

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>171</sup> the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, to continue its work expeditiously, within the established time-frames, on the elaboration of guidelines to facilitate biennial reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and to encourage the efficient collection of reliable data, an increase in the number of Governments that report updated information on a regular basis and an improvement in the quality of their responses, as well as the avoidance of duplication of activities; called upon States in which cultivation of illicit drug crops occurred to establish or reinforce national mechanisms to monitor and verify illicit cultivation; requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-third session, in March 2000, on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development; adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction; and requested the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its forty-third session on the follow-up to the Action Plan (resolution 54/132).

At its forty-second regular session, in March 1999, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered the request of the General Assembly concerning the elaboration of guidelines for reporting on the follow-up to the special session, initiated by Assembly resolution 53/115. The inter-sessional working group, established by the Commission pursuant to its resolution 42/4, presented guidelines for the consideration of the Commission at its reconvened forty-second session, in December 1999. Pursuant to the recommendations of the inter-sessional working group, the Commission adopted resolution 42/11, entitled “Guidelines for reporting on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly”, in which the Commission, stressing the need to facilitate its analysis of biennial reports through the adoption of a concise, simple and streamlined method of reporting that would enable Governments to provide clear, objective and concise information on the progress made in implementing the action plans and measures adopted at the special session, with a view to intensifying national, regional and international cooperation in addressing the world drug problem.

Pursuant to its resolution 42/11, the Commission adopted a unified single questionnaire. The Commission requested Member States to transmit to the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, by 30 June 2000, their replies to the first biennial questionnaire, and requested the Executive Director to prepare a single biennial report covering the difficulties encountered in meeting the objectives and targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session, on the basis of questionnaires provided by Member States. The biennial reports should be examined by the Commission in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008. The Commission could consider, at its reconvened session in 2003, whether that timetable remained appropriate. The Commission also called upon the Executive Director to submit to Member States his biennial report no later than three months prior to its review by the Commission. The Executive Director was requested to

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<sup>171</sup> References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 108):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and on resolution 53/115: A/54/186;
- (b) Report of the Third Committee: A/54/597;
- (c) Resolution 54/132;
- (d) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/54/SR.13-18, 24 and 26;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.83.

inform the Commission on the action of the Programme and the United Nations system in assisting Member States to meet the objectives and target dates set out in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session and to meet the mandates addressed to the Programme and the United Nations system. It decided to evaluate the biennial report of the Executive Director and to present recommendations on national, regional and international action and cooperation. The Commission decided to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration. The Executive Director has transmitted the questionnaire to Governments.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session, including the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution 54/132), A/55/126.

## **109. Advancement of women**

### **Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women**

At its thirty-fourth session in 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 34/180). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. As at 15 April 2000, 165 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention, 21 States parties to the Convention had ratified or acceded to the amendment of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and 35 had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

In accordance with article 17 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women consists of 23 experts. Members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election.

In accordance with article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions in New York, from 17 January to 4 February and from 12 to 30 June 2000 respectively.

The General Assembly considered the question at its thirty-fifth to forty-fifth, forty-seventh and forty-ninth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 35/140, 36/131, 37/64, 38/109, 39/130, 40/39, 41/108, 42/60, 43/100, 44/73, 45/124, 47/94, 49/164, 50/202, 51/68 and 53/118).

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>172</sup> the General Assembly noted with appreciation the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention; commended the Committee on its contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/137).

*Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Supplement No. 38 (A/55/38/Rev.1);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (resolutions 45/124, 54/4 and 54/137).

**Status of women in the Secretariat**

The General Assembly considers this question every year, on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General, in the context of the work of its Third Committee. In even-numbered years only, the issue is also considered in the Fifth Committee.

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>172</sup> the General Assembly reaffirmed the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system; regretted that the goal would not be met by 2000; called upon the Secretary-General to implement fully and to monitor the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000); requested him to ensure that individual managers were held accountable for implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility; also requested the Secretary-General to continue to create a gender-sensitive work environment; strongly encouraged Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates; and requested him to report on the implementation of the resolution, including by providing statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system and on the implementation of departmental action plans, to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/139).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/139).

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<sup>172</sup> References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 109):

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twentieth and twenty-first sessions: Supplement No. 38 (A/54/38/Rev.1);
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General on:
  - (i) The status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: A/54/224 and Corr.1;
  - (ii) The activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: A/54/352;
  - (iii) The improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat: A/54/405;
  - (iv) The new structure and working method of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: A/54/500;
- (c) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "An evaluation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women": A/54/156-E/1999/102, and the comments thereon: A/54/156/Add.1-E/1999/102/Add.1;
- (d) Report of the Third Committee: A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2;
- (e) Draft resolution A/54/L.4;
- (f) Resolutions 54/4 and 54/133 to 54/140;
- (g) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/54/SR.7-12, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 29-31, 50 and 51;
- (h) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.28 and 83.

### **Traffic in women and girls**

The General Assembly first considered this question at its forty-ninth session, in 1994 (resolution 49/166), and subsequently at its fiftieth to fifty-second sessions (resolutions 50/167, 51/66 and 52/98).

At its fifty-third session,<sup>173</sup> the General Assembly urged Governments to continue their efforts to implement the provisions on trafficking in women and girls contained in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; encouraged Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation agreements to address the problem; called upon all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms; urged Governments to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action; encouraged Governments to develop systematic data-collection methods; invited various United Nations bodies to address this question; and requested the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the problem and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 53/116).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 53/116).

### **International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 46/140, the Assembly considers this question in the Third Committee biennially in odd-numbered years. It considered this question at its forty-sixth, forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-second sessions (resolutions 46/99, 48/105, 49/163, 50/163 and 52/95).

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>172</sup> the General Assembly took note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/54 and endorsed the decision of Member States to engage in the revitalization of the Institute; took note with appreciation of the proposal for a new working method of the Institute through the establishment of an electronic Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) and expressed its satisfaction with the establishment of a new staffing structure for the Institute; requested the Director of the Institute to ensure the preparation of a feasibility study of GAINS, including the work plan and budget for 2000-2001; and requested the Secretary-General to correct the administrative anomalies noted in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, to continue to provide support to the Institute and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/140).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/140).

### **United Nations Development Fund for Women**

At its thirty-ninth session, in 1984, the General Assembly decided that the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, established at its thirtieth session (A/10034), should be continued through the establishment of a separate and

<sup>173</sup> References for the fifty-third session (agenda item 103):

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions: Supplement No. 38 (A/53/38/Rev.1);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General: A/53/409;
- (c) Report of the Third Committee: A/53/618;
- (d) Resolutions 53/116 to 53/119;
- (e) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/53/SR.12-17, 22 and 29;
- (f) Plenary meeting: A/53/PV.85.

identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme (resolution 39/125).

The work of the Fund was subsequently discussed by the General Assembly at its fortieth to forty-sixth, forty-eighth, fiftieth and fifty-second sessions (resolutions 40/104, 42/63, 43/102, 44/74, 45/128, 46/97, 48/107, 50/166 and 52/94 and decision 41/426).

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>172</sup> the General Assembly commended the Fund for its leadership role in convening the United Nations inter-agency campaign and videoconference to end violence against women; recognized the progress achieved by the Fund in increasing its Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women; requested the Fund to continue its activities regarding women in situations of armed conflict and to continue its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in United Nations operational activities; commended the Fund and its collaborating partners for developing innovative mechanisms to expand the gender expertise available to United Nations resident coordinators (resolution 54/136).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125).

#### **110. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”<sup>1</sup>**

This item was included in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in 1995. At that session, the Assembly endorsed the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995 (resolution 50/42). The Assembly also considered the item at its fifty-first to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 50/203, 51/69, 52/100, 52/231 and 53/120).

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>174</sup> the General Assembly welcomed the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and civil society towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action; commended the work of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session; welcomed the replies from Governments to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Platform for Action; reaffirmed that the implementation of the Platform for Action would require adequate mobilization of resources; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on its special

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<sup>174</sup> References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 110):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action: A/54/264;
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” on its second and resumed second session: A/54/354;
- (c) Report of the Third Committee: A/54/599 and Corr.1;
- (d) Draft decisions A/54/L.77 and A/54/L.78;
- (e) Resolutions 54/141 and 54/142 and decisions 54/466 and 54/467;
- (f) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/54/SR.7-12 and 41;
- (g) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.83 and 93.

session entitled “Women 2000: gender, equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” (resolution 54/141).

*Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/141);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” (resolution 54/141).

## **111. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

### **New international humanitarian order**

At its fifty-third session,<sup>175</sup> the General Assembly expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order; called upon Governments and other actors to promote national and international legislation responsive to actual and potential humanitarian problems; invited Governments to make available to the Secretary-General information and expertise on humanitarian problems of special concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action; and requested the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and non-governmental organizations concerned and report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 53/124).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 53/124).

### **Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

At its fifth session, in 1950, the General Assembly adopted the statute of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (resolution 428 (V), annex). In accordance with paragraph 1 of the statute, the High Commissioner reports annually to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>175</sup> References for the fifty-third session (agenda item 105):

- (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Supplement No. 12 (A/53/12);
- (b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its forty-ninth session: Supplement No. 12A (A/53/12/Add.1);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order: A/53/486;
- (d) Report of the Third Committee: A/53/620;
- (e) Resolutions 53/121 to 53/126;
- (f) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/53/SR.42-50;
- (g) Plenary meeting: A/53/PV.85.

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>176</sup> the General Assembly reaffirmed its support for the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; identified a number of priority concerns with regard to protection, the security of refugees and humanitarian staff and the need for durable solutions and capacity-building initiatives as part of a comprehensive approach; made specific reference to actions required for the benefit of certain categories, notably refugee women, children and adolescents, and the elderly; and called upon Governments and other donors to demonstrate international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum and to support the High Commissioner's unified programme budget (resolution 54/146).

*Documents:* Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Supplements No. 12 and 12A (A/54/12 and Add.1).

#### **Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa**

This question was considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 46/108, 47/107, 48/118, 49/174, 50/149, 51/71, 52/101 and 53/126).

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>176</sup> the General Assembly noted with concern the many aspects of the complex problems posed by refugees and displaced persons in Africa, including the root causes of their flight; welcomed the efforts being made in numerous quarters, including those of the countries of asylum, as well as the attention given to these issues by the Organization of African Unity; called upon African States, the international community and United Nations organizations to take action to meet the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons; urged the international community to continue to fund the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/147).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/414).

#### **Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States**

The comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements was considered by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 48/113, 49/173, 50/151, 51/70, 52/102 and 53/123).

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<sup>176</sup> References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 111):

- (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Supplement No. 12 (A/54/12);
- (b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its fiftieth session: Supplement No. 12A (A/54/12/Add.1);
- (c) Reports of the Secretary-General on:
  - (i) Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States: A/54/286;
  - (ii) Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa: A/54/414;
- (d) Report of the Third Committee: A/54/600;
- (e) Resolutions 54/143 to 54/147;
- (f) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/54/SR.44-50 and 52-54;
- (g) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.83.

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>176</sup> the General Assembly welcomed the results achieved in implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference, notably the progress made in building civil society, especially in the field of human rights; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the progress achieved in the follow-up to the Conference (resolution 54/144).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/144).

## 112. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

### Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

At its forty-fourth session, in 1989, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25). The Convention entered into force on 2 September 1990.

In accordance with article 43 of the Convention, the Committee on the Rights of the Child is composed of 10 experts, who are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. On 12 December 1995, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention adopted an amendment to article 43 increasing the membership of the Committee to 18 experts. This amendment, which was further approved by the General Assembly on 21 December 1995 (resolution 50/155), will enter into force when it has been accepted by a two-thirds majority of the States parties. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Jacob Egbert Doek (Netherlands),\*\* Amina Hamza El-Guindi (Egypt),\*\* Lily Rilantono (Indonesia),\* Esther Margaret Queen Mokhuane (South Africa),\*\* Awa N'Diaye Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso),\*\* Ghassan Salim Rabah (Lebanon),\* Marilia Sardenberg (Brazil)\* and Elisabeth Tigerstedt-Tähtelä (Finland).\*\*

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\* Term of office expires on 28 February 2001.

\*\* Term of office expires on 28 February 2003.

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>177</sup> the General Assembly called upon States parties to implement fully the Convention and to cooperate closely with the Committee; called upon States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties could be reached as soon as possible; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the rights of the child, containing information on the status of the Convention and the problems addressed in the resolution (resolution 54/149).

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<sup>177</sup> References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 112):

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Supplement No. 41 (A/54/41);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: (A/54/265);
- (c) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting:
  - (i) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography: A/54/411;
  - (ii) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the protection of children affected by armed conflict: A/54/430;
- (d) Report of the Third Committee: A/54/601;
- (e) Resolutions 54/148 and 149 and decision 54/432;
- (f) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/54/SR.23-28, 35, 41 and 43;
- (g) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.83.

At the same session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (decision 54/432).

As at 20 May 2000, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 191 States. In addition, one other State had signed the Convention.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/149).

### **Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**

In accordance with article 44, paragraph 5, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee submits to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on its activities every two years.

*Document:* Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Supplement No. 41 (A/55/41).

### **The girl child**

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>177</sup> the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the needs and the rights of the girl child were integrated into the preparatory work for the special session of the Assembly on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001 by providing the Assembly with a comprehensive report drawing on the experiences and outcomes of the five-year reviews of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Education Forum (resolution 54/148).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/148).

### **Protection of children affected by armed conflict**

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>177</sup> the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and expressed its support for his work for the protection of children affected by armed conflict; recommended that the Secretary-General extend his mandate for a further period of three years; and called upon States, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies and regional organizations to integrate the rights of the child into all activities in conflict and post-conflict situations (resolution 54/149, sect. III).

At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and his oral report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session (Commission resolution 2000/85).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative (resolution 54/149, sect. III).

### **Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>177</sup> the General Assembly welcomed the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary human and financial assistance to enable her to discharge her mandate fully (resolution 54/149, sect. II).

At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

expressed its support for her work; and called upon States to cooperate closely with and assist her and to furnish all information requested, including by inviting her to visit their countries (Commission resolution 2000/85).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (resolution 54/149, sect. II).

### **113. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

At its forty-eighth session, in 1993, following a recommendation by the World Conference on Human Rights, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004) (resolution 48/163).

The General Assembly considered this item at its forty-ninth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 49/214, 50/156, 50/157, 51/78, 52/108 and 53/129).

At its fifty-fourth session,<sup>178</sup> the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to it through the Secretary-General, an annual report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade (resolution 54/150).

The Secretary-General administers the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in accordance with resolution 48/163 for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade. A summary of activities assisted by the Voluntary Fund is to be contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/150).

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 40/131, 50/156 and 53/130, the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations provides financial assistance to enable representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and of the open-ended inter-sessional working groups established by resolutions 1995/32 and 1998/20 of the Commission on Human Rights.

At its thirteenth session, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 April 2000, the Board of Trustees of the Fund adopted recommendations on travel grants, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/131, the Secretary-General submits a biennial report to the Assembly on the activities undertaken with the resources of the Fund, showing income and expenditure, assets and liabilities as well as pledges and payments received for the Fund.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 40/131).

<sup>178</sup> References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 113):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/487 and Add.1;
- (b) Report of the Third Committee: A/54/602;
- (c) Resolution 54/150;
- (d) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/54/SR.28, 33 and 39;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.83.