

Disagreements emerge in pre-conference

1) Universal human rights code

2) The role of the U.N. and the NGOs

The Atlanta Statement (of NGOs and U.N. bodies)

The World Conference [on Human Rights] should reaffirm: the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of economic, social, and cultural rights, and civil and political rights.

Participants called for the establishment of the office of a Special Commissioner for Human Rights within the U.N., empowered to act promptly to prevent or check human rights violations, to coordinate human rights aspects of all U.N. programs. . . .

The Commission on Human Rights should . . . strengthen its capacity to deal with gross violations of human rights, including developing operational rules for independent fact-finding and on-site monitoring, [and] develop an effective emergency response mechanism. . . .

National, regional, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be recognized by governments, the U.N., and regional intergovernmental institutions as full partners in the field of human rights. Cooperation with NGOs in all aspects of human rights programs should be strengthened. NGOs should be guaranteed full access to international and regional human rights mechanisms . . .

Asia and the Pacific

Reiterating the interdependence and indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. . . .

While human rights are universal in nature, they must be considered in the context of a dynamic and evolving process of international norm-setting bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.

States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights through appropriate infrastructure and mechanisms, and also recognize that remedies must be sought and provided primarily through such mechanisms and procedures. . . .

Welcome the important role played by national institutions in the genuine and constructive promotion of human rights, and believe that the conceptualization and eventual establishment of such institutions are best left for the states to decide.

Acknowledge the importance of cooperation and dialogue between governments and non-governmental organizations on the basis of shared values as well as mutual respect and understanding.

Africa

No ready-made model can be prescribed at the universal level since the historical and cultural realities of each nation and the traditions, standards and values of each people cannot be disregarded.

The principle of the indivisibility of human rights is sacrosanct. Civil and political rights cannot be dissociated from economic, social and cultural rights. None of these rights takes precedence over the others.

Responsibility for the implementation and promotion of human rights devolves primarily on governments.

Latin America and the Caribbean

We reiterate that the World Conference on Human Rights should be based on the unconditional and indissoluble link between human rights, democracy and development.

We consider that an evaluation of the U.N. human rights system is needed in order to strengthen its capacity and that of the international community to protect, promote and defend human rights, to provide an effective and timely response to problems arising in this field and to remove obstacles to the full observance of human rights. . . .

We propose that the World Conference consider the possibility of asking the General Assembly to study the feasibility of establishing a U.N. Permanent Commissioner for Human Rights.

Source: From the documents prepared by regional groups of nations.

preparation for Vienna meeting

3) Supranational collective action	4) National sovereignty	5) Economic development
<p>[Establish] a body that authorizes sanctions in response to gross violations of human rights. The establishment of an International Penal Court to try gross violations of human rights is an important first step in this direction.</p> <p>Human rights should be an integrated element of all U.N. peacekeeping, conflict resolution, election monitoring, development programs, and other related activities. . . .</p>	<p>No comment.</p>	<p>No comment.</p>
<p>The promotion of human rights should be encouraged by cooperation and consensus, and not through confrontation and the imposition of incompatible values. . . .</p> <p>Discourage any attempt to use human rights as a conditionality for extending development assistance.</p>	<p>Emphasize the principles of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and the non-use of human rights as an instrument of political pressure.</p>	<p>Reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development has recognized the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. . . .</p> <p>Recognize that the main obstacles to the realization of the right to development lie at the international macroeconomic level. . . .</p> <p>Affirm that poverty is one of the major obstacles hindering the full enjoyment of human rights.</p>
<p>No comment.</p>	<p>Reaffirms the right of all peoples to self-determination, and free choice of their political and economic systems and institutions, on the basis of respect of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.</p>	<p>The right to development is inalienable. Human rights, development and international peace are interdependent. Lasting progress toward the implementation of human rights implies, at the national level, effective development policies and, at the international level, more equitable economic relations, as well as a favorable economic environment.</p>
<p>Avoid the use of pressures alien to the essential nature of such rights. . . .</p> <p>Such problems should not be used for political ends or as a condition for extending assistance or socio-economic cooperation. . . .</p> <p>We consider that a process of reflection is required on the consequences of interference on humanitarian grounds for the principles of self-determination of peoples and respect for the sovereignty of states, on the one hand, and respect for human rights, on the other. . . .</p>	<p>Full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states, and the sovereign equality and self-determination of peoples are the pillars of our regional system.</p>	<p>We emphasize that the right to development is an inalienable human right.</p>