fact that a number of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination have still not fulfilled their financial obligations, as shown in the report of the Secretary-General, and strongly appeals to all States parties that are in arrears to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations, as shown in the report of the Secretary-General, and strongly appeals to all States parties that are in arrears to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention;
3. Strongly urges States parties to the Convention to accelerate their domestic ratification procedures with regard to the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of the Committee and to notify the Secretary-General expeditiously in writing of their agreement to the amendment, as decided upon at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 15 January 1992, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 and further reiterated at the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties on 16 January 1996;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure accurate financial arrangements and to provide the necessary support, including an adequate level of Secretariat assistance, in order to ensure the functioning of the Committee and to enable it to cope with its increasing amount of work;
5. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite those States parties to the Convention that are in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

III
Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
2. Expresses its satisfaction at the number of States that have ratified the Convention or acceded thereto, which now stands at one hundred and fifty-six;
3. Reaffirms once again its conviction that ratification of or accession to the Convention on a universal basis and the implementation of its provisions are necessary for the realization of the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and for action beyond the Decade;
4. Urges all States that have not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto as soon as possible, bearing in mind the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001;
5. Urges States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention and to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible in order to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law, to review their reservations on a regular basis with a view to withdrawing them, and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;
6. Requests the States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention;
7. Decides to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled “Elimination of racism and racial discrimination”, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth and its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions, the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee and the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention.

Convention against torture

Accessions and ratifications
As at 31 December 2000, 123 States were parties to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 39/46 [YUN 1984, p. 813]. During the year, Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Lebanon and Qatar became parties. Forty-three parties had made the required declarations under articles 21 and 22 (under which a party recognized the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications to the effect that a party claimed that another was not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, and to receive communications from or on behalf of individuals who claimed to be victims of a violation of the Convention by a State party) and three had made the declaration under article 21 only. Amendments to articles 17 and 18, adopted in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 735], had been accepted by 23 States parties as at year’s end.

On 20 April [res. 2000/43], the Commission invited all ratifying or acceding States and those that had not done so to make the declaration provided for in articles 21 and 22 and to consider withdrawing their reservations to article 20. It asked the Secretary-General to continue to report annually on the status of the Convention.

The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 1 July [A/55/208] and 15 November [E/CN.4/2001/58]. On 4 December, the Assembly took note of the former report (decision 55/420).

The Assembly, in resolution 55/89, urged States that had not done so to become parties to the Convention and invited those becoming parties and those that were parties but had not done so to make the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 and to consider withdrawing reservations to article 20.
Draft optional protocol

Commission action. On 20 April [res. 2000/35], the Commission asked the working group on the draft optional protocol to the Convention (intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention) to meet prior to the Commission's 2001 session to complete the final and substantive text. The Secretary-General was asked to transmit the report of the working group to Governments, specialized agencies, chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs and to invite them to submit their comments to the group. He should invite them, as well as the Chairperson of the Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, to participate in working group activities.

On 28 July, the Economic and Social Council authorized the group to meet for two weeks and encouraged the group's Chairperson/Rapporteur to facilitate the completion of a consolidated text (decision 2000/262).

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Committee against Torture, established as a monitoring body under the Convention, held its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions in Geneva from 1 to 19 May [A/55/44] and from 13 to 24 November [A/56/44], respectively. Under article 19, it considered reports submitted by Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Cameroon, Canada, China, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and the United States.

The Committee held four closed meetings in May and three in November, during which, in accordance with article 20, it studied confidential information that appeared to contain well-founded indications that torture was systematically practised in a State party to the Convention. Under article 22, the Committee considered communications submitted by individuals who claimed that their rights, as enumerated in the Convention, had been violated by a State party and who had exhausted all available domestic remedies.

The Committee's contribution to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 641) was annexed to its report [A/56/44].

Convention on elimination of discrimination against women and optional protocol

On 4 December, the General Assembly, in resolution 55/70, urged States that had not ratified or acceded to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to do so. It also urged them to become parties to the Optional Protocol.

(For details on the status of the Convention and on the Optional Protocol, see p. 1123.)

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Accessions and ratifications


The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 5 July [A/55/201] and 27 November [E/CN.4/2001/74]. On 4 December, the Assembly took note of the former report (decision 55/418).

An amendment to the Convention to expand the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) from 10 to 18, approved by the Assembly in resolution 50/155 [YUN 1995, p. 706], had been accepted by 96 States parties in 2000. The amendment required acceptance by a two-thirds majority to enter into force.

On 27 April [res. 2000/85], the Commission urged States that had not done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention. It called on States parties to implement the Convention and to accept the amendment to expand CRC membership. The Commission asked the Secretary-General to assist the Committee; the Economic and Social Council endorsed that request on 28 July (decision 2000/280).

Implementation

Monitoring body. In 2000, CRC held its twenty-third (10-28 January) [CRC/C/94], twenty-fourth (15 May-2 June) [CRC/C/97] and twenty-fifth (18 September-6 October) [CRC/C/100] sessions, all in Geneva. Each session was preceded by a pre-sessional working group, which reviewed State party reports and identified the main questions to be discussed with reporting States. It also provided an opportunity to consider technical assistance and international cooperation.

Under article 44 of the Convention, CRC considered initial reports from 26 States parties: Armenia, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Finland, Georgia, Grenada, India, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Norway, Peru, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Suriname, Tajikistan, FYROM and United Kingdom (Isle of Man and Overseas Territories).
Children in armed conflict

Working group activities. The working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict adopted the draft at its sixth session (Geneva, 10-21 January and 23 March) [E/CN.4/2000/74]. The draft text was annexed to the group's report.

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/59], the Commission adopted the draft optional protocol and called on States parties to the Convention to sign and ratify or accede to the optional protocol, following its adoption by the General Assembly. It recommended that the optional protocol be opened for signature and ratification or accession at the Assembly's special session on women from 5 to 9 June in New York (see p. 1082) and thereafter at UN Headquarters.

Also on 26 April [E/2000/42/Add.1], the Commission Chairperson transmitted the text of the draft optional protocol to the Economic and Social Council.

(For further information on children in armed conflict, see p. 722.)

Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Working group activities. The working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography adopted the draft at its sixth session (Geneva, 24 January-4 February and 23 March) [E/CN.4/2000/75]. The draft optional protocol was annexed to the group's report.

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/59], the Commission adopted the draft optional protocol and called on States parties to the Convention to sign and ratify or accede to the optional protocol, following its adoption by the General Assembly. It recommended that the optional protocol be opened for signature and ratification or accession at the Assembly's special session on women and thereafter at UN Headquarters.

Also on 26 April [E/2000/42/Add.1], the Commission Chairperson transmitted the text of the draft optional protocol to the Economic and Social Council.

(For further information on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, see p. 720.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 May [meeting 97], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council [A/54/L.84], adopted resolution 54/263 without vote [agenda item 116 (a)].

Optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

The General Assembly, recalling all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child, in particular its resolution 54/149 of 17 December 1999, in which it strongly supported the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working groups and urged them to finalize their work before the tenth anni-
versary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Expressing its appreciation to the Commission on Human Rights for having finalized the texts of the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

Conscious of the tenth anniversaries, in the year 2000, of the World Summit for Children and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the symbolic and practical importance of the adoption of the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child before the special session of the General Assembly for the follow-up to the World Summit for Children, to be convened in 2001,

Adhering to the principle that the best interests of the child are to be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Reaffirming its commitment to strive for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in all avenues of life,

Recognizing that the adoption and implementation of the two optional protocols will make a substantial contribution to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

1. Adopts and opens for signature, ratification and accession the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the texts of which are annexed to the present resolution;

2. Invites all States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to sign and ratify or accede to the annexed optional protocols as soon as possible in order to facilitate their early entry into force;

3. Decides that the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child will be opened for signature at the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to be convened from 5 to 9 June 2000 in New York, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters, at the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", to be convened from 26 to 30 June 2000 in Geneva, and at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, to be convened from 6 to 8 September 2000 in New York;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to include information on the status of the two optional protocols in his report to the General Assembly on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ANNEX I

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

The States Parties to the present Protocol,

Encouraged by the overwhelming support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, demonstrating the widespread commitment that exists to strive for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that the rights of children require special protection, and calling for continuous improvement of the situation of children without distinction, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Disturbed by the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on children and the long-term consequences this has for durable peace, security and development,

Condemning the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict and direct attacks on objects protected under international law, including places generally having a significant presence of children, such as schools and hospitals,

Noting the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court and, in particular, its inclusion as a war crime of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years or using them to participate actively in hostilities in both international and non-international armed conflicts,

Considering, therefore, that to strengthen further the implementation of rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child there is a need to increase the protection of children from involvement in armed conflict,

Noting that article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifies that, for the purposes of that Convention, a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier,

Convinced that an optional protocol to the Convention raising the age of possible recruitment of persons into armed forces and their participation in hostilities will contribute effectively to the implementation of the principle that the best interests of the child are to be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Noting that the twenty-sixth international Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 1995 recommended, inter alia, that parties to conflict take every feasible step to ensure that children under the age of 18 years do not take part in hostilities,

Welcoming the unanimous adoption, in June 1999, of International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which prohibits, inter alia, forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict,

Condemning with the gravest concern the recruitment, training and use within and across national borders of children in hostilities by armed groups distinct from the armed forces of a State, and recognizing the responsibility of those who recruit, train and use children in this regard,

Recalling the obligation of each party to an armed conflict to abide by the provisions of international humanitarian law,

Stressing that this Protocol is without prejudice to the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, including Article 51, and relevant norms of humanitarian law,

Bearing in mind that conditions of peace and security based on full respect of the purposes and principles contained in the Charter and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of children, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation,

Recognizing the special needs of those children who are particularly vulnerable to recruitment or use in
hostilities contrary to this Protocol owing to their economic or social status or gender.

Mindful of the necessity of taking into consideration the economic, social and political root causes of the involvement of children in armed conflicts,

Convinced of the need to strengthen international cooperation in the implementation of this Protocol, as well as the physical and psychosocial rehabilitation and social reintegration of children who are victims of armed conflict,

Encouraging the participation of the community and, in particular, children and child victims in the dissemination of informational and educational programmes concerning the implementation of the Protocol,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.

Article 2
States Parties shall ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 18 years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces.

Article 3
1. States Parties shall raise the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment of persons into their national armed forces from that set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, taking account of the principles contained in that article and recognizing that under the Convention persons under 18 are entitled to special protection.

2. Each State Party shall deposit a binding declaration upon ratification of or accession to this Protocol that sets forth the minimum age at which it will permit voluntary recruitment into its national armed forces and a description of the safeguards that it has adopted to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced.

3. States Parties that permit voluntary recruitment into their national armed forces under the age of 18 shall maintain safeguards to ensure, as a minimum, that:
   (a) Such recruitment is genuinely voluntary;
   (b) Such recruitment is done with the informed consent of the person’s parents or legal guardians;
   (c) Such persons are fully informed of the duties involved in such military service;
   (d) Such persons provide reliable proof of age prior to acceptance into national military service.

4. Each State Party may strengthen its declaration at any time by notification to that effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall inform all States Parties. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General.

5. The requirement to raise the age in paragraph 1 of the present article does not apply to schools operated by or under the control of the armed forces of the States Parties, in keeping with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Article 4
1. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.

2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

3. The application of the present article under this Protocol shall not affect the legal status of any party to an armed conflict.

Article 5
Nothing in the present Protocol shall be construed as precluding provisions in the law of a State Party or in international instruments and international humanitarian law that are more conducive to the realization of the rights of the child.

Article 6
1. Each State Party shall take all necessary legal, administrative and other measures to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Protocol within its jurisdiction.

2. States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the present Protocol widely known and promoted by appropriate means, to adults and children alike.

3. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons within their jurisdiction recruited or used in hostilities contrary to this Protocol are demobilized or otherwise released from service. States Parties shall, when necessary, accord to these persons all appropriate assistance for their physical and psychological recovery and their social reintegration.

Article 7
1. States Parties shall cooperate in the implementation of the present Protocol, including in the prevention of any activity contrary to the Protocol and in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons who are victims of acts contrary to this Protocol, including through technical cooperation and financial assistance. Such assistance and cooperation will be undertaken in consultation with concerned States Parties and relevant international organizations.

2. States Parties in a position to do so shall provide such assistance through existing multilateral, bilateral or other programmes, or, inter alia, through a voluntary fund established in accordance with the rules of the General Assembly.

Article 8
1. Each State Party shall submit, within two years following the entry into force of the Protocol for that State Party, a report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child providing comprehensive information on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Protocol, including the measures taken to implement the provisions on participation and recruitment.

2. Following the submission of the comprehensive report, each State Party shall include in the reports they submit to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in accordance with article 44 of the Convention, any further information with respect to the implementation of the Protocol. Other States Parties to the Protocol shall submit a report every five years.

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child may request from States Parties further information relevant to the implementation of this Protocol.
Article 9
1. The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that is a party to the Convention or has signed it.
2. The present Protocol is subject to ratification and is open to accession by any State. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. The Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocol, shall inform all States Parties to the Convention and all States that have signed the Convention of each instrument of declaration pursuant to article 13.

Article 10
1. The present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying the present Protocol or acceding to it after its entry into force, the present Protocol shall enter into force one month after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 11
1. Any State Party may denounce the present Protocol at any time by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall thereupon inform the other States Parties to the Convention and all States that have signed the Convention. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General. If, however, on the expiry of that year the denouncing State Party is engaged in armed conflict, the denunciation shall not take effect before the end of the armed conflict.
2. Such a denunciation shall not have the effect of releasing the State Party from its obligations under the present Protocol in regard to any act that occurs prior to the date on which the denunciation becomes effective. Nor shall such a denunciation prejudice in any way the continued consideration of any matter that is already under consideration by the Committee prior to the date on which the denunciation becomes effective.

Article 12
1. Any State Party may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to States Parties, with a request that they indicate whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.
2. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties.
3. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties that have accepted it, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Protocol and any earlier amendments that they have accepted.
and also believing in the importance of strengthening global partnership among all actors and of improving law enforcement at the national level,

Noting the provisions of international legal instruments relevant to the protection of children, including the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation with Respect to Inter-Country Adoption, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, and International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,

Encouraged by the overwhelming support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, demonstrating the widespread commitment that exists for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the provisions of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, and the other relevant decisions and recommendations of pertinent international bodies,

Taking due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

States Parties shall prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as provided for by the present Protocol.

Article 2

For the purpose of the present Protocol:

(a) Sale of children means any act or transaction whereby a child is transferred by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or any other consideration;

(b) Child prostitution means the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration;

(c) Child pornography means any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.

Article 3

1. Each State Party shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following acts and activities are fully covered under its criminal or penal law, whether these offences are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organized basis:

(a) In the context of sale of children as defined in article 2:

(i) The offering, delivering or accepting, by whatever means, a child for the purpose of:

a. Sexual exploitation of the child;

b. Transfer of organs of the child for profit;

c. Employment of the child in forced labour;

(ii) Improperly inducing consent, as an intermediary, for the adoption of a child in violation of applicable international legal instruments on adoption;

(b) Offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution, as defined in article 2;

(c) Producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing for the above purposes child pornography as defined in article 2.

2. Subject to the provisions of a State Party's national law, the same shall apply to an attempt to commit any of these acts and to complicity or participation in any of these acts.

3. Each State Party shall make these offences punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature.

4. Subject to the provisions of its national law, each State Party shall take measures, where appropriate, to establish the liability of legal persons for offences established in paragraph 1 of the present article. Subject to the legal principles of the State Party, this liability of legal persons may be criminal, civil or administrative.

5. States Parties shall take all appropriate legal and administrative measures to ensure that all persons involved in the adoption of a child act in conformity with applicable international legal instruments.

Article 4

1. Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences referred to in article 3, paragraph 1, when the offences are committed in its territory or on board a ship or aircraft registered in that State.

2. Each State Party may take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences referred to in article 3, paragraph 1, in the following cases:

(a) When the alleged offender is a national of that State or a person who has his habitual residence in its territory;

(b) When the victim is a national of that State.

3. Each State Party shall also take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the above-mentioned offences when the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite him or her to another State Party on the ground that the offence has been committed by one of its nationals.

4. This Protocol does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised in accordance with internal law.

Article 5

1. The offences referred to in article 3, paragraph 1, shall be deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between States Parties and shall be included as extraditable offences in every extradition treaty subsequently concluded between them, in accordance with the conditions set forth in those treaties.

2. If a State Party that makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another State Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider this Protocol as a legal basis for extradition in respect of such offences. Extradition shall be subject to the conditions provided by the law of the requested State.

3. States Parties that do not make extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty shall recognize such offences as extraditable offences between themselves
subject to the conditions provided by the law of the requested State.

4. Such offences shall be treated, for the purpose of extradition between States Parties, as if they had been committed not only in the place in which they occurred but also in the territories of the States required to establish their jurisdiction in accordance with article 4.

5. If an extradition request is made with respect to an offence described in article 3, paragraph 1, and if the requested State Party does not or will not extradite on the basis of the nationality of the offender, that State shall take suitable measures to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution.

Article 6

1. States Parties shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offences set forth in article 3, paragraph 1, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal necessary for the proceedings.

2. States Parties shall carry out their obligations under paragraph 1 of the present article in conformity with any treaties or other arrangements on mutual legal assistance that may exist between them. In the absence of such treaties or arrangements, States Parties shall afford one another assistance in accordance with their domestic law.

Article 7

States Parties shall, subject to the provisions of their national law:

(a) Take measures to provide for the seizure and confiscation, as appropriate, of:
   (i) Goods such as materials, assets and other instrumentalities used to commit or facilitate offences under the present protocol;
   (ii) Proceeds derived from such offences;
   (b) Execute requests from another State Party for seizure or confiscation of goods or proceeds referred to in subparagraph (a) (i);
   (c) Take measures aimed at closing, on a temporary or definitive basis, premises used to commit such offences.

Article 8

1. States Parties shall adopt appropriate measures to protect the rights and interests of child victims of the practices prohibited under the present Protocol at all stages of the criminal justice process, in particular by:
   (a) Recognizing the vulnerability of child victims and adapting procedures to recognize their special needs, including their special needs as witnesses;
   (b) Informing child victims of their rights, their role and the scope, timing and progress of the proceedings and of the disposition of their cases;
   (c) Allowing the views, needs and concerns of child victims to be presented and considered in proceedings where their personal interests are affected, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law;
   (d) Providing appropriate support services to child victims throughout the legal process;
   (e) Protecting, as appropriate, the privacy and identity of child victims and taking measures in accordance with national law to avoid the inappropriate dissemination of information that could lead to the identification of child victims;
   (f) Providing, in appropriate cases, for the safety of child victims, as well as that of their families and witnesses on their behalf, from intimidation and retaliation;
   (g) Avoiding unnecessary delay in the disposition of cases and the execution of orders or decrees granting compensation to child victims.

2. States Parties shall ensure that in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims of the offences described in the present Protocol, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration.

3. States Parties shall take measures to ensure appropriate training, in particular legal and psychological training, for the persons who work with victims of the offences prohibited under the present Protocol.

4. States Parties shall ensure that uncertainty as to the actual age of the victim shall not prevent the initiation of criminal investigations, including investigations aimed at establishing the age of the victim.

5. States Parties shall ensure that, in the treatment of victims of the offences described in the present Protocol, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration.

Article 9

1. States Parties shall adopt or strengthen, implement and disseminate laws, administrative measures, social policies and programmes to prevent the offences referred to in the present Protocol. Particular attention shall be given to protect children who are especially vulnerable to these practices.

2. States Parties shall promote awareness in the public at large, including children, through information by all appropriate means, education and training, about the preventive measures and harmful effects of the offences referred to in the present Protocol. In fulfilling their obligations under this article, States Parties shall encourage the participation of the community and, in particular, children and child victims, in such information and education and training programmes, including at the international level.

3. States Parties shall take all feasible measures with the aim of ensuring all appropriate assistance to victims of such offences, including their full social reintegration and their full physical and psychological recovery.

4. States Parties shall ensure that all child victims of the offences described in the present Protocol have access to adequate procedures to seek, without discrimination, compensation for damages from those legally responsible.

5. States Parties shall take appropriate measures aimed at effectively prohibiting the production and dissemination of material advertising the offences described in the present Protocol.

Article 10

1. States Parties shall take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of
children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism. States Parties shall also promote international cooperation and coordination between their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

2. States Parties shall promote international cooperation to assist child victims in their physical and psychological recovery, social reintegration and repatriation.

3. States Parties shall promote the strengthening of international cooperation in order to address the root causes, such as poverty and underdevelopment, contributing to the vulnerability of children to the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism.

4. States Parties in a position to do so shall provide financial, technical or other assistance through existing multilateral, regional, bilateral or other programmes.

Article 11

Nothing in the present Protocol shall affect any provisions that are more conducive to the realization of the rights of the child and that may be contained in:

(a) The law of a State Party;
(b) International law in force for that State.

Article 12

1. Each State Party shall submit, within two years following the entry into force of the Protocol for that State Party, a report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child providing comprehensive information on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Protocol.

2. Following the submission of the comprehensive report, each State Party shall include in the reports they submit to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in accordance with article 44 of the Convention, any further information with respect to the implementation of the Protocol. Other States Parties to the Protocol shall submit a report every five years.

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child may request from States Parties further information relevant to the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 13

1. The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that is a party to the Convention or has signed it.

2. The present Protocol is subject to ratification and is open to accession by any State that is a party to the Convention or has signed it. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 14

1. The present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying the present Protocol or acceding to it after its entry into force, the present Protocol shall enter into force one month after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 15

1. Any State Party may denounce the present Protocol at any time by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall thereafter inform the other States Parties to the Convention and all States that have signed the Convention. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Such a denunciation shall not have the effect of releasing the State Party from its obligations under this Protocol in regard to any offence that occurs prior to the date on which the denunciation becomes effective. Nor shall such a denunciation prejudice in any way the continued consideration of any matter that is already under consideration by the Committee prior to the date on which the denunciation becomes effective.

Article 16

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to States Parties, with a request that they indicate whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

2. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties.

3. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties that have accepted it, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Protocol and any earlier amendments that they have accepted.

Article 17

1. The present Protocol, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of the present Protocol to all States Parties to the Convention and all States that have signed the Convention.

As at 31 December 2000, the optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had 75 signatories and three parties (Bangladesh, Canada, Sri Lanka) and 69 signatories and one party (Bangladesh), respectively.

**Convention on migrant workers**

**Accessions and ratifications**

As at 31 December 2000, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,
adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 45/158 (YUN 1990, p. 594), had been ratified or acceded to by Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda, and signed by Bangladesh, Chile, the Comoros, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Turkey. The Convention was to enter into force on the first day of the month following a period of three months after the date of deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 1 July [A/55/205] and 15 November [E/CN.4/2001/79].

Commission action. On 25 April [res. 2000/49], the Commission called on all Member States to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority. It asked the Secretary-General to provide assistance to promote the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, launched by the General Assembly in resolution 43/128 [YUN 1988, p. 539], and the human rights programme of advisory services, and to report in 2001 on the Convention's status and on Secretariat efforts to promote it and the protection of migrant workers' rights.

(For further information on migrant workers, see p. 651.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.1], adopted resolution 55/88 without vote [agenda item 114 (a)].

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once more the permanent validity of the principles and norms set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Bearing in mind the principles and norms established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that, despite the existence of an already established body of principles and norms, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Aware of the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and the marked increase in migratory movements that has occurred, especially in certain parts of the world,

Considering that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, all States are urged to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Underlining the importance of the creation and promotion of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia perpetrated in segments of many societies by individuals or groups against migrant workers,

Recalling its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Bearing in mind that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, States are invited to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the Convention at the earliest possible time,

1. Expresses its deep concern at the growing manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman or degrading treatment directed against migrant workers in different parts of the world;
2. Welcomes the signature or ratification of or accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States;
3. Calls upon all Member States, in particular in view of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, to consider signing and ratifying or accessioning to the Convention as a matter of priority, expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date, and notes that, pursuant to article 87 of the Convention, only six ratifications or accessions are still needed for it to enter into force;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all the facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;
5. Welcomes the global campaign for the entry into force of the Convention, and invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify further their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the importance of the Convention;
6. Also welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in relation to the Convention, and encourages her to continue in this endeavour;
7. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests him to submit an updated report on the status of the Convention to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;
8. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-sixth session under the sub-item entitled “Implementation of human rights instruments”.

**Convention on genocide**

As at 31 December 2000, 132 States were parties to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 260 A (III) [YUN 1948-49, p. 959]. In 2000, Guinea and Switzerland acceded to the Convention. The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 1 July (A/55/207). On 4 December, the Assembly took note of the report (decision 55/420).

**Convention against apartheid**


**Other activities**

**Follow-up to 1993 World Conference**

Report of High Commissioner. The Commission on Human Rights considered the High Commissioner's report [E/CN.4/2000/12/Add.1] on follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights [YUN 1993, p. 908]. She stated that, since the Conference, the Commission's special procedures mechanisms had been complemented by the establishment of field presences in a number of countries to assist host Governments to promote human rights, monitor human rights violations and help strengthen the rule of law. Among the countries hosting field presences were Angola, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Georgia/Abkhazia, Sierra Leone and countries of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The number of human rights projects implemented through field activities had grown from one in 1992 to 26 in 1999. The High Commissioner gave an overview of field presences.

Annual meeting. The High Commissioner transmitted the report of the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures and advisory services programme of the Commission (Geneva, 5-9 June) [E/CN.4/2001/6], as called for in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action [YUN 1993, p. 908], adopted at the 1993 World Conference. Participants discussed capacity-building to improve the effectiveness of the special procedures system, support services, including the new thematic database within OHCHR (Human Rights Computerized Analysis Network Environment (HURICANE)), corporate responsibility for human rights violations, monitoring (special procedures) mechanisms and improving the work of special procedures mandates on human rights defenders. Participants met with NGO representatives to exchange views on the Commission's mechanisms and strengthening the special procedures system. The chairpersons of treaty bodies and the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups discussed possibilities for increased interaction between the treaty bodies and the special procedures mechanisms. The meeting adopted a set of conclusions and recommendations.

By decision 55/421 of 4 December, the General Assembly took note of the Third Committee's report [A/55/602/Add.4] on follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

**Advisory services and technical cooperation**

In 2000 [E/CN.4/2001/104], the OHCHR technical cooperation programme supported countries in promoting and protecting all human rights, at their request, by incorporating international human rights standards in national laws, policies and practices and by building sustainable national capacities to implement those standards and ensure respect for human rights. Among the key result areas defined by OHCHR for 1999-2001 were national capacity-building to develop human rights strategies and structures; human rights education; the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development; racism; the rights of indigenous people; trafficking of women and children, gender and women's human rights; the rights of the child; humanitarian law and human rights; and developing a policy for future human rights field activities and consolidating existing activities.

Assistance was provided through expertise, advisory services, training courses, workshops and seminars, fellowships, grants and the provision of information and documentation.

During the year, 20 projects were completed, 41 were under way or approved and 14 were at the
drafting stage. National technical cooperation field presences were operational in Chad, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Somalia, South Africa and Pal

estine. The subregional office in Pretoria, South Africa, continued to implement and facilitate the implementation of activities at the regional level, as well as in various countries of the Southern Af

rican region. The following OHCHR field presences combined monitoring and technical cooperation mandates: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and FYR.

The programme cooperated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the joint programme for human rights strengthening (HURIST), supporting the implementation of UNDP's policy on human rights. HURIST, which contributed to the international debate concerning the major areas of relevance for human rights and supported UNDP country offices, was active in Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Another joint initiative, the Assisting Communities Together project, emphasized the role that civil society played in promoting and protecting human rights. OHCHR also cooperated with other UN agencies and programmes, as well as non-UN partners.

Activities were funded mainly by the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and partly by the UN regular budget. The Fund's Board, at its thirteenth and four

teenth sessions (19-21 June, 11-13 December), considered 15 new project proposals; reviewed five completed and evaluated projects; and examined the implementation status of four current projects. As at 31 October, the Fund's income amounted to $14.6 million and commitments totalled $6.7 million.

**Commission action.** On 26 April [res. 2000/80], the Commission asked the Secretary-General to assist the Board; to continue to ensure efficient management of the Fund, strict and transparent project management rules and periodic evaluations of its programmes and projects; to arrange for information meetings open to all Member States and organizations directly involved; and to report in 2002.

**Cambodia**

**Commission action.** On 26 April [res. 2000/79], the Commission, expressing grave concern about human rights violations, noted some progress made by the Government of Cambodia. It wel

comed the adoption of a five-year action plan, as well as other measures, to improve the status of women, and the five-year national plan against child sexual exploitation. Noting with concern the continued problems related to the rule of law and the functioning of the judiciary, the Commission welcomed the Government's recent commitment to judicial reform. It also welcomed efforts to establish an independent national human rights commission and requested OHCHR to provide advice and technical assistance in that regard. The Secretary-General was asked to report in 2001; that request was approved by the Economic and Social Council on 28 July (decision 2000/278).

**Report of Secretary-General.** In August [A/55/291], the Secretary-General stated that the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs visited Cambodia (16-22 March, 4-7 July) to hold discussions with the Cambodian Task Force on the draft articles of cooperation between the United Nations and the Government in the prosecution under Cambodian law of crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea and the scope of the court's jurisdiction and its chambers, a formula to settle disagreements between the co-prosecutors, the mutual obligations of the parties, financial mechanisms and the court's premises. The draft law on establishing extraordinary chambers in the courts of Cambodia to prosecute the crimes was pending before the Judicial Committee of the National Assembly. The Secretary-General reviewed the recommendations of his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia [YUN 1999, p. 584] and the role and achievements of OHCHR from September 1999 to July 2000 in assisting the Government to strengthen democracy and establish the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Following the conclusion of the Special Representative's mandate on 31 December 1999, OHCHR/Cambodia continued to follow up on the implementation of his recommendations, as well as the efforts of the Government to investigate specific cases of serious human rights violations (see p. 625).

**Report of Special Representative.** The new Special Representative, Peter Leuprecht (Austria), appointed by the Secretary-General on 18 August, reported on his visit to Cambodia (26 November-2 December), [E/CN.4/2001/103]. The visit focused on the eradication of violence, the rule of law, domestic implementation of international human rights treaties to which Cambodia was a party, poverty issues and economic and social rights, and the situation of women and children.
The Special Representative recommended action against impunity, corruption and the lack of independence of the judiciary. He called for the application and enforcement of international human rights treaties through the legislative and judicial process, and serious efforts to improve conditions of detention. Resources devoted to the military should be reallocated to such areas as education, health and social services, and the gap between rich and poor should be narrowed. The Special Representative also called for respect for labour rights, the eradication of violence against women and of the exploitation of women and children, the promotion of human rights education, the protection of human rights defenders and respect for, and promotion and protection of, the human rights of minorities.

**OHCHR/Cambodia**

The Secretary-General reported in August [A/55/291] that OHCHR/Cambodia recorded during 2000 an increase in allegations of violations of labour rights and housing rights, curtailing of freedom of the press, expression and association, intolerance towards ethnic minorities and migrant workers, police violence during public demonstrations, trafficking of persons and cases of sexual exploitation of children and women. Allegations of illegal arrest and detention, excessive pre-trial detention, torture during arrest, prison conditions not in accordance with international standards, intimidation of human rights defenders, lack of independence of the judiciary, interference of the executive in the judiciary and some cases of political violence and intimidation were also reported. The office continued documenting and analysing patterns of human rights violations.

The previous memorandum of understanding between the Government and OHCHR/Cambodia expired on 28 February; the Government verbally agreed to extend it until March 2002 to enable the office to continue its operations and to maintain its technical cooperation programmes. OHCHR/Cambodia technical cooperation activities included assistance to develop the legal system, creating and strengthening national human rights institutions, training for government officials, support to human rights NGOs, assistance in human rights reporting obligations and implementation of treaty monitoring bodies’ recommendations.

In a report covering the role and achievements of the office from August to November 2000 [E/CN.4/2001/102], the Secretary-General described the implementation of the technical cooperation programme.

Between 1 January and 31 October, the office received 240 allegations of human rights violations, including forced evictions, arbitrary confiscation of land and related intimidation, as well as cases of non-compliance with labour rights. Allegations of denial of medical assistance to victims in custody, discrimination against ethnic minorities, sexual exploitation of women and children, human trafficking and violence against women were also reported. In addition, the office received allegations of illegal arrest and detention, excessive pre-trial detention, police violence and excessive use of force, summary and extrajudicial execution, disappearances, mob killings, torture, political intimidation and violence against members of political parties, curtailment of freedom of association and expression, and intimidation of human rights defenders. During the period under review, OHCHR/Cambodia conducted training for some 1,450 police officials, 1,580 members of the armed forces and 110 gendarmes. It held a 15-week law drafting seminar, as well as two seminars for policy makers on their role in the law-making process and capacity building programmes for judges, prosecutors, other court officials and lawyers on the application of human rights standards in the delivery of justice. Other areas of assistance included labour rights, the environment, trafficking in human beings and support to human rights NGOs.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/95 without Vote [agenda item 114 (b)].

**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 and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991, including part III thereof, relating to human rights,

Recalling also its resolution 54/171 of 17 December 1999, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/79 of 26 April 2000, and recalling further previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing that the tragic history of Cambodia requires special measures to ensure the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and the non-return to the policies and practices of the past, as stipulated in the Agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,

Desiring that the international community continue to respond positively to assist efforts to investigate the tragic history of Cambodia, including responsibility for past international crimes, such as acts of genocide...
and crimes against humanity during the regime of Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979.

Bearing in mind the request made in June 1997 by the Cambodian authorities for assistance in responding to past serious violations of Cambodian and international law, the letter dated 15 March 1999 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council and the report of the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General annexed thereto, and the discussions held between the Government of Cambodia and the United Nations Secretariat on standards and procedures for bringing to justice the Khmer Rouge leaders most responsible for the most serious violations of human rights in the years 1975-1979,

Recognizing the legitimate concern of the Government and people of Cambodia in the pursuit of internationally accepted principles of justice and of national reconciliation,

Recognizing also that accountability of individual perpetrators of grave human rights violations is one of the central elements of any effective remedy for victims of human rights violations and a key factor in ensuring a fair and equitable justice system and, ultimately, reconciliation and stability within a State,

Welcoming the continuing role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with the office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and to ensure adequate resources for the continued functioning of the operational presence in Cambodia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to enable the Special Representative to continue to fulfil his tasks expeditiously;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation of human rights in Cambodia;

3. Requests the Government of Cambodia and the office in Cambodia of the High Commissioner to exchange the memorandum of understanding for the extension of the mandate of the office after March 2000, and encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue to cooperate with the office;

4. Commends and expresses its deep appreciation for the work of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, Thomas Hammarberg, in promoting and protecting human rights in Cambodia;

5. Welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of Peter Leuprecht as his new Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, and requests the Special Representative, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner, to continue the work of his predecessors by evaluating the extent to which the recommendations in his forthcoming reports, and those contained in the reports of his predecessors, are followed up and implemented, while maintaining contact with the Government and people of Cambodia;

6. Notes with concern the continued problems related to the rule of law and the functioning of the judiciary, including interference by the executive with the independence of the judiciary, inter alia, through rearrests, and welcomes statements by the Government committing itself to judicial reform, the work currently being done to prepare the laws and codes that are essential components of the basic legal framework, meetings of the Supreme Council of Magistracy and the establishment of the Council of Judicial Reform;

7. Urges the Government of Cambodia to continue to take the necessary measures to develop an independent, impartial and effective judicial system, including through the early adoption of the draft statute on magistrates, a penal code and a code on criminal procedures, and the reform of the administration of justice, and appeals to the international community to assist the Government to this end;

8. Welcomes the draft governance action plan prepared by the Government of Cambodia, encourages the early adoption and implementation thereof, and appeals to the international community to assist the Government in its efforts to implement the plan;

9. Commends the initial efforts of the Government of Cambodia with regard to the review and the stated commitment to the downsizing of the police and the military, urges the Government to take further measures to carry out effective reform aimed towards professional and impartial police and military forces, and invites the international community to continue to assist the Government to this end;

10. Recognizes the importance of human rights education and training in Cambodia, commends the efforts of the Government of Cambodia, the Office of the High Commissioner and civil society in this field, invites the international community to continue to assist these efforts;

11. Commends the vital and valuable role played by non-governmental organizations in Cambodia, inter alia, in the development of civil society, and encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue to work closely and cooperatively with non-governmental organizations in efforts to strengthen and uphold human rights in Cambodia;

12. Notes with interest the activities undertaken by the governmental Cambodian Human Rights Committee, the National Assembly Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints and the Senate Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints, and welcomes preliminary efforts to establish an independent national human rights commission, which should be based on the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, known as the Paris principles, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to provide advice and technical assistance in these efforts;

13. Expresses grave concern about continued violations of human rights, including torture, extrajudicial killings, excessive pre-trial detention, violation of labour rights, illegal confiscation of land and forced relocation, as well as the apparent lack of protection from mob killings, as detailed in the report of the Special Representative to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session, and notes some progress made by the Government of Cambodia in addressing these issues;
14. Expresses serious concern about the continued prevalence of impunity in Cambodia, commends the initial commitment and efforts of the Government of Cambodia to tackle this question, and calls upon the Government to take further measures, as a matter of critical priority, to investigate urgently and prosecute, in accordance with due process of law and international human rights standards, all those who have perpetrated violations of human rights;

15. Welcomes the investigations into some cases of politically motivated violence, while remaining concerned at the continued reports of politically motivated violence and intimidation, and urges the Government of Cambodia to undertake further investigations in line with its stated commitments and to take appropriate measures to prevent politically motivated violence and intimidation in the future;

16. Also welcomes the commitment and efforts made by the Government of Cambodia with respect to tackling the question of human rights violations, and notes with interest the investigations undertaken by the governmental Cambodian Human Rights Committee and by the national police in order to bring to justice those responsible for such violations and to ensure security of persons and rights of association, assembly and expression;

17. Reaffirms that the most serious human rights violations in Cambodia in recent history have been committed by the Khmer Rouge, welcomes the final collapse of the Khmer Rouge, which has paved the way for the restoration of peace, stability and national reconciliation in Cambodia and the investigation and prosecution of the leaders of the Khmer Rouge, and notes with interest the progress made by the Government of Cambodia in bringing to justice the Khmer Rouge leaders most responsible for the most serious violations of human rights;

18. Welcomes the successful conclusion of the talks between the Government of Cambodia and the United Nations Secretariat on the question of the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders who are most responsible for the most serious violations of human rights, appeals strongly to the Government to ensure, including by facilitating the expedited completion of the necessary legislative process as soon as possible, that those Khmer Rouge leaders are brought to account in accordance with international standards of justice, fairness and due process of law, encourages the Government to continue to cooperate with the United Nations on this issue, and welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat and the international community in assisting the Government to this end;

19. Takes note with interest of the signing by Cambodia of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

20. Reaffirms the importance of the upcoming communal elections being conducted in a free and fair manner, takes note with interest of the draft legislation for preparing for communal elections, and urges the Government of Cambodia to continue to prepare for them accordingly;

21. Welcomes the initial progress made under the five-year action plan by the Government of Cambodia, in particular by the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs, to improve the status of women, and urges the Government to continue to take appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, to combat violence against women in all its forms, including grave violations of the rights of women perpetrated by elements of law enforcement and armed forces personnel, and to take all steps to meet its obligations as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including by seeking technical assistance;

22. Calls upon the Government of Cambodia to continue to take further measures to ensure adequate health conditions, with emphasis on ensuring such conditions for women and children and minority groups and on the global AIDS epidemic, particularly the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, and encourages the international community to continue to support the Government to this end;

23. Commends the continued efforts of the Government of Cambodia, together with non-governmental organizations, local authorities and United Nations bodies, to improve the quality of and access to education, calls for further measures to be taken in order to ensure the right of Cambodian children to education, especially at the primary level, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and requests the international community to provide assistance for the achievement of this goal;

24. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations inter-agency memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of the Interior on Law Enforcement against Sexual Exploitation of Children, and encourages the Government of Cambodia to ensure the necessary law enforcement and other measures to tackle the problem of child prostitution and trafficking in Cambodia;

25. Notes with serious concern the problem of child labour in its worst forms, calls upon the Government of Cambodia to ensure adequate health and safety conditions for children and to outlaw, in particular, the worst forms of child labour, invites the International Labour Organization to continue to extend the necessary assistance in this regard, and encourages the Government of Cambodia to consider ratifying the 1999 International Labour Organization Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Convention No. 182);

26. Also notes with serious concern the prison conditions in Cambodia, notes with interest some improvements in the prison system, commends the continued international assistance to improve the material conditions of detention, and calls upon the Government of Cambodia to take the further measures necessary to improve prison conditions, especially with regard to providing the minimum standard of food and health care and meeting the special needs of women and children, including by strengthening the coordinating role of the Prison Health Department with the Ministry of Health, provincial authorities and non-governmental organizations working in this field;

27. Urges an end to racial violence against and vilification of ethnic minorities, including the ethnic Vietnamese, and also urges the Government of Cambodia to take all steps to prevent such violence, as well as to meet its obligations as a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, inter alia, by seeking technical assistance;
28. Welcomes the actions taken by the Government of Cambodia to combat illicit logging, which has seriously threatened the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by many Cambodians, including indigenous people, expects these efforts by the Government to continue, and welcomes the progress made on the drafting of the new law on land;

29. Also welcomes the consideration by the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the initial report of Cambodia submitted under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, asks the Government of Cambodia to follow up the recommendations made by the international human rights treaty bodies regarding the reports submitted by it, calls upon the Government to meet its reporting obligations under all other international human rights instruments, and requests the office in Cambodia of the High Commissioner to continue to provide assistance in this regard;

30. Expresses grave concern at the devastating consequences and destabilizing effects of the use of anti-personnel landmines on Cambodian society, encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue its support and efforts for the removal of those mines and for victim assistance and mine-awareness programmes, and commends donor countries and other actors of the international community for their contributions and assistance to mine action;

31. Expresses concern about the large number of small arms in society and commends the efforts of the Government of Cambodia to control the spread of weapons;

32. Notes with appreciation the use by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia to finance the programme of activities of the office in Cambodia of the High Commissioner, as defined in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals to consider contributing to the Trust Fund;

33. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the role and achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights and on the recommendations made by the Special Representative on matters within his mandate;

34. Decides to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Cambodia at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled “Human rights questions”.

Chad

A March progress report by the High Commissioner [E/CN.4/2000/107] stated that the technical cooperation project on human rights and governance between Chad and UNDP [YUN 1999, p. 587] started in February 2000. The project aimed to strengthen the operational capacities of Chad’s National Commission on Human Rights and support for the recently established Conseil constitutionnel and Supreme Court. The project was expected to be completed by July 2001.

Croatia

By a roll-call vote of 44 to 1, with 8 abstentions, the Commission, on 18 April [res. 2000/26], welcomed the agreement between Croatia and the High Commissioner on technical cooperation and assistance programmes [YUN 1999, p. 587].

Haiti

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/78], the Commission deplored an increase of violent acts in Haiti and urged the Haitian authorities and political leaders to cooperate in ending them. The Government was called on to investigate politically motivated crimes and prosecute perpetrators, take action to eliminate human rights violations, ensure due process and continue structural reforms in the police and judicial system and improvement of the prison sector. Regretting the delay of the parliamentary elections foreseen for 19 March, the Commission urgently called on the Government to hold free, fair and prompt elections.

The Commission invited the Secretary-General and Haiti to contribute to the strengthening of the Office for the Protection of Citizens, including through regional representation, incorporating a gender perspective, and through the establishment of a technical cooperation programme, in collaboration with OHCHR and the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) (see p. 251), and encouraged the international community to assist in that effort.

The independent expert was requested to report to the General Assembly in 2000 and to the Commission in 2001. The High Commissioner was asked to assist him. Those requests were approved by the Economic and Social Council on 28 July (decision 2000/277).

Reports of independent expert. In 2000, the independent expert, Adama Dieng (Senegal), visited Haiti from 27 July to 8 August [A/55/335] and from 13 to 20 December [E/CN.4/2001/106]. He also visited Port-au-Prince from 25 to 29 September [ibid.], at the invitation of MICAH and the Haitian Ministry of Justice, to contribute to the first conference on reform of the justice system.

The expert’s first mission took place at a time of tension between Haiti and the international community as a result of the manner in which the elections of 21 May were conducted (see p. 251). Whatever the outcome of the electoral crisis, people had gained awareness of the importance of having a voter registration card. It was essential for the political leaders to make a commitment to strengthen the culture of democracy. Within the schools, civic education was re-integrated as edu-
cation for citizenship. The curriculum was launched in April with a teacher training session.

Following his second visit, the expert remained convinced that the political polarization in the country was responsible for daily violence, which was worsened by the abject poverty of the most disadvantaged classes. Haiti’s greatest ill was the lack of rigorous law enforcement. There was an urgent need to defuse the tension and find a solution that ensured the rule of law and was consistent with the aspirations of the Haitian people. Recommendations to the Government addressed the police forces, the judicial system, the management of the National Prison Authority, ratification of human rights instruments, support to the Judges School and the Office of the Ombudsman, respect for freedom of opinion, expression, association, assembly and peaceful demonstration and the successful completion of the Raboteau massacre trial, at which former members of the Haitian armed forces and the Front pour l’avancement et le progres Haïtien were found guilty. Recommendations to the international community included the provision of technical cooperation and assistance programmes, and cooperation with the Haitian authorities to arrest and extradite those convicted in absentia at the Raboteau trial. The expert recommended that the United Nations emphasize capacity-building to strengthen democratic values by holding a symposium on the culture of democracy. OHCHR should ensure support for the Office of the Ombudsman and human rights NGOs, and should undertake a programme of technical cooperation and assistance. The United Nations should donate some of MICAH’s vehicles, computers and printers to the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the offices of examining magistrates, and OHCHR and UNDP should set up a project for technical cooperation on human rights with other UN agencies associated in its implementation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.3], adopted resolution 55/118 without vote [agenda item 114 (c)].

Situation of human rights in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,


Taking note of the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Adama Dieng,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti, and considering the statement by the President of the Security Council of 15 March 2000,

Taking note of the report on the visit to Haiti of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and encouraging the Government of Haiti to follow up actively the recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing the interdependent relations and mutual reinforcement between democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the commitment of the international community to supporting, strengthening and promoting this principle,

Noting the establishment of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti with the mandate to support the democratization process and assist the Haitian authorities with the development of democratic institutions; to assist the Haitian authorities in the reform and the strengthening of the Haitian system of justice, including its penal institutions, and to promote the Office of the Ombudsman; to support the efforts of the Government of Haiti to professionalize the Haitian National Police through a special training and technical assistance programme and to help the Government to coordinate bilateral and multilateral aid in this area; to support the efforts of the Government of Haiti aimed at the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to provide technical assistance for the organization of democratic elections and to collaborate with the Government of Haiti in the coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance,

Commending the work of the Organization of American States in Haiti, in particular the efforts to promote a dialogue among Haitian political actors and civil society groups following the legislative elections held on 21 May 2000,

Expressing concern at the fact that no solution has yet been found with regard to the deficiencies of the elections of 21 May 2000, most notably those identified by national and international observers and by the electoral observation mission of the Organization of American States,

Underlining the importance of the legitimate election of parliament for the institution of democracy, for the rule of law and for the progress of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights in favour of all Haitians,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the Haitian authorities in the fight against impunity, which resulted in the convictions of the police officers responsible for the Carrefour-Feuilles massacre and the opening of the trial relating to the Raboteau massacre,

Deploiring the increasing difficulties met by the press in expressing itself freely since the serious incidents of April 2000,

Recalling the statements made by the Haitian authorities to the effect that the Government remains committed to upholding human rights, and encourag-
ing further actions to improve the promotion, defence and guarantee of those rights,

Underlining the need for the Provisional Electoral Council to be fully representative of the Haitian political scene, including the opposition, impartial, neutral and effective in the preparations for, and during, the forthcoming presidential and senatorial elections,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General, his Representative for Haiti and the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti for their continuing efforts in favour of the consolidation of democratic institutions in Haiti and respect for human rights in that country;

2. Commends the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti for its training and supervising of the Haitian National Police, and the International Civilian Mission in Haiti for monitoring the situation of human rights and for its activities in support of democratic institutions, the mandates of which Missions concluded on 15 March 2000, opening the way for the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti, with its mandate to consolidate and build on the results obtained in this regard;

3. Stresses the need for the Haitian National Police to continue to undertake more effective efforts to improve its performance through, inter alia, technical assistance, training and education, in order to function efficiently, within a framework of respect for human rights, to curb the alarming increase in insecurity in the country;

4. Renews its invitation to the Government of Haiti to ratify, as soon as possible, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. Requests all interested Governments to make available to the Government of Haiti information and documentation to enable it to prosecute the perpetrators of human rights violations, in order to reinforce the efforts already made by the Haitian authorities to fight against impunity and to facilitate the reconciliation process;

6. Calls upon the Government of Haiti to continue structural reforms in the police and the judicial system and the improvement of the prison sector, to investigate properly politically motivated crimes and to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes in accordance with Haitian law, to take vigorous action to eliminate any continuing human rights violations, including illegal arrests and detentions and the detention by authorities of individuals in violation of court orders for their release, and to ensure due process, including reasonable time frames;

7. Reaffirms the importance, for combating impunity and for the realization of a genuine and effective process of transition and national reconciliation, of investigations undertaken by the National Commission for Truth and Justice, and encourages the Government of Haiti to continue legal proceedings against perpetrators of human rights violations identified by the National Commission and to create effective facilities for providing support to the victims, in particular women, children and members of their families;

8. Welcomes the decision of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States to the effect that that Organization, acting in conjunction with the Caribbean Community and other political actors and civil society groups, should give support to the Government of Haiti and all other actors involved in order to identify, as soon as possible, any options and make recommendations for resolving the difficulties resulting from the conflicting interpretations of the electoral law, and expresses the hope that that will result in concrete corrective actions by the Government of Haiti and other authorities and continue to strengthen the democratic process in that country;

9. Notes with interest the forthcoming presidential elections and elections for the renewal of one third of the Senate, and urges the Government of Haiti and other authorities to ensure the necessary guarantees for holding those elections in a transparent, secure and credible environment in agreement with Haiti’s political actors and civil society groups, inter alia, by restoring the credibility of the Provisional Electoral Council, and through a true dialogue, with the support of the international community, including the Organization of American States;

10. Recalls with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Haiti, in collaboration with the international community and women's groups, to adopt measures to promote the human rights of women and to fight against the violence of which they are victims, through the training of judicial staff and the dissemination of information on the rights of women at all levels of the education system, and encourages Haiti to continue these efforts;

11. Encourages the Government of Haiti further to promote the rights of children, in particular their right to education;

12. Invites the international community, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to consider, when conditions permit, continuing its involvement in the reconstruction and development of Haiti;

13. Encourages the Government of Haiti to contribute to the strengthening of the Office for the Protection of Citizens, inter alia, through regional representation as appropriate, incorporating a gender perspective, and through the establishment of a programme of technical cooperation, in close collaboration with, and with the assistance of, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti;

14. Decides to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti at its fifty-sixth session.

(See also p. 249.)

Somalia

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/81], the Commission, condemning widespread violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law, urged all parties in Somalia to respect human rights and international humanitarian law pertaining to internal armed conflicts, to support the re-establishment of the rule of law
and to protect UN personnel, humanitarian relief workers and representatives of NGOs and of the media. All parties to the conflict were called on to respond positively to peace initiatives. The international community was asked to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to UN appeals for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts (see p. 859) and to support OHCHR activities concerning Somalia.

The High Commissioner was asked to provide for the translation of the Commission’s resolution into the local language for dissemination within Somalia through the human rights officer for Somalia based in Nairobi, Kenya. The Commission extended the independent expert’s mandate for an additional year and asked her to report in 2001 and the Secretary-General to assist her. On 28 July, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the extension of the expert’s mandate and approved the Commission’s requests to the High Commissioner and to the Secretary-General [decision 2000/279].


The note described the political situation in the country (see p. 215), as well as human rights developments. The peace initiative in the country sparked vigorous political activism that led to a sharp polarization of those for it and those against it. Most of the human rights violations that occurred stemmed from that polarization. In north-west Somalia, attacks against humanitarian aid workers and UN staff continued to be a source of concern. The north-eastern part of the country witnessed violations of the right to demonstrate peacefully, fighting between sub-clans and a rise in attacks against aid workers and agencies. Militia attacks occurred in southern Somalia, and attacks against aid workers and agencies were exceptionally numerous. Central Somalia, especially the town of Merka, remained off limits to the UN community for much of the year, making it impossible to monitor human rights developments; attacks against aid workers and installations continued unabated. Lawlessness continued in the city of Mogadishu, where aid workers, their premises and other properties were routinely attacked.

The most recent OHCHR project for Somalia addressed the mainstreaming of human rights in the programmes and projects of the United Nations Country Team members by the Senior Human Rights Adviser working directly under the auspices of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, and the provision of technical advice to UNDP in its law and governance programmes and projects in general and the Somali Civil Protection Programme in particular. The High Commissioner and the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator signed the project document in December.

Human rights education

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/71], the Commission urged Governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to contribute to the mid-term global evaluation of progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 49/184 [Y U N 1994, p. 1039]. It urged Governments to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade and encouraged OHCHR to further develop its web site, particularly regarding the dissemination of human rights education materials and tools.

The Commission asked the High Commissioner to continue to implement and expand the Assisting Communities Together project and to consider other ways to support human rights education activities. It requested the human rights treaty bodies to adopt a general comment on human rights education and to emphasize the obligations of States parties in human rights education and information. The Secretary-General was asked to submit the recommendations of the mid-term global evaluation report (see below).

Report of High Commissioner. By a September note [A/55/360], the Secretary-General transmitted the report of the High Commissioner on the mid-term global evaluation of the progress made towards the achievement of the Decade’s objectives.

In Africa, some Governments had created new structures or assigned the task of initiating or supporting national programmes on human rights education to existing governmental agencies. Four national committees for the Decade were established while, in other countries, ministries of justice or of human rights dealt with activities related to the Decade. Governmental respondents reported that the pre-school to secondary-level curricula incorporated the teaching of human rights, but few universities had human rights courses. While police, the armed forces, prison officials, members of the judiciary and foreign service personnel had some human rights training, pre-service programmes for those groups and for health officials, immigration officials and journalists were rare.
In the Americas, very few Governments had established national committees for human rights education. Many countries were reforming the school curricula and had introduced human rights into the formal education system. Few efforts were aimed at institutionalizing human rights pre-service and in-service training for professionals.

Four countries in Asia and the Pacific had established national committees for human rights education, while others had designated ministries of justice, ministries of education and national human rights institutions as lead agencies for the Decade. Regarding formal education, discussions on human rights were integrated into social studies, geography, history, language or subjects on life experience. A number of countries were working on the inclusion of human rights education in schools. Universities in several countries included human rights in their syllabuses.

Fewer than one third of the 43 respondent Governments in Europe had national committees for human rights education. Only one Government reported integrated human rights at the pre-school, primary and secondary levels, while most Governments indicated such integration at some levels, mostly primary and secondary. Moreover, the responses indicated that human rights education was rarely imparted during every year of primary and secondary schooling, but was targeted at specific age groups.

The report analysed the responses by intergovernmental organizations, including the contribution of the United Nations, and by NGOs. The High Commissioner made recommendations on the content of human rights education, programmes on human rights education, evaluation, research and monitoring, and mass media and freedom of information. Other recommendations addressed the obligations of States, a UN system-wide response to the Decade, regional cooperation and national and local actors.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/94 without vote [agenda item 114 (b)].


The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming article 26 of the Declaration, which states that "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, including article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 10 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and paragraphs 78 to 82 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which reflect the aims of article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", and the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, which, inter alia, reconfirmed the mandated role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of coordinating Education For All partners and maintaining their collective momentum within the process of securing quality basic education,

Believing that the World Public Information Campaign is a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights to human rights education and information,

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

Convinced that every woman, man and child, in order to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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

Recognizing that human rights education and information are essential to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that carefully designed training, dissemination and information programmes can have a catalytic effect on national, regional and international initiatives to promote and protect human rights and prevent human rights violations,
Promotion of human rights

Convinced that human rights education and information contribute to a holistic concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages, which takes into account particularly vulnerable segments of society such as children, young persons, older persons, indigenous people, minorities, the rural and urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, persons with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome 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 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Development Programme,

Recognizing the invaluable and creative role that non-governmental and community-based organizations can play in disseminating public information and engaging in human rights education, especially at the grass-roots level and in remote and rural communities,

Aware of the potential supportive role of the private sector in implementing at all levels of society the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and the World Public Information Campaign, through creative initiatives and financial support for governmental and non-governmental activities,

Convinced that the effectiveness of existing human rights education and public information activities would be enhanced by better coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling that it is within 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,

Noting with appreciation the increased efforts undertaken so far by the Office of the High Commissioner to disseminate human rights information through its web site and its publications and external relations programmes,

Welcoming the initiative of the Office of the High Commissioner to develop further the project entitled “Assisting Communities Together”, launched in 1998, supported by voluntary funds and designed to provide small grants to grass-roots and local organizations carrying out practical human rights activities,

Recalling that, according to the Plan of Action, in 2000 a mid-term global evaluation of progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade shall be undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with all other principal actors in the Decade,

Acknowledging with appreciation the mid-term global evaluation undertaken from April to August 2000 by the Office of the High Commissioner, which included the launching of a worldwide survey, the organization of an online forum, the convening of an expert meeting and the preparation of the High Commissioner’s mid-term evaluation report,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the mid-term global evaluation of the progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, which contains an analysis of available information on the progress made in the first five years of the Decade at the national, regional and international levels and recommendations for action during the remaining years of the Decade;

2. Welcomes the steps taken by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and to develop public information activities in the field of human rights, as indicated in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the mid-term global evaluation;

3. Urges all Governments to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular by encouraging the establishment, in accordance with national conditions, of broadly representative national committees for human rights education responsible for the development of comprehensive, effective and sustainable national plans of action for human rights education and information, taking into consideration the guidelines for national plans of action for human rights education developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights within the framework of the Decade;

4. Urges Governments to encourage, support and involve national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national plans of action;

5. Encourages Governments to consider, within the national plans of action mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, the establishment of public access human rights resource and training centres capable of engaging in research, the gender-sensitive training of trainers, the preparation, collection, translation and dissemination of human rights education and training materials, the organization of courses, conferences, workshops and public information campaigns and assistance in the implementation of internationally sponsored technical cooperation projects for human rights education and public information;

6. Encourages States, where such national public access human rights resource and training centres exist, to strengthen their capacity to support human rights education and public information programmes at the international, regional, national and local levels;

7. Calls upon Governments, in accordance with national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination, in the relevant national and local languages, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, as well as reports of States parties submitted under international human rights treaties, and to provide information and education in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures may be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments;

8. Encourages Governments to support further, through voluntary contributions, the education and public information efforts undertaken by the Office of
the High Commissioner within the framework of the Plan of Action;

9. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to coordinate and harmonize human rights education and information strategies within the United Nations system, including the implementation of the Plan of Action, in cooperation, inter alia, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency in the use, processing, management and distribution of human rights information and educational materials, including through electronic means;

10. Encourages Governments to contribute to the further development of the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner, in particular with respect to the dissemination of human rights education materials and tools, and to continue and expand the publications and external relations programmes of the Office;

11. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to support national capacities for human rights education and information through its technical cooperation programme in the field of human rights, including the organization of training courses and the development of targeted training materials for professional audiences, as well as the dissemination of human rights information materials as a component of technical cooperation projects, and to continue to monitor developments in human rights education;

12. Urges the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue to utilize United Nations information centres for the timely dissemination, within their designated areas of activity, of basic information, reference and audio-visual materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the reports of States parties submitted under international human rights instruments and, to this end, to ensure that the information centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials;

13. Stresses the need for close collaboration between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign, and the need to harmonize their activities with those of other international organizations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with regard to its project entitled "Towards a culture of peace" and the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law;

14. Invites the specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes and funds to continue to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign and to cooperate and coordinate with each other and with the Office of the High Commissioner in that regard;


16. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies, when examining reports of States parties, to place emphasis on the obligations of States parties in the area of human rights education and information and to reflect this emphasis in their concluding observations;

17. Calls upon international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, in particular those concerned with women, labour, development, food, housing, education, health care and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to undertake specific activities of formal, non-formal and informal education, including cultural events, alone and in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in implementing the Plan of Action;

18. Encourages Governments, regional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to explore the potential support and contribution to human rights education of all relevant partners, including the private sector, development, trade and financial institutions and the media, and to seek their cooperation in the development of human rights education strategies;

19. Encourages regional organizations to develop strategies for the wider distribution of materials on human rights education through regional networks and to develop region-specific programmes to maximize the participation of national entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, in programmes on human rights education;

20. Encourages intergovernmental organizations to assist, upon request, collaboration between governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations at the national level;

21. Requests the Office of the High Commissioner to continue implementation of and to expand the "Assisting Communities Together" project and to consider other appropriate ways and means to support human rights education activities, including those undertaken by non-governmental organizations;

22. Requests the High Commissioner to bring the recommendations contained in the mid-term global evaluation report and the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights education and public information, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

**Culture of peace**

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/66], the Commission, welcoming the adoption, in General Assembly resolutions 53/243 A and B [YUN 1999, p. 593], of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and the Assembly's proclamation of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace in
resolution 52/15 [YUN 1997, p. 622], invited States to promote a culture of peace. The Subcommission was requested to take into account and reflect in its deliberations the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the contribution of the promotion, protection and realization of all human rights for the further development of a culture of peace. The Commission asked OHCHR to organize, provide the resources required for and coordinate, during the International Year, a panel/forum on a culture of peace, focusing on the contribution of the promotion, protection and realization of all human rights to the further development of a culture of peace (see below); on 28 July, the Economic and Social Council approved that request (decision 2000/275).

**Report of OHCHR.** In March [E/CN.4/2000/97/Add.1], OHCHR summarized the views of two States on the contribution of the promotion and protection of human rights to the further development of a culture of peace. Earlier views were presented in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 593].

**Expert Seminar.** A note by the High Commissioner [E/CN.4/2001/120] transmitted the report of the Expert Seminar on Human Rights and Peace (Geneva, 8-9 December), as called for by the Commission in resolution 2000/66 (see above). The seminar was convened by OHCHR, in cooperation with the UN University for Peace (Costa Rica) and with the support of the Political Affairs Directorate of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Research Department of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation. The report of the Seminar took account of the presentations and discussions made at an intergovernmental forum on the contribution to a culture of peace of human rights education, convened by the High Commissioner on 11 December. Following their discussion of various aspects of human rights and peace, the 30 participants made proposals aimed at contributing to the prevention of conflicts, consolidation of peace processes and overcoming new forms of violence.

**Communication.** Bangladesh transmitted the Madrid Declaration, adopted at the International Conference on a Culture of Peace (Madrid, Spain, 11-13 December) [A/56/56]. The Declaration promoted action in the areas identified in the Programme of Action, including education, sustainable economic and social development, human rights and democracy, a gender perspective, democratic governance and the free flow of information and knowledge, among others.

**Children and a culture of peace**

A September report of the Secretary-General [A/55/377] on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 53/25 [YUN 1998, p. 639], discussed how children might be the centre of actions for a culture of peace. It presented an organizational strategy to further develop the global movement for a culture of peace and a survey of the contributions made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund and other UN system entities.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 29 November [meeting 74], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/47 [draft: A/55/L.43/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote (agenda item 33).

**International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010**

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially its dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, and resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World,

Reaffirming the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, recognizing that they serve, inter alia, as the basis for the observance of the Decade, and convinced that effective and successful observance of the Decade throughout the world will promote a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,

Taking note also of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/66 of 26 April 2000, entitled “Towards a culture of peace”,

Emphasizing the particular relevance of the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children, to be held in New York in 2001, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010,
Taking into account the Manifesto 2000 initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization promoting a culture of peace, which has so far received over sixty million signatures of endorsement throughout the world,

1. Recognizes that the objective of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World is to further strengthen the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000;

2. Notes with satisfaction the engagement of Member States, the United Nations system and civil society during the International Year for the Culture of Peace at the national, regional and global levels, and in this context recognizes the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the focal point during the year;

3. Invites Member States to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular during the Decade, at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence is fostered at all levels;

4. Welcomes the establishment of national committees and national focal points in over one hundred and sixty countries in the context of the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, stresses the importance of their continued close involvement in furthering the objectives of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and in the effective observance of the Decade, and encourages the establishment of such bodies in the remaining countries;

5. Designates the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency for the Decade with responsibility for coordinating the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system to promote a culture of peace, as well as liaison with the other organizations concerned in this matter;

6. Recognizes the important role of relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the University for Peace, in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, particularly by means of special activities during the Decade at national, regional and international levels;

7. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to disseminate widely in various languages the Declaration and Programme of Action and related materials, in particular throughout the Decade;

8. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to promote both formal and non-formal education at all levels that foster a culture of peace and non-violence;

9. Invites civil society at the local, regional and national levels to widen the scope of their activities to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, engaging in partnerships and sharing information, thus contributing to a global movement for a culture of peace, and encourages civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to further the objectives of the Decade by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other global and regional organizations;

10. Stresses the importance of the media and of new information and communications technology in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, especially among children and young people;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in 2005 a report on the observance of the Decade at its mid-point and on the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, taking into account the views of Member States and in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

12. Invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to provide information to the Secretary-General on the observance of the Decade and the activities undertaken to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

13. Decides to devote one day of plenary meetings at its sixtieth session to consideration of the item, including a review of the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the observance of the Decade at its mid-point, with the participation of all relevant actors, as appropriate;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

National institutions and regional arrangements

National institutions for human rights promotion and protection

Report of Secretary-General. In December [E/CN.4/2001/99], the Secretary-General described OHCHR activities to strengthen national institutions and measures taken by Governments and national human rights institutions in those areas, as well as cooperation between UN human rights treaty bodies and national institutions. The report covered the period from 30 November 1999 to 30 November 2000.

OHCHR continued to implement its activities on national institutions, which included advisory missions by the High Commissioner’s Special Adviser on National Institutions, Regional Arrangements and Preventive Strategies and/or staff members of the Office to Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden and Thailand. Advice concerning legislation to establish a national institution was provided by the Special Adviser to Cambodia, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Nepal, the Republic of
Korea, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago. Relevant technical cooperative activities continued in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malawi, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Uganda and Palestine. Further consultations on cooperative agreements continued with established institutions in Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico, Rwanda and Sri Lanka.

At the international level, OHCHR supported the Fifth International Workshop of National Human Rights Institutions (Morocco, March). At the regional level, it supported the fifth annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (Rotorua, New Zealand, 7-9 August). The Office attended the second Regional Meeting of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas and supported the fifth Annual Congress of the Iberoamerican Federation of Ombudsmen, both of which were held in Mexico in November. In May, the Office, together with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Fiji Human Rights Commission, organized the Regional Workshop on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Advancing the International Human Rights of Women. In November, OHCHR, in co-sponsorship with the Government of Canada and in collaboration with the Philippine Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, conducted a workshop for national institutions and NGOs on economic, social and cultural rights.

**Commission action.** On 26 April [res. 2000/76], the Commission asked the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance for holding Coordinating Committee meetings during its sessions. It also asked him to provide assistance for international and regional meetings of national institutions from within existing resources and the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (see p. 624). The Commission's requests were approved by the Economic and Social Council on 28 July (decision 2000/276).

The Secretary-General was asked to report in 2001.

**Regional arrangements**

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 53/148 [UN 1998, p. 641], the Secretary-General reported in August on OHCHR regional strategies and developments [A/55/279].

In Africa, OHCHR’s programme was aimed at strengthening respect for human rights and the rule of law. In the Great Lakes region, the Office had field presences in Angola, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The High Commissioner visited the European Union (EU) secretariat in Brussels, Belgium, on 1 February to discuss cooperation; several meetings of OHCHR and EU representatives subsequently took place. The EU, OHCHR, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were working on an approach to provide training in human rights for international field missions. A joint mission to assess training needs was sent to Kosovo (FRY) in June. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office provided training in reporting obligations for Spanish-speaking countries. At the subregional level, it implemented initiatives in Central America and in the Andean subregion on the development of a judicial network, the training of officials in the administration of justice and the development of training methodologies.

In a later report [E/CN.4/2001/97], the Secretary-General stated that a subregional project for Southern Africa had been implemented. In 2000, the implementation of subregional strategies began for Central Africa, the Great Lakes region and West Africa. Subregional strategies were being prepared for East and North Africa. The High Commissioner inaugurated the Human Rights Documentation, Information and Training Centre (Rabat), a tripartite project supported by OHCHR, UNDP and Morocco. A human rights training course for senior command and staff officers from the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization was organized (Gaborone, Botswana, February). A regional expert seminar was held on the prevention of ethnic and racial conflicts (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4-6 October). In April and November, OHCHR sent specialists to Albania to assist the OSCE mission in including a gender component in its training programme for national police. In December, an inter-agency meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, brought together UN and European partners to discuss the coordination of programmes in FRY. OHCHR, in collaboration with Chile, organized the Conference of the Americas (Santiago, 4-8 December) in preparation for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 641). The Office established relations with the Caribbean Ombudsman Association and supported its work and participation in various forums. It supported the second annual meeting of national institutions of the Americas and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 19-21 November).

(For information on Asia and the Pacific, see p. 659.)
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/55/602/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/105 without vote [agenda item 114 (b)].

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and its subsequent resolutions in this regard,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Commission concerning advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, including its most recent on that subject, resolution 2000/80 of 26 April 2000,

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which reiterates, inter alia, the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling that the World Conference recommended that more resources should be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Reaffirming that regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

Considering that cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights continues to be both substantive and supportive and that possibilities exist for increased cooperation,

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

2. Welcomes the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through technical cooperation which is aimed at national capacity-building, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. Also welcomes, in that respect, the close cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level governmental expert meetings and regional conferences of national human rights institutions, aimed at creating greater understanding in the regions of issues concerning the promotion and protection of human rights, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards, and identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. Recognizes, therefore, that progress in promoting and protecting all human rights depends primarily on efforts made at the national and local levels and that the regional approach should imply intensive cooperation and coordination with all partners involved;

5. Stresses the importance of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations under this programme of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with Governments of all regions;

6. Welcomes the growing exchanges between the United Nations and the bodies created by the United Nations in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights, on the one hand, and regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the other;

7. Also welcomes the appointment by the High Commissioner of four human rights personalities to serve as regional advisers, who will play a significant role in the promotion of human rights and human rights advocacy through the design of strategies and the development of partnerships for human rights, facilitate coordination of human rights technical cooperation in the region and assist regional cooperation at large, for example, among national institutions, parliamentary human rights bodies, bar associations and nongovernmental organizations;

8. Recalls in this regard the positive experience of the presence of the Office of the High Commissioner in southern Africa, which will serve as guidance in the development of the regional approach of the Office of the High Commissioner;

9. Notes with interest the programme for Africa of the Office of the High Commissioner and the objective of strengthening cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Organization of African Unity with a view to reviewing, on a regular basis, needs in the area of human rights in the various subregions;

10. Also notes with interest the further developments in the implementation of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation for the Asia-Pacific Region, which is enhancing technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

11. Takes note with interest of the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, which serves as a basis for the regional strategy of the Office of the High Commissioner and aims at...
strengthening national capacities for the promotion of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean;

12. Welcomes the continued cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and regional organizations in Europe and Central Asia, in particular in the development, as a priority, of a regional approach to preventing trafficking in persons;

13. Invites States in areas in which regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding agreements with a view to establishing, within their respective regions, suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, as foreseen in programme 19 (Human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights and to make available adequate resources from within the regular budget of technical cooperation to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner to promote regional arrangements;

15. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the various regions under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

17. Decides to consider this question further at its fifty-seventh session.

Asia and the Pacific

In March [E/CN.4/2000/102], the Secretary-General reported on regional arrangements to promote and protect human rights in Asia and the Pacific. OHCHR organized the eighth workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region (Beijing, 1-3 March), which reviewed progress made since the last workshop, held in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 600], in the four areas of the framework for regional technical cooperation (national plans of action for human rights promotion and protection and the strengthening of national capacities; human rights education; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights). Other meetings held to discuss issues covered by the framework included the intersessional subregional workshop on national plans of action for human rights education (Tokyo, Japan, 17-19 January) and the intersessional workshop on the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights (Sana’a, Yemen, 5-7 February).

In a later report [E/CN.4/2001/98], the Secretary-General gave details of other workshops held to address issues covered by the framework, including the intersessional subregional North-East Asia workshop on parliamentarians and human rights (Mongolia, 9-11 August), the fifth annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (New Zealand, August), the workshop on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing the rights of women (Fiji, May) and the workshop on national institutions and economic, social and cultural rights (Philippines, November).

Commission action. On 26 April [res. 2000/74], the Commission encouraged Governments in the region to make use of UN facilities offered under the programme of human rights advisory services and technical cooperation to further strengthen national human rights capacities. The Secretary-General was asked to submit in 2001 a report containing the conclusions of the ninth workshop.

Cooperation with UN human rights bodies

The Commission on Human Rights examined a report of the Secretary-General containing allegations of intimidation and reprisals against private individuals and groups who sought to cooperate with the United Nations and with representatives of its human rights bodies [E/CN.4/2000/101].

Commission action. On 18 April [res. 2000/22], the Commission urged Governments to refrain from acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who sought to cooperate or had cooperated with representatives of UN human rights bodies, or who had provided testimony or information to them; individuals who availed themselves of UN procedures and those who had provided legal assistance to them for that purpose; those who submitted communications under procedures established by human rights instruments; and relatives of victims of human rights violations. Representatives of UN human rights bodies and treaty bodies monitoring the observance of human rights were asked to help prevent the hampering of access to UN human rights procedures, to continue to take urgent steps to prevent the occurrence of intimidation or reprisal and to include in their reports references to allegations of intimidation or reprisal, as well as an account of action taken. The Secretary-General was asked to draw the Commission's resolution to the attention of UN human rights and treaty bodies and to report in 2001.