

1997/46. International Year of Thanksgiving, 2000

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the dedication of a year to the act of giving thanks gives us the opportunity to remember the fundamental importance of cultural diversity in the development of a rich and harmonious international life and that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as expressed in its Charter, is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian areas without creating any distinctions based on race, sex, language or religion,

Convinced that the observance of the year 2000 as an international year of thanksgiving within the United Nations will bring together the efforts of nations to achieve full tolerance and strengthen universal peace,

Mindful that the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations includes the practice of tolerance as one of the principles that need to be applied to prevent war and maintain peace,

Affirming that this initiative will contribute to international cooperation by creating an awareness among peoples and Governments of the importance of gratitude, as

much in the personal and civic life of every human being as in the relations between the countries and cultures of the world,

Affirming also that the proposal to begin the twenty-first century and the new millennium with an international year of thanksgiving to celebrate the gift of life as the most noble expression of the human spirit is intended to promote friendship and solidarity between nations,

1. *Reaffirms* that such an expression of gratitude will bring together national and international efforts to achieve full tolerance and strengthen universal peace and international cooperation;

2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, proclaim the year 2000 as International Year of Thanksgiving;

3. *Invites* all Member States and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to do whatever they can in their respective areas of expertise to contribute to the preparations for the Year and to publicizing it.

*37th plenary meeting
22 July 1997*