

17. Invites the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, when preparing his next report on problems, policies and progressive measures relating to a more effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights, to take into account comments made in the Commission of Human Rights, and requests that in the report priority be given 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;

18. Decides to consider issues raised by the present resolution at its forty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "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".

37th meeting

21 February 1992

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

1992/11. Human rights and extreme poverty

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the peoples of the United Nations have reaffirmed in the Charter of the United Nations their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person,

Mindful that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family,

Recalling that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights recognize that the ideal of free human beings, enjoying freedom from fear and want, can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his civil and political rights,

Reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of other rights,

Recalling that the elimination of widespread poverty, including its most persistent forms, and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and of civil and political rights remain interrelated goals,

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

Recognizing, moreover, that respect for and promotion of all human rights are essential if all individuals are to participate freely and responsibly in the development of the society in which they live,

Aware of the need for a better understanding of extreme poverty and its causes, including those related to development, in order to promote the human rights of the poorest,

Recalling its resolution 1990/15 of 23 February 1990, in which it requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to carry out a specific study of extreme poverty and exclusion from society, and its resolution 1991/14 of 22 February 1991, in which it recommended that the Sub-Commission should give attention more particularly to the conditions in which the poorest themselves can convey their experience and their thoughts and so contribute to a better understanding of the harsh reality of their lives, its causes and what it means for the international community,

Recalling also its resolution 1991/12 of 22 February 1991,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 46/121 of 17 December 1991, which reaffirms that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity, and stresses the need for an in-depth and complete study of extreme poverty based on the experience of the poorest,

Recalling decision 1991/6 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, in which it is emphasized, inter alia, that a more thorough knowledge of the situation of the poorest, of their living conditions and the preconditions for their partnership would make it easier to reach the groups in question, particularly children,

Mindful, in this regard, of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/38 and Add.1 and 2), prepared on the basis of information provided in particular by Governments, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations,

Having considered the report of Mr. Eduardo Suescún Monroy, entitled "Method and plan of work for the study on human rights and extreme poverty" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/18),

Bearing in mind, in this regard, the action already taken in the relevant forums to ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and in particular the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities showing the links between extreme poverty and human rights, and underlining the importance of further study of this question,

1. Reaffirms that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;
2. Draws the attention of the General Assembly, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to the contradiction between the existence of situations of extreme poverty and exclusion from society, which must be overcome, and the duty to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights;
3. Calls upon States, the specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to give the necessary attention to this problem and to continue to make their views on human rights and extreme poverty known to the Secretary-General, and calls upon him to ensure that this information is disseminated as widely as possible;
4. Encourages the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to give greater attention, in its work, to the question of extreme poverty and exclusion from society;
5. Recalls that, to ensure the protection of the rights of all individuals, non-discrimination as regards the poorest and the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, a better understanding is needed of the conditions of populations living in poverty, together with deliberations based on the experience and thoughts conveyed by the poorest themselves and by those working with them;
6. Requests the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a study of this question and, in particular, of the following aspects:
 - (a) The effects of extreme poverty on the enjoyment and exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of those experiencing it;
 - (b) The efforts of the poorest themselves to achieve the exercise of those rights and to participate fully in the development of the society in which they live;
 - (c) The conditions in which the poorest may effectively convey their experience and their thoughts and become partners in the realization of human rights;
 - (d) The means of ensuring a better understanding of the experience and thoughts of the poorest and of the persons working with them;

7. Requests the Sub-Commission to accord priority in its work to the question of human rights and extreme poverty and to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session.

37th meeting
21 February 1992

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

1992/12. Question of trade union rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated, and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights does not exempt or excuse States from the duty of promoting and protecting other rights,

Recalling that the right of everyone to form and to join trade unions is embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that this and other fundamental trade union rights are guaranteed by the freedom of association conventions of the International Labour Organisation,

Recognizing the most important role played by trade unions in efforts to achieve social justice,

Underlining the most important role played by the International Labour Organisation in the promotion and protection of trade union rights,

Recalling that the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 1986 (resolution 41/128, annex) calls on States to encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights,

Considering that trade unions can contribute most significantly to the realization of effective popular participation and thus of the right to development and that violations of their rights are therefore serious obstacles to development,

Recalling its resolution 1990/16 of 23 February 1990, in which it expressed deep concern that in many countries persons exercising their trade union rights in striving for a more just society and human dignity were subject to serious violations of their fundamental human rights, including the right to life, and appealed to States to ensure the conditions for the free and full exercise of trade union rights,

Deeply regretting that violations of trade union rights have continued in many countries since then.