



General Assembly
GA/10536

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York
Sixty-first General Assembly

Plenary

56th Meeting (AM)

RECOGNIZING NEED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ACTS TO STRENGTHEN COUNCIL'S ROLE AS OVERSEER OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Resolution on Economic and Social Council among Three Adopted Without Votes:

Two other draft texts adopted today concerned the International Criminal Court and **2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation**.

Also acting without a vote, the Assembly, recognizing that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world which had suffered, or were suffering, situations of conflict that had affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets, proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation.

It also invited concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies, and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue.

Introducing the text, Nicaragua's representative said that the Year was a vehicle for creating a fraternal human society, based on values such as truth and justice, and for restoring the unity of mankind now separated by ethnic, religious and other kinds of conflicts. Reconciliation between those estranged by conflicts was the only way to confront today's challenges and the process and practice of reconciliation must be promoted by States; between men and women, nature and humanity, and wherever fraternity and justice were absent from human relations. The initiative had the support of Governments, institutions of higher learning, civil society groups, the alliance of civilizations and the culture of peace.