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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 14

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:

MASS EXODUSES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Afghanistan*, Albania*, Australia*, Austria*, Azerbaijan*, Belgium*,
Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Botswana, Bulgaria*, Canada, Cyprus*,
Denmark*, Ethiopia*, Finland*, Georgia*, Germany, Greece*,
Hungary*, Iceland*, Ireland*, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania*,
Luxembourg, Malta*, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea,
Slovakia*, South Africa*, Spain, Sweden*, Switzerland*, Thailand*,
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay*: draft resolution

2000/... Internally displaced persons

The Commission on Human Rights,

Deeply disturbed by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenge this is creating for the international community,

* 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 human rights and humanitarian dimensions of the problem of internally displaced persons and the responsibilities this poses for States and the international community to explore methods and means better to address their protection and assistance needs,

Recalling the relevant norms of international human rights instruments, international humanitarian law and refugee law, and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific rights for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 1999/47 of 27 April 1999, and General Assembly resolution 54/167 of 17 December 1999, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement,

Recalling further that the Economic and Social Council in its agreed conclusions 1998/2 of 28 July 1998 on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action commended the efforts of the Representative of the Secretary-General to promote a comprehensive strategy that focuses on prevention, as well as better protection, assistance and development for internally displaced persons,

Recalling in particular Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1998/1 of 17 July 1998 on special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, in which the Council noted with satisfaction the designation of the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the focal point for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and also noted the adoption by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1999/1 of 23 July 1999 on special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, in which the Council called on all States to apply international norms with regard to internally displaced persons, called for further strengthening and coordinating of international efforts for those persons and welcomed the efforts of the Representative of the Secretary-General for internally displaced persons, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in this regard,

Noting the growing interest of the international community in the issue of internally displaced persons and the decision of the Economic and Social Council to address this issue in the context of the humanitarian segment at its substantive session in 2000,

Noting also the recommendations concerning internally displaced persons contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/1999/957),

Recalling the statement by the President of the the Security Council of 13 January 2000 (S/PRST/2000/1) which emphasized that national authorities have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction,

Deploing practices of forced displacement, in particular “ethnic cleansing” and forced relocations, and the negative impact they constitute for the enjoyment of fundamental human rights by large groups of populations,

Noting the work of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in developing a legal framework, in particular the compilation and analysis of legal norms and the development of guiding principles; analysing institutional arrangements; undertaking dialogue with Governments; and issuing a series of reports on particular country situations together with proposals for remedial measures,

Welcoming the cooperation established between the Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations as well as other international and regional organizations, in particular the participation of the Representative in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better assistance, protection and development strategies for internally displaced persons,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (E/CN.4/2000/83 and Add.1-3);
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Representative of the Secretary-General for the activities undertaken so far, despite the limited resources available to him, and for the catalytic role he continues to play to raise the level of consciousness about the plight of internally displaced persons;
3. Also expresses its appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have provided assistance and protection to internally displaced persons and have supported the work of the Representative of the Secretary-General;

4. Commends the Representative of the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote a comprehensive strategy that focuses on prevention, as well as better protection, assistance and development for internally displaced persons;

5. Encourages the Representative of the Secretary-General through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue his analysis of the causes of internal displacement, the needs of those displaced, measures of prevention and ways to strengthen protection, assistance and solutions for the internally displaced, taking into account specific situations;

6. Welcomes the fact that the Representative of the Secretary-General has made use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in his dialogue with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and requests him to continue his efforts in that regard;

7. Notes with appreciation that United Nations agencies, regional and non-governmental organizations are making use of the Guiding Principles in their work, encourages the further dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles, expresses its appreciation for the dissemination and promotion of the Guiding Principles at regional and other seminars on displacement and encourages the Representative to continue to initiate or support such seminars in consultation with regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

8. Welcomes the specific attention paid by the Representative of the Secretary-General to the special assistance, protection and development needs of internally displaced women and children and his commitment to pay more systematic and in-depth attention to the specific needs of women and children and to the strategies for addressing such concerns, and welcomes in this regard the Expert Meeting on Gender Dimensions of Internal Displacement hosted by the United Nations Children's Fund in June 1999 and the paper on the same subject presented to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

9. Thanks Governments which have invited the Representative of the Secretary-General to visit their countries and encourages them to follow up on his recommendations and suggestions and to make available information on measures taken thereon;

10. Calls upon all Governments to facilitate the activities of the Representative of the Secretary-General, in particular those Governments with situations of internal displacement which have not yet extended invitations or responded positively to requests for information from the Representative;

11. Also calls upon Governments to provide, and to facilitate the efforts of relevant United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, including by further improving access to internally displaced persons;

12. Stresses the need for appropriate follow-up to the recommendations of the Representative by Governments as well as by the relevant parts of the United Nations system in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, including at the country level;

13. Stresses the need to further strengthen inter-agency arrangements for providing assistance and protection to internally displaced persons that are predictable, characterized by accountability within the United Nations system, universal in their application and equipped to meet the immense humanitarian challenge, and calls upon States to provide adequate resources for programmes to assist and protect internally displaced persons;

14. Welcomes the development of frameworks of cooperation to address the needs of internally displaced persons, in particular the designation of the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the focal point for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, the appointment of an adviser on internally displaced persons within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the designation of focal points on internally displaced persons within some of the other international organizations, and encourages the Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Committee of the Red Cross and all other relevant humanitarian assistance and development organizations, including non-governmental organizations, further to enhance their collaboration;

15. Also welcomes the ongoing review of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its members of their policies and programmes concerning internally displaced persons, including through the adoption of a policy paper on the protection of internally displaced persons, the

“Handbook for Applying the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement”, the “Manual on Field Practice in Internal Displacement” and the “Supplementary Guidance to Humanitarian/Resident Coordinators on their Responsibilities in Relation to Internally Displaced Persons”, underlines the need for these organizations to strengthen their capacities and policies in addressing internal displacement and urges stronger collaborative arrangements both at headquarters and in the field in order to close remaining gaps relating to protection, assistance and solutions for internally displaced persons;

16. Notes with appreciation the increased attention paid to internally displaced persons in the consolidated inter-agency appeals process and encourages further efforts to improve the integration of internal displacement in consolidated appeals;

17. Welcomes the establishment of the global internally displaced persons database, as advocated by the Representative of the Secretary-General, and encourages the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and Governments to continue to collaborate on and support this effort, including by providing financial resources;

18. Also welcomes the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to address the assistance, protection and development needs of internally displaced persons and encourages them and other regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Representative of the Secretary-General;

19. Further welcomes the attention paid by relevant special rapporteurs, working groups, experts and treaty bodies to issues of internal displacement, and calls upon them to continue to seek information on situations which have already created or could create internal displacement and to include relevant information and recommendations thereon in their reports and make them available to the Representative of the Secretary-General;

20. Calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop projects, in cooperation with Governments, relevant international organizations and the Representative of the Secretary-General, to promote the human rights of internally displaced persons, as part of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation, and to include in her report to the Commission information on their implementation;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to disseminate resolution 1998/26 of 26 August 1998 of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on housing and property restitution in the context of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to provide his Representative, from within existing resources, with all necessary assistance to carry out his mandate effectively, and encourages the Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to seek the contribution of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to put the work of the Representative on a more stable basis;

23 Requests the Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to report on his activities, including in the framework of the United Nations system, to the General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights;

24. Decides to continue its consideration of the question of internal displacement at its fifty-seventh session.
