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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION
OF MINORITIES
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Agenda item 5

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE MATTER OF POLITICAL RIGHTS

(Statement by the International Humanist and Ethical Union)

1. The International Humanist and Ethical Union, deeply impressed with the general principles as drawn by the Special Rapporteur for the study of discrimination in the matter of political rights, will do everything within its power to disseminate the information contained in the report. As an international organization gathering its motivation from the affirmation of the dignity of man and the right of the individual to the greatest possible freedom of development compatible with the rights of others, and having as one of its aims the building of a world with free persons responsible to society, the Union would be in a position to help in the dissemination of these principles.
2. The Union believes that each affiliate of organizations supporting the study should undertake to circulate the principles to schools, public and private, in their respective countries, as well as to community organizations and other local groups. It feels that if this material is presented to individuals in schools and in non-governmental organizations and is disseminated informally by participating individuals, it will receive greater attention. This direct method of reaching people can supplement the efforts of Governments and give a more comprehensive understanding of the meaning of the principles to the individual citizen. This process may be a means of facilitating a comprehension by peoples of the varying interpretations that Governments will give to the principles. This understanding can only lead to more harmonious relations between peoples.
