

1. Appeals to all States to pursue policies directed towards the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;

2. Calls upon all States to co-operate with each other in promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom;

3. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1988/9 and Add.1 and 2);

4. Again requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which have not yet done so to comment on their policies for the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, and to submit a report thereon to the Commission at its forty-fifth session;

5. Invites the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint from among its members a special rapporteur to study problems, policies and progressive measures relating to a more effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

6. Recommends that the special rapporteur to be appointed in accordance with paragraph 5 above take into account all documents and issues listed in Sub-Commission resolution 1987/29.

49th meeting

7 March 1988

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 30 to 9, with
3 abstentions. See chap. VIII.]

1988/23. Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the peoples of the United Nations have reaffirmed in the Charter their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Mindful that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that all persons are entitled to realization of the economic, social and cultural rights which are indispensable to their dignity and the free development of their personality,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other,

Aware that, despite progress achieved by the international community with respect to the setting of standards for the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, much remains to be done with regard to their implementation,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Member States, individually and through international co-operation, should intensify their efforts to secure an adequate standard of living for all people, giving priority to those living in extreme poverty,

Recalling the essential importance of national efforts and international co-operation based on free consent to the realization of the right of all persons to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to a continuous improvement in living conditions,

Conscious of the need to secure full respect for the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the rights of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged,

Recalling its resolutions 1986/13 of 10 March 1986 and 1987/20 of 10 March 1987,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/5 of 26 May 1987 and other relevant resolutions of the Council relating to implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/105 of 7 December 1987 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly relating to implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, by which the Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recognizing that popular participation in its various forms is an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing public awareness of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the role that non-governmental organizations can play in that regard,

Welcoming recent efforts to accord intensive study to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and recognizing the urgent need for a more vigorous and effective multidisciplinary approach to the protection and promotion of the rights contained in the Covenant,

1. Welcomes the contribution of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which has given new impetus to implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Covenant;

2. Encourages States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to give their full support and co-operation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, inter alia, by ensuring that expert representatives are designated for the presentation of States' reports and by the preparation, in consultation with relevant government departments and agencies, of succinct information;

3. Welcomes the establishment by the Committee of a sessional working group to consider its methods of work and invites the Committee to develop as a matter of priority its general guidelines for the preparation of reports pursuant to articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, taking due account of the compilation of guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General (A/40/600/Add.1) and focusing on such specific information as would assist the Committee to carry out its mandate more effectively;

4. Encourages the Committee to develop general comments along the lines of the precedent established by the Human Rights Committee, and to consider ways and means of strengthening dialogue and the information flow with the other treaty bodies;

5. Invites States parties, in conformity with article 2, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to consider identifying bench-marks to measure achievements in the progressive realization of the rights recognized in the Covenant, and in this context to pay particular regard to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged;

6. Affirms that full respect for the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is inextricably linked with the process of development, the central purpose of which is the realization of the potentialities of the human person in harmony with the effective participation of all members of society in relevant decision-making processes as agents and beneficiaries of development, as well as fair distribution of the benefits of development;

7. Invites Member States to include measures to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in national development policies and programmes;

8. Expresses appreciation for the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the right to adequate food as a human right (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/23), and recommends to the Secretary-General that steps be taken to ensure better co-ordination between specialized agencies, other organs dealing with food-related matters and the United Nations human rights bodies;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify co-ordination between the human rights activities of the United Nations and the programmes of the development agencies, and, in this regard, notes the relevance of the programme of advisory services;

10. Urges the Economic and Social Council, in reviewing its activities pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, to bear in mind its central responsibility for effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, while paying due regard to the distinctive character of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its capacity as a treaty body;

11. Invites the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to article 22 of the Covenant, to identify ways in which international co-operation and technical assistance would contribute, particularly in developing countries, to the effective progressive implementation of the rights recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

12. Requests the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, when studying problems, policies and progressive measures relating to a more effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights, to give priority to identifying practical strategies to promote for everyone the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Covenant, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged;

13. Decides to consider issues raised by the present resolution again at its forty-fifth session under the agenda item "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights".

49th meeting

7 March 1988

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. VIII.]