

and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Mindful of the important contribution which the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat has made to United Nations activities for the promotion and protection of human rights since the inception of the Organization,

Believing, however, that the activities of the human rights sector of the Secretariat should be enhanced so as better to enable it to meet the needs of the Organization and the international community, particularly after the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights⁴⁶ and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*,⁴⁷ and bearing in mind policy-making decisions of the General Assembly such as resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat,⁴⁸ the general direction of which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/204 of 21 December 1977,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the redesignation of the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights, in the light of the views expressed on the proposed redesignation at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources are allocated to the sector of the Secretariat concerned with human rights, so as to enable it to discharge its functions, in the light of the results of the relevant study to be conducted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 34/46 of 23 November 1979;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979*

34/48. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for the improvement of the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations under Article 1 of the Charter is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴⁹

Bearing in mind its resolution 33/105 of 16 December 1978, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to take into account, in continuing its work on the over-all analysis of the United Nations approach to human rights, the views expressed on the various proposals during the general debate on the item at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly, including a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Considering that the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights was nevertheless unable, in its consideration of the over-all analysis,⁵⁰ to make a thorough evaluation of the proposal to create a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Decides to consider at its thirty-fifth session the question of the creation of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979*

34/49. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/123 of 16 December 1977 and 33/46 of 14 December 1978, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolutions 23 (XXXIV) of 8 March 1978⁵¹ and 24 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979,⁵² concerning national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 34/46 of 23 November 1979, it emphasized the need to create conditions at the national and international levels for the full promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Mindful of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights adopted by the Seminar on National and Local Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at Geneva from 18 to 29 September 1978,⁵³ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46,

Mindful also of the conclusions of the Seminar on Recourse Procedures Available to Victims of Racial Discrimination and Activities to be Undertaken at the Regional Level, held at Geneva from 9 to 20 July 1979,⁵⁴

1. *Invites* all Member States to take appropriate steps for the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, bearing in mind the guidelines referred to above;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the integrity and independence of such national institutions, in accordance with national legislation;

3. *Draws attention* to the constructive role which national non-governmental organizations can play in the work of national institutions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session the report requested in paragraph 6 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 24 (XXXV), to draw also upon other relevant sources, such as the reports and documents of the Seminar on National and Local Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human

⁵⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. IX, sect. A.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 1978, *Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34)*, chap. XXVI, sect. A.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. XXIV, sect. A.

⁵³ See ST/HR/SER.A/2 and Add.1.

⁵⁴ See ST/HR/SER.A/3.

⁴⁶ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴⁷ Resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

⁴⁸ A/C.5/32/17.

⁴⁹ Resolution 217 A (III).