7. Also reaffirms that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and which also affirms that in the context of the centre of development and recognizes that while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights; 

8. Also recognizes that for many developing countries, the realization of the rights to, inter alia, food, health and education may be important development entry points to the realization of the right to development and that, in this context, the independent expert’s concept of a “developmental human rights perspective” intends to give expression to some basic tenets of the interdependence of all human rights and national ownership of development strategies and development programmes, as well as the importance of international cooperation; 

9. Further recognizes the need for a discussion on a suitable permanent follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the right to development in the future, in the Working Group on the Right to Development; 

10. Stresses the necessity of establishing, at the national level, an enabling legal, political, economic and social environment for the realization of the right to development and emphasizes the importance of democratic, participatory, transparent and accountable governance, as well as the need for efficient national mechanisms such as national human rights commissions, to ensure the importance of international cooperation; 

11. Reiterates that the gap between development and poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate sustainable development, as well as the importance of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, including property rights for women and their access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, taking into account the best practices of micro-credit in different parts of the world; 

12. Recognizes, while bearing in mind the existing efforts in this respect, that it is necessary to enhance efforts to consider and evaluate the impact of international economic and financial issues on the enjoyment of human rights, such as: 

- International trade issues; 
- Access to technology; 
- Good governance and equity at the international level; and 
- Debt burden; 

13. Requests the independent expert to prepare, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, a report on the impact of these issues on the enjoyment of human rights, starting by analysing the existing efforts and means of assessing and evaluating such an impact, for consideration by the Working Group at its future sessions; 

14. Requests the open-ended Working Group on the right to development, as well as the independent expert on the right to development, to consider, as appropriate, the relevant economic and development outcomes of the international conferences, inter alia, the South Summit of the Group of Seventy-seven and the follow-up thereto, in elaborating their recommendations for the implementation of the right to development; 

15. Decides, in view of the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, and based on the established practice of the Commission on Human Rights: 

- To extend the mandate of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development for one year; 
- To extend the mandate of the independent expert for three years; 
- Recommends that the Economic and Social Council endorse the Commission’s decision contained in the preceding paragraph; and 
- Decides to continue consideration of the issue of the right to development, as a matter of priority, at its fifty-eighth session.

Science and the Environment*

At its 77th meeting, on 25 April 2001, the Commission on Human Rights, noting the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002, recalling its resolutions 1993/90 of 10 March 1993, 1994/65 of 9 March 1994 and 1995/14 of 24 February 1995 and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 on the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, decided, without a vote, to invite the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider taking into account their respective approved work programmes and budgets, the organization of a joint seminar, to be funded through voluntary contributions, to review and assess progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in promoting and protecting human rights in relation to environmental questions and in the framework of Agenda 21, in collaboration with the concerned international institutions and agencies and taking into account the views of concerned States, and to consider this question at its fifty-eighth session under the agenda item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights: (d) Science and environment.”

See also page 129.