

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1298/Add.4
22 November 1979

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-sixth session
Item 23 of the provisional agenda

RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL, ETHNIC,
RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Comments received from Governments pursuant to
Commission resolution 14 A (XXXIV)

Addendum

MOROCCO

[Original: FRENCH]

[20 November 1979]

The competent Moroccan authorities have numerous reservations concerning the draft Declaration proposed by Yugoslavia on this question.

While Morocco fully subscribes to the view that it is necessary to draw up an international declaration on the individual rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, it does not agree that such a draft declaration should relate to ethnic, religious or cultural groupings which, even in the case of States containing heterogeneous elements, may nevertheless be described as national minorities.

This comment is particularly relevant in the case of States such as Morocco, where the National Community consists of the Moroccan people who profess the Islamic faith and belong to the great Arab community.

In Morocco, the only distinction which might be made concerns the Jewish community, which, while maintaining its attachment to Judaism, nevertheless claims to form a part of the national community.

As far as aliens resident in the country are concerned, it is obvious that they may freely exercise their national rights, the only constraint being the respect due to the institutions of the country which has allowed them to reside in its territory.

Consequently, the Moroccan Government deems it unacceptable to refer to the rights of groupings, instead of to the individual rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities.

It therefore believes that it would be dangerous to emphasize the differences between national groups and others, instead of endeavouring to harmonize relations between them and it considers that care should be taken not to misinterpret the principle of the protection of minorities, as this could undermine the national unity of States.

Morocco accordingly reserves its position on the above-mentioned draft Declaration pending the submission, for consideration by Member States, of a new and more suitable draft text that will take the above-mentioned objectives into account.