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PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Forty-first session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PART (PUBLIC)\* OF THE 28th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 25 August 1989, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. YIMER

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\* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/SR.28/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- (a) RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD AS A HUMAN RIGHT
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- (c) HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTREME POVERTY
- (d) STRENGTHENING LEGAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- (e) THE ROLE AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

(agenda item 7) (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/16, 17 and 19;  
E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/NGO/6, 9 and 46; A/43/38; E/1988/15)

1. Mr. LAKSIRI (World University Service) said that by referring in his preliminary report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19), to the Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education (para. 74), Mr. Türk, had correctly identified education as an area in which further standard setting might be useful. It was generally accepted that education was crucial to the realization of human rights in general and economic, social and cultural rights in particular. However, article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which dealt with the right to education, was too general in nature and too limited in scope. Hence there was a need for further elaboration and precision of the minimum core standards in relation to the right to education. One important element which was currently missing was the right to academic freedom, which was not a privilege of a small élite but a human right especially relevant to the right to education. Education could not strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, unless and until the processes of education took place in an atmosphere of academic freedom and liberty.

2. Academic freedom was an area which demonstrated the interdependence between civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other. Academic freedom was a concept which combined the right to education with freedom of opinion and expression. He agreed with Mr. Türk on the need to explore the possibilities of developing a unified approach to human rights and believed that an in-depth study of the concept of academic freedom itself would reveal some of the tools needed for developing an integrated approach to human rights.

3. His organization had found that its efforts to defend and promote the human rights of academics, students, teachers and educational writers had been greatly hampered by the lack of international human rights standards in the field of education.

4. The Lima Declaration had been the culmination of efforts to bring to the attention of the international community the importance of the questions of academic freedom and autonomy of institutions of higher education in the field of human rights. Earlier efforts had included a University Charter proclaimed by Malaysian academics in 1978 with a view to safeguarding both academic

freedom and university autonomy; the Declaration of Rights and Duties Inherent in Academic Freedom adopted in 1982 by the International Association of University Professors and the Magna Carta of European Universities adopted by the Rectors of European Universities in September 1988. The Constitution of the Philippines adopted in 1987 had stated specifically that academic freedom would be enjoyed in all institutions of higher learning.

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had taken steps to promote academic freedom by defining the rights and duties of teachers, while various UNESCO conventions on scientific research had touched upon various aspects of academic freedom. Most of those efforts however were within the scope of trade union rights and/or professional duties. His organization's approach differed somewhat in that it looked at the problems of academic freedom from the point of view of human rights.

6. Further standard-setting in the area of education would require close co-operation between the Sub-Commission and UNESCO. The involvement of the Sub-Commission would be necessary to ensure an adequate human rights approach to the question of academic freedom and education. Such co-operation should also extend to non-governmental organizations which specialized in the area of education and human rights. He hoped that, in his further study, Mr. Türk would elaborate practical suggestions which would identify a core content of standards in the area of academic freedom.

7. Mr. LECKIE (Habitat International Coalition) said that his organization had been formed in 1976 following the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver; it currently represented over 200 non-governmental and community-based organizations from more than 55 countries, all working in various aspects of the housing sector. Currently it was involved in two international campaigns relevant to the work of the Sub-Commission, namely: an International Campaign Against Mass and Forced Evictions and an International Campaign for Housing Rights.

8. Although the right to adequate housing was stipulated in a number of international human rights instruments, that fundamental right had, in substantive terms, received very little detailed international attention. Over 1 billion persons throughout the world had yet to have their right to housing fulfilled; of those, over 100 million lived in conditions of absolute homelessness. According to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181, no State had solved all of its housing problems and thus no single country could claim to be in full compliance with its housing rights obligations towards its citizens.

9. The first and most crucial point that required attention was the phenomenon of mass and forced evictions which was a practice that occurred in all regions of the world. Evictions concerned the poorest sections of society and constituted the most grievous violation of housing rights. When evictions occurred, not only was the right to housing compromised but so also were various other rights, including the right to freedom of movement, the right to privacy, the right to livelihood and the right to life itself. Deaths directly attributable to evictions were not uncommon. Research conducted by his organization during fact-finding missions had revealed that eviction affected well over 100,000 persons throughout the world every year.

10. When the right to housing was not fully satisfied, many civil and political rights were also unattainable. The classic example was the right to vote which often could only be exercised if a person possessed a recognized address.

11. The right to adequate housing could not be realized, particularly in the developing world, unless the issue of land was addressed. Consideration should be given to the right to property or land in the context of the right to housing. Because of the central importance of land to housing rights, his organization was encouraged by the attention given to that issue in paragraph 50 of Mr. Türk's preliminary report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19).

12. Another component of the housing rights issue was the status of illegality frequently conferred on those inadequately housed. Such persons might inhabit houses built contrary to building codes and zoning laws; they might be living on illegal land plots; they might make their living in the unrecognized informal sector and might be working without permits; their children were often not formally registered at birth. There was no implication that those persons were criminals. It was a question of circumstance and a lack of viable legal options. Such options would be greeted with open arms if available. Until laws which forced millions of people into the margins of illegality were reformed, there was little chance that human rights or housing rights would mean anything to those persons and their communities.

13. The question arose as to what the right to housing really meant and how it should be interpreted. One possible approach might be based on eight criteria, namely: security of tenure; affordability without deprivations of other basic needs; accessibility in terms of access to basic infrastructure, finance on reasonable terms, social services, water sanitation facilities, refuse disposal and access to transport, to information of a technical nature, to building materials and to land at affordable and safe locations; habitability in the form of protection for the physical safety of the inhabitants; control and participation through community-based organizations which represented their interests; freedom of choice as to where and how they wanted to live; non-discrimination in the form of the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race, ethnic origin, gender, age, social status, sexual orientation, physical disability, medical status (particularly in the case of AIDS), political or religious beliefs, class or any other grounds; and legal protection in that people must have access to judicial or other legal remedies and legal aid if their housing rights were infringed.

14. In conclusion, he wished to express his support for the point made by the Special Rapporteur in paragraph 73 of his report to the effect that the rights relating to housing remained without clear indication as to their substance, and that there was a need to develop clearer standards in that area.

15. Mr. EYA-NHCAMA (International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples) expressed the view that the most fundamental right was that of self-determination, which had been proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and that priority must continue to be given to that issue before the three questions raised by Mr. Türk in paragraph 15 of his report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19) could be addressed.

16. The right of peoples to self-determination had unfortunately been explored only superficially and no consideration had been given to two other aspects which his organization regarded as very important. Those were internal self-determination and personal self-determination. In his view, only in a country which respected the right to self-determination of peoples in all three aspects could economic, social and cultural rights be realized.

17. His organization did not favour the concept of hierarchization of human rights. Nevertheless, if such a hierarchy had to be established, it should be headed by the right to the self-determination of peoples in its three aspects. In that connection, it should be borne in mind that there were two types of States, namely, sovereign and non-sovereign; the latter were in effect subsidiary States resulting from neo-colonialism.

18. In connection with Chapter III, Section B, relating to the impact of activities of the international financial institutions on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, it was an unfortunate fact that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and UNDP had proved to be the international institutions which had done the most to isolate human rights and fundamental freedoms. He recalled that less than five years' earlier, violations of human rights in countries where development projects were being undertaken could not be mentioned at meetings of those institutions. The result had been that more economic assistance had been given to countries violating human rights where funds were diverted to individuals and were not therefore employed for the development of their own countries.

19. The only way in which the economic, social and cultural rights could be realized everywhere must be through continuing co-ordination between the international human rights agencies and the international financial institutions.

20. It was a curious fact that the agencies of the United Nations system were sending two contradictory messages to the peoples of the world. The first proclaimed the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while the other conferred benefits on States which violated those same rights. The case of Chile illustrated that point.

21. In his view, the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights required that priority should be given to the endogenous development of peoples based on the wishes and inherent common sense of the peoples themselves. Endogenous development would put an end to the alienation of peoples. The basis of endogenous development was the right to the self-determination of peoples.

22. Mr. ODLEY (British Rommani Union) said that his purpose in addressing the Sub-Commission was to plead for help in obtaining for his people those basic liberties which were the birthrights of all mankind.

23. One and a half million Roma people had perished in the holocaust. The genocide continued in more subtle forms and States which had approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights denied the birthright of the Roma. He had been advised that it was not acceptable to identify those nations, but such censorship merely served to highlight the hypocrisy and deceit behind the proclaimed support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

24. Until recently the language of his people had been of an oral nature, lacking a written form. That point was of prime importance for it established as fact that the writing of Roma history had been done by others; his people, therefore, could not be accused of fabricating the many atrocities which had been perpetuated against them.

25. The land of origin of the Roma had been in the north-western part of the Indian sub-continent, as had been clearly acknowledged by the Indian Government. His people's history was one of slavery and persecution, ranging from the time of their arrival in Europe, 500 years earlier, until the present day. Over the centuries, his people had been arrested, convicted and sentenced to severe punishment, including death which was often preferable to the separation from family caused by long terms of imprisonment or transportation to newly settled countries. Given the penal codes of that earlier age, such punishments might not appear unjust until it was made clear that the nature of the crimes of which the gipsies had been found guilty, could range from such deadly crimes as speaking in their own language to having been born a gipsy. His people had seldom been judged on their input to society but had been regarded as being less than human. The traditional gipsy sense of values was based upon merely taking from nature only that which was actually needed for the day; that attitude contrasted strongly with the general non-Rommani philosophy.

26. It would seem that the gipsy filled the role of scapegoat. On the one hand he was confronted by the demand of the State that he should settle, yet he was generally denied legal freedom to do so and was certainly never assisted to settle in a style of his own choosing. The role of scapegoat had been shared, at a lesser level, by other minority groups such as the Jews. Other sufferers could however normally rely on an existing home State to act on their behalf but the Roma had no valid claim to any particular land areas for they were truly a nation of the world. Indeed they wanted no particular national State.

27. The Roma offered no collective support to any political group or religious doctrine and were beholden to show tolerance towards others by their ancient culture. He urged however that his people be afforded consideration as a people among the peoples of the world for they regarded any and all lands as their home. They had no wish to be represented by self-styled gipsy experts of non-gipsy origin, many of whom were simply members of the gipsy industry, seeking either personal profit or political benefit from exploiting their suffering.

28. What his people did demand were those basic human rights that were contained in the Universal Declaration which, for the Rommani people, might be expressed as the right to live in freedom and dignity as a nation among nations.

29. Mr. MAYORAL (Observer for Argentina) said that the item under consideration was of topical importance for his country. An event of major importance had just taken place in Argentina in that a democratically elected Government had been succeeded by another Government which had also been elected by popular vote freely expressed in exemplary elections. That new demonstration of democratic faith and support for representative institutions and individual human rights was an event which happily was not confined only to his own country. Indeed, the majority of the Latin American nations were

engaged in similar processes and various Governments were being replaced by others in a democratic manner. The important point was that, after years of authoritarian rule, dictatorship and illegitimate Governments, the continent finally seemed to have found the path of peace and respect for fundamental human rights. Such a demonstration of democratic faith throughout the region was a further contribution to the process of universal détente which was clearly evident in other international fields.

30. The importance of the new situation should not be overlooked and it was essential to support the new affirmation of democratic values through economic growth and development. As had been pointed out in the report by Mr. Türk (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19) "without exercise of one's liberties, socio-economic security was not assured" (para. 46). The recovery of democratic institutions alone was not sufficient to resolve the basic problems of underdevelopment from which large groups of the Latin American population suffered. Unfortunately the new era through which those countries were passing coincided with the external debt crisis so that the States of the region had been obliged to sacrifice the resources they needed for development and to use them for the payment of interest, thus delaying the prospects for development and the equitable distribution of wealth.

31. The right of everyone, regardless of race, religion or sex, to material well-being and spiritual development, and to economic security and equality of opportunity, had been proclaimed by the International Labour Organization in 1944 and was also established in articles XI to XIX of the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man and articles 22 to 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Today, however, in 1989, there was talk of differentiating between human rights and there was a tendency - consciously or unconsciously - to place civil and political rights above economic, social and cultural rights. His delegation entirely agreed with the views expressed by Mr. Türk in his report concerning the hierarchization of the two categories of human rights and also agreed that both were essential for human dignity.

32. It was time for action. The era of change which had already started could not be consolidated without a new system of international co-operation. All, without distinction, must help in achieving that objective, as the Latin American countries and the developing countries in other parts of the world were doing despite the immense difficulties they faced.

33. The President of Argentina, Dr. Carlos Menem, speaking recently before the Brazilian Congress, had said that the Latin American countries were facing the most serious financial crisis in their history and the external debt problem was endangering social peace and democratic stability. All efforts, including those of the Sub-Commission and the Commission on Human Rights, would be in vain unless they were supported by the firm political will of the advanced countries and by the joint action of all the agencies in the United Nations system.

34. The agencies of the United Nations system which had been set up to deal with financial and commercial questions had an important role because they understood the causes of the current crisis and the economic solutions that were needed. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the specialized agencies must take joint



action, bearing in mind the technical possibilities of heavily indebted countries, as well as the ideas put forward by other organizations in the United Nations system, with a view to defending the human, economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights which were at times - as was currently the case in Latin America - endangered by the application of harsh measures that took no account of the social conditions in which they were applied. The vast majority of Latin American countries shared a vision of the future, with man and human dignity as the focal point for action by any Government.

35. He supported the work of the Special Rapporteur and his preliminary report and urged that he should continue with his task.

36. Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Observer for Venezuela) supported the proposals of the Special Rapporteur and his emphasis on the problems of poverty and structural adjustment. He agreed with the view expressed in the report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19) concerning the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. The realization of economic, social and cultural rights, however, were inseparably linked to the availability of resources, and there was a growing shortage of resources even to meet the basic needs of the people - especially in the heavily indebted countries whose resources were drained away by debt-servicing.

37. The only way to halt individual poverty was to halt the impoverishment of countries, but that would call for international effort. As the Special Rapporteur had said, implementation of economic, social and cultural rights depended largely on international co-operation. That must not be looked upon as international charity but rather as recognition of the growing interdependence in the world and was linked with article 4 (1) of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

38. Regarding the suggestion in paragraph 68 of the report he assumed that the Special Rapporteur had in mind activities directed to realization of the right to development and that in referring to the specialized agencies he had in mind those concerned with economic matters. He suggested that the first step might be a resolution by the General Assembly requesting the specialized agencies, when drawing up their programmes, to keep in mind the Declaration on the Right to Development and urging them to make every effort to contribute to its implementation. Such a resolution should also request those agencies to report to the General Assembly and, through it, the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission, of the measures they had taken to that end. The International Covenants on Human Rights imposed obligations on the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system as well as on States parties.

39. He noted with approval the priority assigned by the Special Rapporteur to a more thorough study of the impact of activities of the international financial institutions on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. That was in conformity with the decision by the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1989/15 to include on the agenda of its forty-sixth session a separate item entitled "Foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development". That resolution had been initiated by Venezuela and sponsored by a group of mainly Latin American countries.

40. He found the preliminary analysis of the relationship between the functions of the International Monetary Fund and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights very interesting and fully agreed with the preliminary conclusion in paragraph 82 of the report to the effect that a certain degree of concern of IMF for the human rights impact of policies sponsored by it should be considered legitimate under the provisions of article I of the Articles of Agreement defining the purposes of the Fund. He also agreed with the comment in paragraph 84 to the effect that it was becoming clearer than ever that application of short-term IMF formulas was giving rise to serious problems in a number of developing countries, and that possibilities for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights were thus in many cases adversely affected. He noted that in paragraph 85 the Special Rapporteur had cited the case of Venezuela as an example and had quoted from the letter from the President of Venezuela to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

41. Unquestionably, the United Nations human rights bodies had an important contribution to make in that context and he considered that the suggestion in paragraph 92 (c) concerning an exchange of views with IMF and the World Bank should be regarded as a recommendation for immediate action. As far as paragraph 92 (d) was concerned, the heavily indebted countries would, of course, continue to co-operate with the Sub-Commission on their efforts to realize the economic, social and cultural rights of their citizens despite their limited resources and other difficulties.

42. Lastly, he hoped that the Sub-Commission would support the proposal in paragraph 94 (g) for the question of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights to be placed on the agenda as a separate item.

43. Mr. STIGLICH (Observer for Peru) said that one of the most important elements of the report by Mr. Türk (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19) was the unified approach to human rights; hence the recognition of the indivisibility of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, without any hierarchization. Once that basic principle was accepted, the problem was how to achieve a unified realization of those rights.

44. As the Special Rapporteur had pointed out, the realization of economic, social and cultural rights nowadays had to face two immediate obstacles: extreme poverty and structural adjustment. The first obstacle was common to all types of society and the question was whether the United Nations human rights bodies would be able to make a useful contribution to national efforts to achieve the social change essential to resolve the problem of poverty.

45. The second obstacle, on which his delegation had spoken at length at the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, had two essential features, namely the policies of the international financial system, firmly supported by the largest industrialized countries, and the fact that their policies were applied systematically country-by-country, on a cost-benefit basis.

46. A number of important publications had appeared in the past two years on the effects of those policies, particularly on economic growth, on recession and on the poorest. Those issues directly affected the right to development

and the conditions at the root of violation or protection of human rights in general. In that connection he referred to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report entitled Adjustment with a Human Face.

47. Latin America had transferred \$190 billion to the industrialized world between 1982 and 1987, but received only \$40 billion of external financing. Yet international strategies all prescribed that the developing countries should be receivers of finance and not exporters of capital. The outflow of capital restricted their right to development, deprived the countries of the region of resources vital for their social and development programmes and the failure to implement those programmes increased poverty and jeopardized fundamental human rights. Fifty million people died each year from hunger, including 30 million children under the age of five. More than 1.2 billion people were undernourished, billions had no access to health services or drinking water, 800 million were illiterate and 300 million unemployed.

48. The report stated that international co-operation for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights was by its nature closely linked to the work of the principal specialized agencies, notably ILO, FAO, WHO and UNESCO (para. 65). It also stated that it would be useful to study the effects of the policies and practices of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. He supported the idea that those two institutions, when formulating their adjustment programmes, should study the measures needed to mitigate the adverse effects of those programmes on the most vulnerable countries and on human rights. In that connection he drew attention to resolution 1989/15, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session, which had been sponsored by a group of Latin American countries, including Peru. He also suggested that the report of the Special Rapporteur, the UNICEF report entitled Adjustment with a Human Face and the results of the global consultations on the realization of the right of development to be held in December 1989 should be issued as basic documents when the Commission took up the new agenda item.

49. He welcomed the Special Rapporteur's suggestion that the Governments of the heavily indebted countries facing difficulties as a result of the adjustment process should report to the Sub-Commission or the Commission on their practical experience in implementing adjustment policies and their effects on the effective enjoyment of human rights.

50. Ms. ANSBACH (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) said that she agreed with the priorities suggested and summarized in Chapter IV of the preliminary report by Mr. Türk (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19).

51. An important problem dealt with in the report was the co-operation of United Nations bodies with specialized agencies in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. Hitherto, she had had the impression that when those rights were discussed there was a tendency to discontinue the debate and refer those matters to the competence of the specialized agencies - as in the case of the study by Mr. Varela Quirós on AIDS under agenda item 4. In its resolution 1989/11, the Commission on Human Rights invited the Sub-Commission to examine the possibility of studying various kinds of discrimination against sick and disabled persons; that problem, too, had been left to the World Health Organization experts, despite the fact that the human rights experts

were represented in the Sub-Commission as well as in other United Nations human rights bodies, but not in WHO. She considered that co-operation between United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as proposed in paragraph 66 of the Special Rapporteur's report and recommended in Commission resolution 1989/11, was badly needed.

52. The preliminary report had the merit of making it clear that all human rights were interdependent and indivisible. She agreed with the statement in paragraph 20 concerning the need for State action in the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, and supported Mr. van Boven's remarks on that paragraph.

53. Although it was generally recognized nowadays that all human rights were equal in value and mutually interdependent, that was still not adequately reflected in the agendas of United Nations human rights bodies. She was confident that the Special Rapporteur's report would be a major step towards remedying that situation.

54. Further strides would have to be made on standard setting and the struggle against violations. The Commission had already decided, in its resolution 5 (XXXIII), that it "Should study violations of economic, social and cultural rights", and the German Democratic Republic considered it important to deal with such violations under agenda item 6.

55. Mr. APPARICIO da SILVA (Observer for Brazil) said that the issues involved in the item under consideration were of concern to the whole international community. The negative, persistent and widespread trends in the international economic scene in the past decade had made it harder for many countries to further the promotion of human rights. Inequalities between nations were increasing and the vast majority of mankind remained in poverty. While there were increasing prospects of progress and prosperity for the most industrialized nations, only sacrifice and frustration were offered to the rest of the international community.

56. Developing countries - and Latin America in particular - had become the victims of dramatic economic problems of a global nature whose solution required collective mobilization and negotiation involving the entire international community. He had in mind primarily the problem of foreign debt. Since the late 1970s indebted developing countries, such as Brazil, had suffered a painful process of rising debt servicing and transfer of resources abroad accompanied by severe austerity measures. The lack of resources, and international pressure, made it increasingly difficult for debtor countries to guarantee better living conditions and hence the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. That created a climate of social tension which could ultimately jeopardize the establishment and consolidation of democratic institutions and the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

57. The Special Rapporteur's report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19) shared many of Brazil's concerns regarding the developing countries' difficulty in ensuring the realization of human rights in the light of recent trends in the international economic scene. Brazil supported the idea of including that problem of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights as a new and separate item on the Sub-Commission's agenda.

58. His delegation agreed with the conclusions and recommendations in the report, and in particular that the effects of structural adjustment policies on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights should be given special attention in the next stages of the Special Rapporteur's study.

59. Mr. TÜRK (Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission) said that he was gratified by the wealth of thought that had gone into the debate and felt that the Sub-Commission had embarked on a genuine substantive discussion and dialogue on a subject that had hitherto received little attention.

60. In reply to Mr. Khalifa, who had asked whether he foresaw the possibility of the study becoming a long-term exercise, he said that he could indeed envisage the possibility of producing a few progress reports on specific aspects of questions raised, before drafting the final report, and that in the process the Sub-Commission might decide to refer particular questions to other experts for a more thorough study. The Sub-Commission was agreed that the whole area of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights deserved more attention and, as it proceeded, it might decide to study particular aspects in a particular way.

61. He had noted with satisfaction that most speakers supported his suggestion that the question of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights should be discussed as a separate agenda item, possibly annually instead of biennially. He would undertake further informal consultations on the subject during the preparation of a draft resolution. The related item on a new international economic order could be discussed in two years' time without any ill effects.

62. He appreciated the constructive spirit of the debate and found it encouraging that the Sub-Commission was virtually in complete agreement on the issues raised in the preliminary report.

The public meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.