

With regard to the Third Decade to Combat Racism, the Commission, *inter alia*: regretted the continued lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Decade; reiterated its request to the General Assembly to consider providing the necessary resources for implementation of the Programme of Action of the Third Decade; called upon governments and others to contribute to effective implementation of the Programme; reiterated its request to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take account of appeals by the General Assembly and ECOSOC for the establishment of a focal point within the OHCHR to coordinate all activities of the Third Decade; affirmed its determination to combat violence arising from intolerance on the basis of ethnicity; and recommended that states give priority to education as a principal means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination.

Referring to follow-up activities, the Commission, *inter alia*: welcomed the convening of the two seminars (as above); and also welcomed the Cotonou seminar of June 1997 and the work of the Council of Europe in combatting racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance.

On the work and mandate of the Special Rapporteur, the Commission, *inter alia*: expressed its full support for the SR's work; urged all governments to cooperate fully with the SR and commended those states that had, to date, hosted visits; noted the increase in the use of new technologies, in particular the Internet, to disseminate racist ideas and incite racial hatred; noted that the use of the same technologies can contribute to combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and requested the High Commissioner to undertake research and consultations on the use of the Internet to incite racial hatred, racist propaganda and xenophobia and develop a programme of human rights education and exchanges over the Internet related to the struggle against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

With regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Commission, *inter alia*: appealed to states that have not done so to consider ratifying the Convention; recommended that the issue of universal ratification, the effect of reservations and recognition of the competence of CERD to receive individual complaints be considered at the World Conference; called on states parties to the Convention to submit their periodic reports as required and on time; urged states to limit the extent of any reservations to the Convention and formulate them as narrowly as possible; and called on states parties to adopt immediately positive measures aimed at the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

With regard to the World Conference, the Commission, *inter alia*: noted the decision of the Fifth Committee that the preparatory process for the Conference will include pre-session five-day meetings prior to the 2000 and 2001 sessions of the Commission on Human

Rights; created an open-ended working group to meet during the 1999 session of the Commission to review and formulate proposals related to the World Conference for review by the Commission and possible referral to the Preparatory Committee; recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to designate the High Commissioner for Human Rights as Secretary-General of the World Conference, with main responsibility for preparations for the Conference; invited the High Commissioner, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to devise and implement a world information campaign on the importance and objectives of the Conference; invited non-governmental organizations to participate fully in the preparatory process; invited CERD to give high priority to the preparatory process and present to the 1999 Commission its contribution on the objectives of the Conference; invited the High Commissioner to submit to the 1999 session a preliminary study on the objectives of the Conference as identified by the General Assembly; recommended that the General Assembly declare the year 2001 a year of mobilization against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; recommended that the Conference result in a declaration and a programme of action to combat racism and racial discrimination; and, stressed the importance of systematically taking into account a gender perspective throughout the preparations for and the outcome of the World Conference.

Resolutions of the General Assembly

The Third Decade and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution on the Third Decade and the World Conference (A/C.3/53/L.24). The GA, *inter alia*, reaffirmed its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate racism in all its forms, totally and unconditionally, as well as racial discrimination; noted with concern that racism and racial discrimination may be aggravated by, *inter alia*, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion; noted with concern that the dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda is also being channelled through new communication technologies, including the Internet; expressed concern that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase; and acknowledged that indigenous peoples are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination.

With regard to implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: the GA, *inter alia*, declared that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world; urged all governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism; requested the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all infor-