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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 19

**ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group): draft resolution

2005/... Assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Sierra Leone as well as relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Welcoming the essential work being carried out by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including the establishment of a second trial chamber, to address justice and impunity, and welcoming also the publication of the final report and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission aimed at promoting reconciliation and national healing, and looking forward to the Government White Paper on the report,

Expressing concern at increasing reports of child trafficking, including external trafficking involving the moving of orphans outside of Sierra Leone,

Expressing concern also at the plight of amputees and other mutilated victims of the armed conflict,

Recognizing the importance of good governance and transparency in the promotion of human rights,

Recognizing also the importance of technical cooperation, advisory services and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights, which will contribute to peace, stability and sustainable development in Sierra Leone,

1. *Welcomes:*

(a) The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2005/113), including her conclusion that the reporting period had witnessed a continuing consolidation of progress in the field of political and civil rights in Sierra Leone, but noting however her conclusion that this progress remains at risk due to shortcomings in the area of economic, social and cultural rights; the report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly (A/59/340), and the twenty-third and twenty-fourth reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2004/724 and S/2004/969) including the work of the Mission's Human Rights Section;

(b) The ongoing work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to bring to justice those persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996;

(c) The enactment in July 2004 of legislation establishing the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the presentation to Parliament of bills for an Anti-Human Trafficking Act and a Child Rights Act, and the production by the Law Reform Commission of a draft bill on sexual offences;

(d) The activities undertaken by United Nations agencies, the National Commission for Social Action and non-governmental and other organizations to facilitate transition from relief to reconciliation, recovery and sustainable peace and development, including realization of the rights to food, education and adequate standard of health;

2. *Urges* the Government of Sierra Leone:

(a) To continue to promote and protect human rights in Sierra Leone, inter alia through the early constitution and effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, further strengthening of its judicial system as well as continued efforts to promote good governance and transparency, and to continue to work closely with and strengthen its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) To continue to give priority attention, in cooperation with the international community, to programmes aimed at addressing the plight and special needs of all mutilated victims and their dependants, and of women and children in its care, in particular those sexually abused and gravely traumatized;

(c) To continue to facilitate, in cooperation with the international community, the effective functioning of the National Commission for War-Affected Children;

3. *Decides*:

(a) To request the international community to continue its support and provide technical assistance to the judicial system in Sierra Leone, including the juvenile justice system; to assist in the early constitution and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone; and to support the Government of Sierra Leone in seeking durable solutions to the scourge of international trafficking of persons, particularly children, orphans and juveniles;

(b) To request the High Commissioner and the international community to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in strengthening its capacity to continue to undertake, as a matter of urgency, the review, revision and updating of national legislation, in particular those areas of legislation that affect women, children and other vulnerable segments of society, and to continue

to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in disseminating the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and encourage timely publication of the Government White Paper and the implementation of the Commission's recommendations;

(c) To request the High Commissioner and the international community to continue to work closely with national protection institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission for Democracy and the civil society group the National Forum on Human Rights, in monitoring the promotion and protection of human rights;

(d) To request the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue to give full consideration to the maintenance of a United Nations human rights field presence when the activities of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone are completed;

(e) To urge all States to consider making pledges or to submit their outstanding pledged funds to meet the budget of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to support requests by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly to consider further subvention for the functioning of the Special Court from the regular budget of the United Nations, and urges all States to cooperate fully with the Special Court;

(f) To request the High Commissioner to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session and to the Commission at its sixty-second session on assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights, including with reference to the Human Rights Section of the Mission;

(g) To consider this question at its sixty-second session.
