



**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**



1995/80. Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the
Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

Recalling also its resolution 1994/95 of 9 March 1994, in which it decided to review annually the progress towards the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the view of the World Conference on Human Rights that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and one of the main priorities of the Organization,

Convinced that the World Conference on Human Rights made an important contribution to the cause of human rights and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Noting that the activities envisaged in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action add further to the workload and the responsibilities of the United Nations human rights system and that so far only initial steps have been taken towards bridging the gap between resources and the mandated outputs,

Recalling the request of the World Conference on Human Rights to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/208 of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that, if adequately implemented, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action would be a milestone in history, and

that it required concerted efforts on the part of Governments and national human rights institutions, international organizations, United Nations human rights bodies and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly decided to create the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights as the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, including coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system,

Noting that at the first regular session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1994, the executive heads of all United Nations agencies discussed the implications of the results of the World Conference on Human Rights for their respective programmes and committed themselves to supporting the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination of the United Nations organs and bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141,

Having considered the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1995/98), as well as his note on the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives/experts and chairpersons of working groups on the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and on the advisory services programme, held at Geneva from 30 May to 1 June 1994 in accordance with the request contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (E/CN.4/1995/5 and Add.1),

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1995/98) and of his note on the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives/experts and chairpersons of working groups on the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and on the advisory services programme (E/CN.4/1995/5 and Add.1);
2. Endorses the reaffirmation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the importance of the promotion of universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
3. Reaffirms the views of the World Conference on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights;
4. Recognizes that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting thereof throughout the world;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure as wide a distribution as possible of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

6. Urges all States to continue to give widespread publicity to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in order to promote increased awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
7. Calls upon all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;
8. Recognizes the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations and the role the Commission can play in promoting dialogue and cooperation;
9. Calls upon all special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups of the Commission to take fully into account the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action within their respective mandates;
10. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Assembly and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system related to human rights to take further action with a view to the full implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference;
11. Welcomes with appreciation the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights accomplished so far, and expresses its commitment to continue to cooperate with and support the High Commissioner in the discharge of his mandate, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141;
12. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to coordinate the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141, including through a permanent dialogue with the United Nations agencies and programmes whose activities deal with human rights;
13. Reiterates the request of the Conference that immediate steps be taken to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations;
14. Requests the Secretary-General to propose adequate human and financial resources for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;
15. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

16. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the agenda item entitled "Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights".

61st meeting
8 March 1995

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XXV. E/CN.4/1995/176]