

1998/251. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998.³⁹

- (a) Approved the requests of the Commission:
- (i) To the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, a detailed report on the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to the General Assembly to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;
- (ii) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take duly into account the repeated appeals of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of a mechanism within the Office of the High Commissioner as a focal point for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade before they are carried out by the United Nations;
- (b) Endorsed the decision of the Commission to create an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet during the fifty-fifth session in order to review and formulate proposals for consideration by the Commission and for possible forwarding to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at its first session;
- (c) Endorsed also the recommendations of the Commission to the General Assembly:
- (i) To request the Secretary-General to designate as Secretary-General of the World Conference the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who, in that capacity, would assume the

main responsibility for the preparations for the Conference;

- (ii) To declare 2001 a year of mobilization against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with the aim of drawing the world's attention to the objectives of the World Conference and giving new momentum to the political commitment;
- (d) Also approved the recommendations of the Commission:
- (i) That the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination be focused towards the preparatory process for the World Conference, and in that regard that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize symposia, seminars and worldwide consultations in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- (ii) That the World Conference result in a declaration and a programme of action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- (e) Further approved the requests of the Commission:
- (i) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to help States and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings or undertake other initiatives, including at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference, and to the regional preparatory meetings to submit to the Preparatory Committee, through the High Commissioner, reports on the results of their deliberations, with concrete and pragmatic recommendations aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which will be duly reflected in the draft final documents to be prepared by the Preparatory Committee;
- (ii) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to inform the Preparatory Committee of the steps taken to prepare the World Conference.

⁴¹ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁴³ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁴⁴ General Assembly resolution 51/240, annex.

⁴⁵ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13.