



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

Human Rights Resolution 2005/57

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling all previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on this issue,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, and, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Reaffirming also the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practice tolerance and good neighbourliness and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central

role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

Emphasizing that the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Millennium Summit and of other major United Nations summits and conferences will require political will to implement the commitments undertaken, in particular in making available the means for implementation,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law at the national and international levels, pluralism, development, better standards of living and international solidarity,

Considering also that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept but also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

Taking into account that, without accelerated progress towards education for all, national and internationally agreed targets for poverty reduction will not be achieved and inequalities between countries and within societies will widen,

Recognizing that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level, for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of increasing the resources allocated for official development assistance, and recalling the pledge of the industrialized countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance,

Reaffirming also the importance of good governance at the international level through democratization and transparency and accountability in international economic and financial decision-making in all forums and at all levels with the full and effective participation of all countries,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Underlining that it is an imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, and that only through broad and sustained efforts, including policies and measures at the international levels that correspond to the needs of developing countries, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures at the global level that correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Having listened to the peoples of the world and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all and everyone, and to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

Resolved to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone and every people have the right to a democratic and equitable international order;
2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;
3. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in September 2001 in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international

cooperation to increase equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange

through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity, and all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

4. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights;

(d) The right of all peoples to peace;

(e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, international solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(f) International solidarity, as a fundamental value by virtue of which global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice, ensuring that those who suffer or who benefit least receive help from those who benefit most;

(g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principles of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(h) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic as well as global decision-making;

(i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communication order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(k) The promotion of an inclusive global information society directed towards bridging the digital divide, promoting access to information and communication technologies,

creating digital opportunities, and benefiting from the potential offered by these technologies;

(l) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, dialogue among civilizations, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

(m) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment;

(n) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in international economic, commercial and financial relations;

(o) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind in connection to a public right of access to culture;

5. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

6. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, peace, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

8. *Appeals* to all Governments to step up their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. *Expresses its rejection* of unilateralism and stresses its commitment to multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as the only reasonable method of addressing

international problems;

10. *Recalls* the proclamation by the General Assembly of its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

11. *Reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting there from throughout the world;

12. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the establishment of a democratic and equitable international order;

13. *Requests* the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mechanisms of the Commission and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its sixty-second session under the same agenda item.

58th meeting

20 April 2005

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 votes to 15,
with 6 abstentions. See chap. XVII, E/CN.4/2005/L.10/Add.17]