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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 17

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Algeria*, China, Cuba, Egypt*, India,
Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*,
Malaysia*: draft resolution

1999/.. Human rights and responsibilities

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing in particular the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction,

Inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and the commitment to promote its effective recognition and observance by progressive measures, national and international,

Noting the Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities proposed by the InterAction Council and the report on the conclusions and recommendations of the High-level Expert Group Meeting held in Vienna from 20 to 22 April 1997,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Conscious of the increasingly important role of economic and other non-governmental actors and their responsibilities in the field of human rights,

Mindful that to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and complement the existing obligations of States to ensure that human rights are respected, the issue of basic responsibilities of relevant non-governmental actors should be addressed,

Recognizing that the notion of duties and responsibilities is necessary to ensure international solidarity, which is particularly needed in today's global world,

1. Affirms that human rights and duties and responsibilities are mutually reinforcing and that they coincide in their convergent focus on the dignity of individuals and peoples, and that addressing the notion of responsibilities should in no way impede the promotion of human rights but rather enhance their protection;

2. Recognizes the urgent need to give practical effect to article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, according to which "Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible";

3. Stresses the need to consider a comprehensive approach to human duties and responsibilities which are currently dealt with in a sporadic manner in the various human rights instruments;

4. Decides to request the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to prepare a study, in consultation with Governments and relevant non-governmental actors, on the subject of human duties and responsibilities based on the existing international instruments and standards, with a view to considering the appropriateness of preparing a declaration on human duties and responsibilities;

5. Decides to continue consideration of this subject at its fifty-sixth session.
