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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Preparatory Committee  
Fourth session  
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF PREPARATION OF PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES  
AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Contribution submitted by the fourth meeting of persons chairing the  
human rights treaty bodies

The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to the attached recommendations submitted by the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies which met in Geneva from 12 to 16 October 1992. These recommendations to the World Conference on Human Rights have been extracted from chapter IV entitled "Conclusions and recommendations" of the report of the fourth meeting submitted to the General Assembly (A/47/628).

World Conference on Human Rights

77. In relation to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, the chairpersons consider that the representatives of the treaty bodies have not so far been accorded an adequate, or appropriate, opportunity to contribute to, and participate in, the discussions. In view of the central position of the treaty bodies within the overall United Nations human rights system, this situation is a matter of serious concern. Moreover, it completely contradicts the pertinent recommendation made by the last meeting of chairpersons and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. The chairpersons therefore recommend that, at all future meetings as well as at the Conference itself, provision should be made for the full participation of the treaty body representatives to enable advantage to be taken of their expert input. In order to achieve this objective fully, and in recognition of the fact that the treaty bodies are an integral part of the United Nations human rights system, the General Assembly should recommend that the group of chairpersons be constituted as a special advisory body to the World Conference.

78. The chairpersons are also concerned that discussions concerning the agenda for the World Conference have so inadequately reflected the priority accorded to issues relating to the treaty bodies as stated in paragraphs 1 (c) to (e) of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990. It is therefore recommended that efforts be made to ensure that sustained consideration be given to those issues in the agenda. Moreover, the chairpersons recommend that a special working group be established at the World Conference to examine issues relevant to the implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments, to formulate concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of United Nations mechanisms aimed at promoting, encouraging and monitoring respect for human rights, and to review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained herein.

79. Regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference should also involve representatives of the treaty bodies and consideration should similarly be given to working groups examining the issues described in the preceding paragraph.

80. The chairpersons recommend that consideration be given to the holding of a meeting, within the framework of the World Conference, of the persons chairing the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and those chairing (or holding an equivalent position on) each of the principal regional and other human rights organizations, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Commission on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of ILO and the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

81. The chairpersons recommend that the General Assembly request that an updated version of the independent expert's study on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective treaty bodies (A/44/668), the preparation of which was originally requested by General Assembly resolution 43/115 of 8 December 1988, be submitted to the World Conference on Human Rights.

82. The secretariat should include one or more members of the treaty bodies within the group of persons who will be reviewing the content of the "prototype" studies to be submitted to the World Conference.