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Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

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AGENDA ITEM 96: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM YOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES MD WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/44/118, A/44/119, A/44/158 and Add.11 A/44/409-5/20743 and Corr.1 and 2; A/44/525, A/44/551, A/44/660 and Add.1, A/44/696)

1. Mr. STUART (Australia) emphasised the importance of the item under consideration, because it provided an opportunity to review the relevance and effectiveness of the United Nations human rights programme. That programme, which had been a success for the Organization, deserved more publicity than it had received, He hoped that knowledge of United Nations activities in that area, of the human rights standards accepted by Governments, and of the remedies available to victims of human rights violations would greatly improve as a result of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights launched in 1989. The United Nations could play a more effective role in protecting and promoting human rights. One area that required improvement was that relating to decisions about inspections in individual countries, which should be based on the gravity of the situation and not on political considerations. During the debate in the General Assembly, his delegation had listened with interest to various suggestions, such as the suggestion that the Commission on Human Rights should be convened whenever grave emergencies arose.

2. Knowledge of one's own rights was indispensable for the effective enjoyment and protection of those rights. While in recent years there had been an improvement in the quality of the material produced for public information purposes, the impact of that material would be reduced if it did not reach the audience in need of the message. Major United Nations human rights instruments had yet to be translated into all the official languages, let alone into other languages. His delegation believed that the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technic-l Assistance in the Field of Human Rights should be used for that purpose. However, it was not in itself sufficient to translate the covenants, conventions and declarations; they must also be made available to the audience targeted, and to that end the help of international governmental and non-governmental organisations should be sought. A more active role for United Nations information centres should also be considered. It was not sufficient to have piles of documents on the shelves: the information centres should be required to seek opportunities to disseminate such materials to schools, social and recreational institutions and the mass media. Lastly, the use of audio-visual means of disseminating information on the United Nations human rights programme should be encouraged. Greater contact between the Centre for Human Rights and those who prepared United Nations radio programmes would be helpful in reflecting the Organisation's activities more effectively.

3. Education was an indispensable element of public information. Increased contact between the Centre in Geneva and the Division of Human Rights and Peace of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was a step forward, particularly with regard to the inclusion of basic information on human rights in educational curricula, The Centre had published a particularly

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(Mr. Stuart, Australia)

useful teaching booklet on human rights, In promoting International Literacy Year, UNESCO should consider the possibility of combining increased literacy with broader knowledge of the full range of human rights recognised by the United Nations.

4. Australia understood that the World Campaign was a mechanism to promote the human rights programme, and not simply a new nsme for that programme. The reports should contain an evaluation of the impact of the campaign, a description of forward planning for public information activities, and details of the coats incurred in 1989 and the budget envisaged for the following financial year, Without such information, Member States would not be in a position to judge whether the World Campaign could realistically be conducted within existing resources.

5. Another element of the human rights programme was the promotion of national institutions, which had a broader role than the mere dissemination of information on human rights. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia, an independent body with broad powers to investigate matters relating to human rights in his country, ensured that the Qovernment of Australia complied with the obligations that it had assumod as a State party to human rights conventions.

6. Australia had welcomed the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The challenge now was to implement its provisions in a practical way. The United Nations human rights programme included such important activities as atandard-setting, the investigation of human rights abuses, and the monitoring of the human rights record of Governments. However, the impact of those activities would he less than was hoped if the public was not informed about United Nations achievements and if the remedies available to victims of human rights abuses were not publicised. The programme would also fall short of expectations if it failed to educate the following generation about its own rights and the rights of others.

7. Mr. KOENIG (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the architects of the Charter of the United Nations had given human rights a new international status. In consequence, the United Nations had created instruments in the field of human rights which provided a legal basis for a more humane order based on freedom, justice and peace, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights itself had now been endorsed even by countries which had not initially supported it.

8. The normative achievements of the United Nations in the field of human rights were among its outstanding successes. They had conferred upon every individual the status of a subject of international law, which should be respected by all Governments, so that concern for the rights of individuals did not constitute interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Nevertheless, there were still inadequacies in the systems designed to guarantee fundamental freedoms. It seemed at times that the disparity between standards and reality was widening. Flagrant violations of human rights, such as arbitrary detention, torture, summary executions and disappearances, were reported almost daily in many parts of the world. The credibility of the United Nations was determined by its willingness to deal with such violations, irrespective of whether they were committed by

(Mr. Koenig, Federal Republic of Germany)

Governments or by groups of persons wishing to bring about or to prevent political change by violent means. Although the primary responsibility rested with States, the United Nations must be rendered more capable of dealing with such situations without being hampered by ideological differences between Member States. The international community must; focus its attention on the procedures and mechanisms which would allow the effective implementation of existing instruments, In his statement to the General Assembly on 27 September, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany had emphasised the urgent need for a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and an International Court of Justice for Human Rights as ways of promoting respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual.

9. He noted with satisfaction the progress made by ths Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. He also believed it was necessary to restructure the operating machinery of the Commission on Human Rights, and, in particular, considered that a mechanism was needed to deal with human rights violations between sessions. The confidential procedures provided for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) should be used more effectively,

10. He suggested that further consideration should be given to a number of proposals made on Previous occasions in the Third Committee and in the Commission on Human Rights, such as the use of fact-finding missions, to which General Assembly resolution 35/176 referred; the enhancement of the system of detailed country-by-country and subject-by-subject reports) the Strengthening of human rights institutions at the regional level: and the promotion of advisory services, which should not be limited to countries emerging from a period of human rights violations. He welcomed the fact that the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights was now well established, and, after pointing out that in 1989 his country had contributed DM 40,000, he expressed the hope that more countries would pledge financial support to the Fund.

11. The Federal Republic of Germany looked at new conceptual approaches with an open mind. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights had already shown the connection which existed between the various forms in which the rights of the individual manifested themselves. Human beings were not free, even if they could express and disseminate their opinions freely, as long as they lived in economic and social want and dependency. Nor were they free when they lived in secure economic and social conditions but were denied freedom of speech or the freedom to choose their own place of residence. He expressed the firm conviction that observance of one category of rights did not exempt a State from observance of the other category, and that the absence of peace or development did not exempt a State from its obligation to ensure respect for the human rights of its nationals and other persons living under its jurisdiction.

12. Ms. DIEGUEZ (Mexico) said that during the current year encouraging progress had been made towards the settlement of conflicts which until very recently had seemed difficult to resolve. Important agreements had been reached between East and West on matters of security, but her country was concorned that that spirit: of

(Ms. Dieguez, Mexico)

co-operation had not spread to the international economic sphere. The majority of developing countries would begin the 1990s in a state of unprecedented economic and social crisis. The foreign debt crisis, stagnation and the transfer of financial resources to the industrialised world had brought those countries to the edge, a situation which threatened the stability of democratic institutions and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. In the face of that situation, it was urgent to take measures to revitalize development through international economic co-operation.

13. In adopting the Declaration on the Right to Development, the General Assembly had recognised the profound relationship between development and human rights, both individual and collective, supplementing the existing instruments and declarations on human rights and fundamental freedoms, The obstacles which had so far impeded its implementation should, however, be analysed. To that end, her delegation, with other Latin American delegations, had, at the latest session of the Commission on Human Rights, sponsored a proposal that the right to development should in future be considered as a separate item. The Secretary-General had also been invited to organise a global consultation on the realization of the right to development. Her delegation further reiterated the recommendation that consideration should be given to the viability of the Declaration in a world in which inequality, colonialism, apartheid and foreign occupation and aggression still persisted. At its latest session, the Commission on Human Rights had also decided at its next session to consider the question of foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The Commission had thereby recognized the effects of the economic situation of the developing countries on the enjoyment by peoples of their economic and social rights and its negative impact on the living conditions of the poor and of society as a whole,

14. The right to development presupposed the viability of economic and social development, yet that appeared to be further and further away in the current international context, In 1990 the General Assembly would hold a special session on the revitslization of development, which would provide a valuable opportunity to reach a new consensus on the question and to find lasting and just solutions which would guarantee to all the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

15. Miss FRANKLIN (United States of America) said that human rights exalted the individual, in other words, they established what individuals were entitled to do without government interference. In contrast, a State was obliged to respect all the rights of individuals and of groups which individuals chose to form. Some rights, such as the right to freedom of movement, were civil rights; some, such as the right to freedom of expression, were political; some, such as the right to join a trade union, were economic; some, such as the right tc form a family, were social; and some, such as the right to enjoy the arts, were cultural.

16. The responsibility and the power of the State were delineated in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That delineation established a personal living space which the Government might not

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(Miss Franklin, United States)

invade, Some States, however, did not recognise that definition of human rights and spoke of collective rights which the State implemented on behalf of the community as a whole. lhat attitude undermined the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and corrupted and distorted the concept of human rights embodied therein. In some cases, one could speak of the right of nations, for example, in relation to the right to self-determination; in other cases, however, that concept could be a stratagem adopted by certain States to disguise their failure to respect the human rights of their citizens.

17. An individual's exercise of a human right was related to his or her exercise of other rights, but in terms of its validity each human right was independent. Governments could adopt policies that were designed to lead to economic development, full employment, adequate housing and social progress, but the right to freedom of speech was not "indivisible and interdependent" in relation to a Government's efforts to provide the people with adequate housing; pursuit of that objective did not entitle a Government to restrict the opinions expressed by the people on housing policy or other subjects. In the final analysis, individual freedom was the most important value which all Governments must promote and preserve.

18. Mrs. ILIC (Yugoslavia) said that since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group of Governmental Experts had been examining ways and means to implement the Declaration and had made a number of recommendations to that effect. Her delegation supported the latest recommendation of the Commission that the right to development should be fully integrated with other human rights in the World Campaign for Human Rights and included in the activities of advisory services, which would help the public to become familiar with the idea of the right to development. Her delegation also supported the recommendation that the Secretary-General explore the possibility of organizing seminars and establishing methods of eliciting from Governments and United Nations bodies their experience and views on the implementation of the Declaration,

19. Her delegation had also been pleased to learn that a global consultation on the fundamental problems posed by the implementation of the Declaration, the criteria which might be used to identify progress and mechanisms for stimulating such progress would be held in January 1990. The recommendations adopted at that consultation were to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session and should contribute to future work on the implementation of the Declaration both nationally and internationally.

20. Her delegation had always considered that the right to development had a catalytic effect in the realization of all other human rights. Consequently, if development projects were to be in accordance with the requirements of the right to development they had to be pursued in such a way as to guarantee the observance of all human rights. There was no doubt that the realization of the right to development, required sustained efforts by States, which had the primary responsibility for creation of the conditions favourable to it. For that reason

(Mrs. Ilic, Yugoslavia)

her delegation hoped that in the future work of the Commission on Human Rights in that area all members, both the developing and the developed countries, would participate.

21. Mr. FRAMBACH (German Democratic Republic) said that his country and other socialist countries were committed to a comprehensive approach to the strengthening of international peace and security which embraced human rights and was aimed at promoting constructive co-operation among States and discontinuing abuse of humanitarian issues for political purposes. Peace remained the vital condition for the guarantee of human rights) conversely it was necessary to remember the impact that the implementation of human rights had on the maintenance of peace.

22. His delegation had noted with concern the deterioration of the world situation and the ensuing consequences for human rights, It was important to establish propitious international economic relationa and to recognize the right of the peoples to development. The enjoyment of human rights could only be ensured on the basis of a country's socio-economic development; backwardness and debt were a direct threat to international security. His delegation also believed that implementation of the principle of "disarmament for development" was a priority goal.

23. There were innumerable international conventions, standards and international instruments to govern international co-operation for the promotion and guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but their implementation was unsatisfactory. To make them so it would be necessary to recognize that all rights were indivisible and interdependent, as co-operation would not be promoted if some States focused attention on civil and political rights while ignoring such rights as the right to work, the right to live in security and the right to a social order which made the full enjoyment of those rights possible.

24. General Assembly resolution 32/130 called for the focusing of attention on the massive, flagrant and systematic violation of human rights, but violations of economic, social and cultural rights should also be taken into account. The non-governmental organizationa had a major role to play with regard to the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights provided for by General Assembly resolution 43/128, as they could contribute to shaping public opinion and promoting friendly relations among people.

25. His delegation was prepared to work together with all forces committed to the improvement of human rights throughout the world.

26. Mr. OGURTSOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in order to make possible the exercise of human rights and international co-operation for their protection, it was necessary for all countries to respect the letter and spirit of the Charter and other relevant United Nations instruments. Moreover, they should not be regarded as incompatible with national sovereignty. It was necessary to improve the work of the relevant bodies, such as the Commission on Human Rights and

(Mr. Ogurtsov, Byelorussian SSR)

the expert groups. Their procedures should be made more efficient and based on strict standards in order to prevent misuse and to ensure the objectivity of information.

27. Human rights and fundamental freedoms were enshrined in the constitution of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, which complied strictly with all the obligations deriving from the many treaties and conventions to which it was a party.

28. The right to development was an inalienable right of all peoples and made it possible for all States to prosper in peace and security, since only in that way would every citizen be able to exercise the various human rights needed for the development of his personality. The right to development was also related to respect for all the fundamental principles of international law, peace, disarmament and the democratisation of international economic relations.

29. His delegation endorsed the Declaration on the Right to Development and supported the Soviet-United States proposal that a new item entitled "Enhancing international peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations** should be included in the agenda of the General Assembly.

30. Mr. MEZZALAMA (Italy) said that the United Nations had established impressive legal machinery to protect the individual against attempts to violate his dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms. At present, an almost complete set of provisions was available to international and national institutions for the protection of rights. However, his delegation believed that additional efforts should be made to encourage the application of existing international instruments. Experience showed that in many countries, ordinary people, judges, lawyers and law enforcement officers were not always aware of their rights and duties. Information activities should therefore be increased in order to broaden everyone's knowledge of human rights.

31. His delegation believed that an important role could be played in that regard by national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights. Among Italy's prominent national institutions, he wished to mention the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights, an organ responsible for co-ordinating national policies. One of its principal tasks was to compile national reports for submission to United Nations bodies in accordance with the relevant international obligations. Another important institution was the Advisory Committee, which answered directly to the President of the Council of Ministers. Its members, who served as experts, not governmental officials, advised the Prime Minister on human-rights matters. A similar function wasperformed by the Committee for Parity between Men and Women, whose main task was to elaborate and promote policies for eliminating discrimination against women. Recently a parliamentary commission had been eatablished with competence in all matters relating to human rights.

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(Mr. Mezzalama, Italy)

32. In his delegation's opinion, the time waa ripe to revise the machinery of the Commission on Human Rights. Some thought should be given to implementing the suggestion put forward several years earlier to set up some mechanism for holding intersessional meetings of the Bureau and of the Commission.

33. Special attention should also be given to information activities, which were essential to the work of the United Nations concerning human rights throughout the world. There would be no real respect for human rights without universal knowledge and no knowledge without information and education. Italy attached similar importance to advisory services and technical assistance, as evidenced by its contribution to the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights, which it intended to continue to support. Italy also supported those services directly) thus, it had recently sponsored a seminar near Rome for the benefit of over 30 Colombian judges and government officials serving in the human-rights field and the fight against drug trafficking. Moreover, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo was planning a second seminar for African countries as part of the advisory-services programme of the Centre for Human Rights.

34. Mr. WU Shanxiu (China) said that the proclamation of the Declaration on the Right to Development had been a significant event, It clearly affirmed that the right to development was both an individual right and a collective right, and that development was linked with human rights, and called for the removal of the major obstacles to the development of each country and people, namely, racism, colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation and the unjust international economic order. The Declaration not only substantiated the concept of development but also provided the guidelines for the implementation of the right to development.

35. The implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development was a complex and arduous task which included the following elementsr first, publicity should be given to the Declaration at the international and national levels. The United Nations should promote dissemination of the Declaration by organizing seminars and training, issuing publications on the right to development and compiling the legislation of each country concerning promotion and implementation of the right to development, so that it would be known more widely. Priority should be given to the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights.

36. Secondly, the in-depth study on the implementation of the right to development should be intensified. There was need for an integrated approach in considering how to promote and implement it at the international and national levels. The Commission on Human Rights was doing useful work by sending a questionnaire to all Governments. China believed that that method should continue to be used in the future. Comments received by the Secretary-General regarding the Declaration showed that not many countries were deeply interested in that question. That demonstrated the need to publicize the Declaration further, His delegation hoped that the forthcoming global consultation on the realization of the right to development pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/45 would bring progress in studyinq the implementation of the Declaration.

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(Mr. Wu Shanxiu, China)

37. Thirdly, in view of the complexity involved in implementing the right to development, it was not enough to depend exclusively on the efforts of human-rights bodies. It required the concerted efforts of the States Members of the United Nations, intergovernmental bodies, specialised agencies and all the other parties concerned. It was essential to strengthen the co-ordination and co-operation between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. The Secretary-General should be requested to intensify his efforts in that regard. At its forty-fifth session, the Commission on Human Rights had decided to consider the right to development under a separate agenda item, which would undoubtedly contribute to a deeper study of the question. However, China believed that, in order to promote and consolidate the principles enshrined in the Declaration, it was desirable to establish an organ charged with evaluating the implementation of the Declaration.

38. Mr. CHADHRTON MATOS (Venezuela) said that his country attached priority to the need to strengthen and consolidate United Nations instruments for improving the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was a matter of concern that attempts were still being made to identify the various branches of human rights as separate elements of the common concept of respect for the dignity of the human person. It was also disquieting to note the tendency to differentiate between those human rights that might arouse the interest of countries and organizations, and other rights that were reserved for countries which enjoyed them fully and considered themselves free from any moral obligation to share their achievements. Venezuela did not recognize a division of human rights which led to "half enjoyment" of fundamental freedoms. The concept of "half free" or "half human" made no sense. Also to be rejected was a situation where, within some national societies, certain minorities could indulge their excesses of greed while allowing themselves to denounce the hunger of the majority; also unacceptable was a situation where, in exchange for a little food, directed education and sterilized culture, peoples were condemned to timorous obedience and permanent silence. Fortunately, freedom was contagious. But the freedom to think and express one's thoughts would never be complete unless accompanied by the freedom to live a life of dignity without fear of poverty or want.

39. Venezuela was very far from satisfied with the promotion and protection of human rights within its territory. Nevertheless, it was witnessing a process of democratisation in which all persons were urged to watch over their rights and fight for them when those rights were ignored. Venezuela hoped that the institutional structures for promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the legislative, administrative and judicial organs, would be strengthened in future through ever increasing and more active popular participation.

40. The victories won in many countries would be fragile so long as there were wealthy minorities and poor majorities, so long as the few enjoyed all human rights while the majority enjoyed only "certain" rights. The individual situations in some countries were parallelled in the international community. A minority of countries enjoyed the advantages of development, while the majority were denied access to the advantages of progress owing to their limitations and mistakes and to a fundamentally unjust international order.

(Mr. Chaderton Matos, Venezuela)

41. United Nations efforts to ensure adoption of and compliance with the norms embodying civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights must be complemented by parallel efforts in support of the right to development, as recognized in the Declaration on the Right to Development annexed to General Assembly resolution 41/128. Paragraphs 1 and 3 of article 3 of the Declaration affirmed the responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development as well as the duty of States to co-operate with each other towards that purpose. Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that everyone was entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in that Declaration could be fully realized. Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights declared that all peoples could freely dispose of their national wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, and specified that in no case might a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. In reality, however, those declarations and provisions were becoming Utopian.

42. External debt was a major obstacle to the realization of the right to development. If external debt was considered an exclusively financial question, its importance would be artificially limited and the explosive social prospects entailed by that phenomenon would be ignored. The rigid criteria of some creditors hampered debtor countries in the exercise of their basic right to development. Countries giving priority to strictly economic considerations should be reminded that through insensitivity and lack of understanding they ran a great risk, as solid wealth could not be founded on the economic and social ruins of insolvent countries. The spreading wave of social explosions would inevitably reach beyond the national borders of countries which were being prevented from overcoming the barriers of underdevelopment. In such circumstances, it was imperative that the United Nations, in programming its activities, should take into account the Declaration on the Right to Development. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to report at the next session on progress achieved by the United Nations in that area.

43. Mr. WHITAKER-SALLES (Brazil) said he regretted that so little time had been allocated for the debate on the cluster of items, including the right to development. That question alone would have required much more time to be addressed in the necessary depth.

44. Through the proclamation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, the international community had recognized, by an overwhelming majority, that the right to development was to be respected, promoted and protected in the same way as the other rights covered by the two major International Covenants. Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights made no explicit reference to that right, article 28 affirmed that "everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized". Thus, it was not surprising to find that wording reproduced in the preamble of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

(Mr. Whitaker-Salles, Brazil)

45. The right to development having been recognized as an inalienable human right, the means to implement and realize the aims and principles stated in the 1986 Declaration must be found. That instrument emphasised that all human rights and fundamental freedoms were indivisible and interdependent. Thua the enjoyment of either political or economic rights alone was not enough for the complete fulfilment of human beings, In other words, democracy and development were two sides of the same coin. It was urgent to find a aolution to the current situation, in which the industrialised economies experienced sustained expansion while the majority of developing countries suffered the constant lowering of their population's living standards and found it impossible to address their most basic needs.

46. Brazil had co-sponsored Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/45 - noted by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/141 - which provided a broad outline of activities that would help to establish a better conceptual framework to pursue the goals of the Declaration. It strongly supported the Commission's recommendations, among which should be mentioned the establishment of a continuing evaluation mechanism to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the principles contained in the Declaration. In that respect, the international community should seize two opportunities available to it to achieve that goal! first, the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalisation of economic growth and development of the developing countries; and second, the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000).

47. Mr. MORA (Cuba) said that the right to development was an inalienable human right and a prerogative both of nations and of the individuals that formed them. The indivisible and interdependent nature of all human rights was an increasingly tangible reality, because individual rights could not be separated from collective rights, such as the right of peoples to self-determination and the right to development. Thus, his delegation felt sure that the invitation of the Commission on Human Rights to hold a global consultation on the realization of the right to development would give new vigour to that important question,

48. Cuba had also supported the proposal for the inclusion of a new item on external debt, economic-adjustment policies and their consequences for the effective enjoyment of human rights, especially for application of the Declaration on the Right to Development, in the agenda for the next session of the Commission.

49. Regarding the in-depth evaluation of the human rights programme submitted by the Secretary-General to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/AC.51/1989/2), it was disappointing to observo that of the 151 questionnaires sent 1.0 Governments to solicit their points of view concerning the work of the Centre for Human Rights. only 32 responses had been received, as it was precisely Governments which should establish guidelines for the future work of the United Nations in human rights. Although that report had not been submitted for consideration to the General Assembly, there would be a need to bear in mind, when

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(Mr. Mora, Cuba)

it was considered, that a weakening of United Nation8 technical, economic and social development assistance programmes and excessive dependence on ● xtrabudgotary contributiota would damage the priority policies of the Organisation. Finally, his delegation believed that future United Nations human rights activities must take into account equitable geographical distribution so that the interests of all regional groups would be adequately represented.

50. Mr. (Ireland) raid that any consideration of United Nations human rights bodies must begin with the Commission on Human Rights. His delegation welcomed the increase in the number of delegations participating in its deliberations because that attested to the growing interest in human rights issues. For the Commission to meet its responsibilities effectively, it must act on the basis of human rights considerationa alone and any politicisation of its work must be resisted. In that regard, it had to bo noted that the growing trend toward8 regional protectionism could impede the Commission fulfilling its functions.

51. Bearing in mind that the Commission's first responsibility was to individual victims of human rights violations, it had to be in a position to offer a clear and unequivocal message whenever such violations were brought to its attention. It must be ensured, moreover, that all human rights without exception were given duo attention, In that connection, there were some signs of change that indicated an abandonment of the old tendency to advocate human rights in a partial way. One example was the extent to which consensus had been restored to the debate on the right to development,

52. Consideration by the Commission of complex human rights issues war often preceded, to very good effect, by preliminary research *and analysis* in the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. His delegation recognised the Sub-Commission's valuable contribution but urged it to continue the review of its working methods, while acknowledging that any changes required might be changes of degree rather than radical departures from existing practice, The Sub-Commission was unique because its members were intended to be froe from interference or preaaure by the Governments which nominated them.

53. His delegation had emphasised in previous statements the importance that it attributed to public information activities, because the vindication of rights required potential victims to be aware of what those rights were. The report of the Secretary-General (A/44/660) made it clear that such activities had increased and that the World Public Information *Campaign* for *Human* Rights was a significant component in the new drive. His delegation trusted that the co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information to ensure the success of the campaign would continue.

54. With regard to printed materials, his delegation welcomed the progress made in extending the list of *languages* into which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been tranalsted and would like to see a similar effort made with the texts of the International Covenants and other key instruments, such as the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forma of Intolerance and of Discrimination Baaed on Religion or Belief.

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(Mr. Hennessy, Ireland)

55. To date, the World Campaign had contributed to promoting a wider public awareness of the universal standards adopted under United Nations auspices. That important work should be complemented by greater efforts to inform victims of violations about the avenues of redress provided by the United Nations. His delegation believed that the network of United Nations information offices was an untapped resource in that regard, and supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that United Nations information offices should be mandated to receive complaints and transmit them rapidly to the Centre for Human Rights. Progress also required that the Centre for Human Rights should be provided with the personnel and resources necessary for its tasks. The situation with regard to the back-up services available to the Centre was less than satisfactory.

56. Ms. ARMSTRONG (Canada) said that in recent years major strides had been made towards more effective Implementation of the principles of the International Bill of Human Rights, particularly through the creation of the system of special rapporteurs and similar monitoring mechanisms. Although sterile ideological disputes had often obstructed progress, there were signs of increasing readiness to address issues in a more constructive manner and there had been much discussion in the corridors of the need to strengthen United Nations human rights machinery. The recently completed in-depth evaluation of the human rights programme and the Alston study on the effective operation of treaty bodies offered significant opportunities for innovation and reform. Her delegation was committed to the search for consensus on genuine measures to advance the cause of human rights, which would require enhancement of the resources allocated for the purpose! less than 1 per cent of the United Nations regular budget was currently allocated to the Centre for Human Rights and that was not enough for it to fulfil its tasks.

57. Her delegation had demonstrated a certain reserve about the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. Canada supported the aims of the Campaign and commended the efforts made by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights to remedy the deficiencies of the Organisation's information programmes) but it thought that neither effective and realistic operational objectives nor the necessary instruments for the Campaign had been defined.

58. Thu time might be ripe for all States Members of the United Nations to join in a common undertaking: to educate all their citizens on the practical means by which their fundamental rights were quarantaed. To that end, a programme of national human rights campaigns supported by the United Nations could be developed. It could begin with the preparation of prototypes for some very basic information vehicles in both written and audio-visual form. The Secretariat could then assist Governments in preparing such material.

59. Beyond the basic goals and means, a number of administrative and organizational issues had yet to be resolved in order to ensure effective execution of the World Campaign. With the benefit of more timely documentation, the Commission on Human Rights would be better placed to address those questions in February 1990.

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(Ms. Armstrong, Canada)

60. She was concerned that the documentation prepared for thr aurrrnt discussion consisted not of one integrated report on thr Secretariat's activities under the World Campaign but of two reparatr reports, one from thr Centre for Human Rights and one, yet to be released, from thr Department of Public Information, Too much time and energy had already been spent trying to induce those two units to collaborate, and it was to be hoped that the necessary co-operation would be more in evidence at the Commission's next session. Another of Canada's concerns war that thr World Campaign rhould not divert scarce resources from ● xirting human rights activities. Canada had joined with other Member States in calling for the Campaign to be adequately funded from the more extensive resources of the Department of Public Information, But it had the impression that the Department's activities had placed too much emphasis on a few specific human rights issues which, like apartheid, had justifiably constituted long-rtanding priorities. On thr other hand, the objective of informing people about their basic rights appeared to have received less attention than the rrlrvant resolutions envisaged,

61. Finally, the documsntr before the Committee focused on working through audiences - including government officials, the mass media, academics and non-governmental organiaationr - which offered thr advantage of their potential "multiplier" effect, However, closer attention rhould be given to assessing the extent to which the basic message war actually roaching thr individual citizen, the ultimate target of the Campaign, which meant finding out which materials were moat useful and having a methodology for assessing the ● ffoctivrnrur of the Campaign,

62. She was mindful of the scope and complexity of the problems involved and recognized that the General Assembly and the Commission were less than ideally equipped to tackle them, She therefore suggested that a qualified independent expert should be mandated to perform a preliminary analyrir of the issues and ideas emerging from the Committee's debate,

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.