

mation on such workers; called on all states to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority; encouraged the mass media to promote ideas of non-discrimination, respect, tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures; affirmed its determination to combat violence stemming from intolerance on the basis of ethnicity; requested the Secretary-General to continue to study the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities and those of migrant workers; expressed regret over the continued lack of interest, support and financial resources shown for the Third Decade and its related Programme of Action; welcomed the seminar on the role of the Internet and invited the Commission on Human Rights to consider its recommendations for responsible use of the Internet; recalled repeated appeals for the establishment of a mechanism within the OHCHR to serve as a focal point for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade; welcomed the formation of a Racism Project Team in the OHCHR; urged that particular attention be paid to the situation of indigenous peoples; and underlined the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination.

With regard to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the GA requested the Secretary-General to, *inter alia*: (a) present a comprehensive report to both the 1999 and 2000 sessions of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the preparatory process of the World Conference; (b) submit to the 2001 session a report encompassing the final outcome of the World Conference; (c) designate the High Commissioner for Human Rights as Secretary-General of the World Conference; and (d) consider providing necessary financial and technical assistance for the convening of regional preparatory meetings. The GA requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to, *inter alia*: (a) carry out consultations with states aimed at determining the date and venue for the Conference and to report on this to the 1999 session of Commission on Human Rights; and (b) with the Department of Public Information, continue to devise and implement a world information campaign aimed at sensitizing world public opinion to the importance and objectives of the World Conference. The GA also, *inter alia*: invited states and regional organizations to set up at the national or regional level a coordination structure responsible for launching and promoting preparations for the World Conference; requested the regional preparatory meetings to present concrete and pragmatic recommendations aimed at combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and stressed the importance of systematically taking a gender perspective into account throughout the preparations for, and in the outcome of, the World Conference.

The GA also proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

#### **Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination**

The General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution on measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/C.3/53/L.25). The GA, *inter alia*: stated that racism is one of the exclusionist phenomena plaguing many societies and requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication; expressed concern over tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity; also expressed concern that those advocating racism and racial discrimination misuse new communication technologies, including the Internet, to disseminate their views; noted that the use of such technologies can also contribute to combatting racism and racial discrimination; reaffirmed the responsibility of governments for safeguarding and protecting individuals against racist or xenophobic crimes perpetrated by individuals or groups; noted that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination holds that the prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in the Universal Declaration and in article 5 of the Convention; acknowledged that impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes; expressed particular alarm at the rise of racist and xenophobic ideas in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large; affirmed that acts of racist violence against others stemming from racism do not comprise expressions of opinion but rather are offences; declared that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combatted by all available means; unequivocally condemned all forms of racism and racial discrimination based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons; condemned manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant workers and members of their families, persons belonging to minorities and members of vulnerable groups in many societies; encouraged all states to include in their educational curricula and social programmes at all levels, as appropriate, knowledge of, and tolerance and respect for, foreign cultures, peoples and countries; called upon states to review and, where necessary, revise immigration policies with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants; and categorically deplored the misuse of print, audio-visual and electronic media and new communication technologies, including the Internet, to incite violence motivated by racial hatred.

