

2001¹¹⁵ regarding the importance of human rights education as a priority in education policies,

Convinced that human rights education and information contribute to a concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages, which takes into account particularly vulnerable segments of society, such as children, youth, older persons, indigenous people, minorities, rural and urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, persons with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and disabled persons,

Taking note with appreciation of the mid-term global evaluation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, contained in the report of the High Commissioner,¹¹⁶

Taking into account the recommendations of the mid-term global evaluation of the Decade,¹¹⁷

1. *Invites* all Governments to promote the development of national strategies for human rights education that are comprehensive, participatory and effective and can be embodied in a national plan of action for human rights education as part of a national development plan;

2. *Also invites* the United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the relevant intergovernmental organizations, to develop a system-wide approach to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2004);

3. *Further invites* regional and national human rights organizations, agencies and networks (such as those of women, the media and trade unions), to develop human rights education programmes and strategies for the wider distribution of materials on human rights education in all possible languages;

4. *Requests* non-governmental organizations to develop and implement strategies to encourage and assist Governments, upon request, in integrating human rights education into all levels of education, and to help in the assessment of those strategies.

43rd plenary meeting
26 July 2001

2001/39. Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and also by the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁰ the International Covenants on Human Rights¹³ and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Referring to the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, adopted on 11 November 1997 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,¹¹⁸ and to General Assembly resolution 53/152 of 9 December 1998, endorsing the Declaration,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/71 of 25 April 2001 on the question of human rights and bioethics,¹¹⁹

Recalling also the decision taken on 7 May 1998 whereby the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization established the International Bioethics Committee, which is carrying out work on confidentiality and genetic data,

Recalling further that the life and health of individuals are inevitably related to developments in life sciences and social areas,

Acknowledging the importance of advances in genetic research, which have led to the identification of strategies for early detection, prevention and treatment of diseases,

Bearing in mind that the genetic revolution has far-reaching implications and consequences for all humankind and that its evaluation and applications should thus be conducted in an open, ethical and participatory manner,

Recognizing the contribution that relevant actors in civil society can make to the protection of genetic privacy and the fight against discrimination based on genetic characteristics,

Reaffirming that the information obtained from genetic tests, which is personal, should be held confidential, based on the conditions set by law,

Recognizing that genetic data associated with an identifiable person can in some instances be specific to other members of the individual's family or to other persons and that the rights and interests of such persons must also be taken into account in the handling of such data,

Stressing the fact that revealing genetic information belonging to individuals without their consent may cause harm and discrimination against them in such areas as employment, education, social issues and medical insurance,

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 2001, Supplement No. 3 (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

¹¹⁶ A/55/360.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. V.

¹¹⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session*, vol. I, Resolutions, resolution 16.

¹¹⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3 (E/2001/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

Recalling that, in order to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, the limitations to the principles of consent and confidentiality may only be prescribed by law, for compelling reasons within the bounds of public international law and the international law of human rights,

1. *Urges* States to ensure that no one shall be subjected to discrimination based on genetic characteristics;
2. *Also urges* States to protect the privacy of those subject to genetic testing and to ensure that genetic testing is done with the prior, free, informed and express consent of the individual or authorization obtained in the manner prescribed by law and in accordance with public international law and the international law of human rights;
3. *Invites* States to take appropriate specific measures, including through legislation, to prevent the use of genetic information and testing leading to discrimination or exclusion against individuals or members of their families or other persons with whom they may share certain genetic characteristics, in all areas, in particular in social, medical or employment-related areas, whether in the public or private sector;
4. *Calls upon* States to promote, as appropriate, the development and implementation of standards providing greater protection with regard to the collection, storage, disclosure and use of genetic information taken from genetic tests that might lead to discrimination or invasion of privacy;
5. *Urges* States to continue to support research in the area of human genetics and biotechnology, subject to accepted scientific and ethical standards and to the potential benefit of all, especially the poor, emphasizing that such research and its applications should fully respect human dignity, freedom and human rights, as well as the prohibition of all forms of discrimination based on genetic characteristics;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments and relevant international organizations and functional commissions in order to collect the information and comments received pursuant to it, and to submit a report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2003.

*43rd plenary meeting
26 July 2001*

2001/40. Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/24 of 28 July 2000, in which, inter alia, it expressed grave concern that the level of contributions had not adequately increased to a level to enable, in particular, the full implementation of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System nor the operational

viability of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women beyond 31 December 2000, and reiterating the importance of supporting traditional methods of information dissemination, research and training,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 55/219 of 23 December 2000, in which it decided to provide the Institute with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis, enabling the Institute to continue its activities throughout 2001,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹²⁰
2. *Appreciates* the support of Member States in approving the advance to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women of up to US\$ 800,000 for 2001, pending receipt of voluntary contributions, on a one-time, exceptional and emergency basis;
3. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on its twenty-first session¹²¹ and of the recommendations and decisions contained therein;
4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Director of the Institute for her efforts to revitalize the Institute through the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System vision and methodology, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that a new Director is appointed immediately in order to ensure continuity in the leadership and direction of the Institute;
5. *Commends* the Institute for the implementation of successive phases I and II of the System;
6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Director of the Institute as well as its Board of Trustees in developing a fund-raising strategy for the Institute, and urges that it be implemented as soon as possible;
7. *Expresses its concern* that, due to the insufficient reserves in the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women at the current time, the Institute may be unable to continue its operations beyond 2001;
8. *Takes into account* that the Institute cannot anticipate the level of contributions that will be received during the course of 2001;
9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider transferring to the Institute any balance remaining of the sum of \$800,000 advanced for 2001 by the Assembly as a reserve for the year 2002, and invites the Assembly to consider requesting the Joint Inspection Unit to conduct a review of the Institute's Trust Fund and an urgent evaluation of the activities of the Institute, including options for its future;

¹²⁰ E/2001/76.

¹²¹ E/2001/88.