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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 8 February 1990, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. QUISUMBING (Philippines)

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Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including:

- (a) Problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; 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
- (b) The effects of the existing unjust international economic order on the economies of the developing countries, and the obstacle that this represents for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms
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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS (agenda item 5) (continued) (E/CN.4/1990/6 and 7)

THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE COLONIAL AND RACIST REGIME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (agenda item 6) (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/9 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

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STUDY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES OF WAYS AND MEANS OF ENSURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON APARTHEID, RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (agenda item 16 (a)) (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (agenda item 16 (b)) (continued) (E/CN.4/1990/36, 37, 38 and 50; E/CN.4/1990/NGO/7 and 30; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1)

1. Mr. EYA-NCHAMA (International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples) said that it was deplorable that, in 1989, the despicable system of apartheid had once again cruelly stricken the black population of South Africa, as was borne out by the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa (E/CN.4/1990/7) which, inter alia, described the horrible tortures inflicted on detainees.

2. When the Union of South Africa was founded in 1910, the country's Constitution, which was the outcome of a compromise between the Dutch and British settlers, had laid the foundations of apartheid by refusing to allow non-whites to participate in political life. Later, the Land Act of 1913 had allotted 87 per cent of the land to 19 per cent of the population.

3. On taking power in 1948, the leader of the National Party, Mr. Malan, had set about institutionalizing apartheid. An unquestioning supporter of Hitler and Mussolini, and a believer in the superiority of whites over non-whites, he imposed the systematic segregation of races in all areas of life.

4. The ideology of apartheid rested on four essential beliefs. First, God had chosen the whites in general, and the Boers in particular, to rule South Africa. Blacks who claimed rights, whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural, were therefore devils. Second, the will of God guided the destiny of the Afrikaners; it was therefore in humble submission to an almighty God that the Afrikaners ill-treated other races, massacred blacks, invaded neighbouring countries or seized land. Third, the whites of South Africa had a mission to defend western Christian civilization, which was why they were surprised when western Christian countries protested against apartheid. Fourth, and last, the whites must preserve the biological purity of the white race.

5. Anyone who opposed that doctrine must be destroyed, physically or - even worse - psychologically. All South Africa's Governments since 1948 had practised such State terrorism, as was shown by the massacres of Sharpeville, Soweto, Durban and the Cape, or the bantustans, where 81 per cent of the South African population had been penned up. The economic system of the pirate republic was based on the exploitation of the pool of cheap labour formed by the black majority - as a result of the apartheid system which had been set up primarily to sustain it - as well as on credits from foreign countries, which were thus aiding and abetting the apartheid system.

6. To be sure, it was up to the South Africans to rid themselves of apartheid, but the international community must help them to do so by imposing mandatory sanctions, and it must understand that the ideals that guided those who fought against apartheid in South Africa were the same as those that had impelled the English revolutionaries of the seventeenth century, the Founding Fathers of the United States of America or the French revolutionaries of 1789.

7. As the example of Zimbabwe had shown, the white minority of South Africa had no reason to fear the advent of a democratic régime. The only enemy of all South Africans was the apartheid system itself.

8. The recent statements by Mr. de Klerk were a major step forward along the road of national reconciliation. However, if he really wanted to help to create peace and a truly democratic régime, Mr. de Klerk would have to move from words to deeds; he must completely lift the state of emergency, release all political prisoners, allow political refugees to return, repeal all the laws relating to apartheid, allow all South Africans, whatever their race, to exercise their civil and political rights and convene a national convention in which all South Africans could take part in drawing up a democratic constitution.

9. Mr. RAIANI (International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination - EAFORD) condemned the close links between the racist régime of South Africa and the Zionist régime of Israel. In August 1989, at the preceding session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, his organization had stated that, according to South Africa's ambassador to Israel, Israeli exports to South Africa had reached \$137 million in 1988, and South Africa's exports to Israel had reached \$200 million; those figures did not include trade in military equipment which was estimated to have amounted to between \$400 and \$800 million in 1986. His organization had also stated on that occasion that South Africa, with the help of Israel, was about to begin testing a medium-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. United States intelligence agents had stated that Israel and South Africa had been developing the missile, a modified version of the Israeli Jericho II missile, since 1987, a fact confirmed by the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot on 27 November 1987. The close military co-operation between the two countries had been further confirmed by Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli nuclear technician who had been imprisoned for disclosing information about Israeli nuclear weapons to the United Kingdom newspaper The Sunday Times. Mr. Vanunu had said that there was a permanent South African presence at Israel's secret nuclear weapons plant in Daimona, where he had worked.

10. On 25 October 1989, the United States television network NBC-TV had reported that, according to a report from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), South Africa in return, was providing Israel with enriched uranium for its nuclear warheads. NBC-TV had added that Israeli experts were conducting tests at the South African test centre at Overberg. South Africa had also received support from Israeli military leaders such as Raphael Eitan, the former Army Chief of Staff, who had declared on 24 December 1987, during a conference at the law school at Tel-Aviv University: "Anyone who says that the blacks are oppressed in South Africa is a liar. The blacks there want to gain control of the white minority, just like the Arabs here want to gain control over us".

11. EAFORD had noted Mr. de Klerk's promises with interest, but called for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela. It also demanded the unconditional release of all political prisoners, including freedom fighters, and the lifting of the state of emergency.

12. Mr. PATEL (Pakistan) noted that the latest report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/CN.4/1990/7) once again contained a depressing catalogue of the human rights violations committed by the South African Government. Admittedly recent statements by Mr. de Klerk, following the release of Mr. Walter Sisulu, had given rise to optimism. But Nelson Mandela had not yet been released and, although some political prisoners had been released, what was needed was the release of all. Moreover, Mr. de Klerk's statement of 2 February had made no reference to the laws upon which apartheid was based, namely the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act.

13. Pakistan, which was a signatory to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and had always been sceptical about "constructive engagement" or the gradual reform of apartheid, considered that all discriminatory laws must be repealed. Pakistan was in favour of comprehensive sanctions against South Africa; although the sanctions imposed so far had been very limited (as Mr. Khalifa had pointed out in his report, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/9), they had nevertheless, had an effect on the South African régime. According to Mr. Khalifa, they had caused South Africa a loss in foreign exchange of \$30 to 40 billion over the last four years. The Special Rapporteur had also estimated that the loss in export earnings through sanctions was now running at about \$4 billion annually. The international community should therefore not relax those sanctions merely because of Mr. de Klerk's statements.

14. Pakistan rejoiced at the successful completion of elections in Namibia and looked forward to the completion of the independence process. After the long and harsh oppression which the Namibian people had suffered, Pakistan felt that they should receive generous assistance after independence.

15. Mrs. RADIC (Yugoslavia) said that her Government continued to support the just struggle of the black people of South Africa and rejected any form of co-operation with the Government, institutions and enterprises of the country, or in any sports or cultural links. Her country had firmly advocated comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, and it called for them to be implemented by all the States Members of the United Nations. Yugoslavia considered that apartheid must be abolished and replaced by a completely new, modern and democratic society. The international community had increased its

pressure on South Africa in 1989, particularly after the meeting of the Organization of African Unity in August, the ninth Non-Aligned Summit in Belgrade and the sixteenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in December 1989.

16. Her delegation firmly supported the decisions taken at those meetings, and welcomed the useful work done by the Group of Three and the reports by Mr. Khalifa and Mr. Eide. Her delegation noted with interest the statement made by the President of South Africa, Mr. de Klerk, on 2 February 1990 but felt that South Africa still needed to release all political prisoners, lift the state of emergency and remove the restrictions on organization and persons campaigning for equal rights. Her delegation regretted that in his statement Mr. de Klerk had not indicated that he had any intention of dismantling apartheid; it therefore called upon the Commission to maintain its pressure on the South African Government.

17. Mr. RYDER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that President de Klerk's statement of 2 February had been a victory for the campaign waged by the people of South Africa and the international community against apartheid, but that the campaign must continue. Nelson Mandela was still in prison, the state of emergency continued and the apartheid legislation was still in force. Moreover, the black trade union movement continued to be subjected to dramatic violations of its basic rights.

18. Those violations included the police raids on the offices of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU) in August 1989, the dismissals or warnings of dismissal handed out to more than 1,000 workers after the of September stayaway, the arrest of 97 members of the construction workers' union during a strike in July, the suppression of a demonstration in December in support of striking brewery workers, which had left 70 people injured, and the measures taken by police, also in December, to disperse striking dockers with teargas and rubber bullets. A more recent example was the suppression of the railway and dockworkers' strike, which had left 35 people dead and led to 23,000 dismissals.

19. The repression inflicted on South African trade unionists was institutionalized in the Labour Relations Amendment Act of 1988, which undermined the right to strike and permitted mass dismissals. COSATU's and NACTU's campaign against the law had not yet borne fruit. His organization also wished to draw the Commission's attention to the situation of the rural workforce, which was denied the most basic trade union rights, worked in squalid conditions and subject to violence from white farmers. Nevertheless, despite all the repercussions of the repression which he had described, the black trade union movement had succeeded in preserving its local and national structures and consolidating its effectiveness.

20. The campaign against apartheid must continue until everyone had the right to vote in a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa. In order to achieve that, it was essential to step up economic sanctions which, although only partial so far, had clearly been agents of change in the country. The major South African financial institutions had indicated that sanctions had affected the economy and that the white minority, which had experienced a drop of some 15 per cent in its living standard, was more seriously affected by

sanctions than the black majority. Unfortunately, however, South Africa's export earnings were beginning to increase again. It was essential not to relax the sanctions.

21. His organization had set up a working group to promote a co-ordinated approach to an embargo against South African coal. It was mobilizing its members and the public against those banks providing financial support to apartheid. To the previously published lists of foreign multinationals operating in South Africa, it had added another list of South African multinationals which were attempting to evade sanctions by operating abroad. It also published information on those companies which made use of the repressive clauses of the Labour Relations Amendment Act in order to suppress trade union rights.

22. His organization was pleased that the struggle of the Namibian people had made South Africa understand that its illegal occupation of Namibia had become a liability. A delegation from his organization had visited Namibia in November 1989 to discuss in detail with the Namibian trade union movement forms of assistance which could lend it support in the context of an independent Namibia.

23. Mr. LITTMAN (World Union for Progressive Judaism) recalled that, since 1986, his organization had spoken out before the Commission and the Sub-Commission against General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which had described Zionism as "a form of racism and racial discrimination". Symbolically, the resolution had been adopted - by 72 votes to 35, with 32 abstentions - on the thirty-seventh anniversary of that explosion of Nazi racial hatred against the German Jews known as Kristallnacht. No democratic State had voted for the resolution. He had quoted many condemnations of the resolution in the past: on the present occasion, he would confine himself to quoting once again Mr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, a former senior United Nations official and Irish minister: "Anti-Zionism can be a good way of manifesting anti-Semitism in practice, while remaining anti-antisemitic in theory". While some States now regretted their vote, others had still not decided to render obsolete that official endorsement of anti-Semitism constituted by resolution 3379 (XXX). Certainly some members of the Commission still supported that moral aberration; he remembered that on 24 August 1989, during the last session of the Sub-Commission, the expert from Cuba had said that he was proud to have contributed to the drafting of the resolution.

24. Andrei Sakharov, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975 and precursor of the human rights campaign in the USSR, had condemned resolution 3379 (XXX) as anti-Semitic. The anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic campaign had been launched in the USSR - in the pre-Gorbachev era - and had been taken up by the Arab-Islamic fundamentalist front. At that time, dozens of Soviet writers such as Trofim Kichko and Lev Korneev had regularly published venomous anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist writings. In 1973, a Paris court had condemned the Communist deputy mayor of Nanterre for distributing a pamphlet published in 1906 by the group Soyuz Russkovo Naroda, inciting people to carry out pogroms; the pamphlet had been reproduced by the Soviet embassy in Paris which had, however, replaced the word "Jew" by the word "Zionist". To give a further example of the virulence of the anti-Zionist campaign in the USSR, he could mention a memorandum entitled "De-Zionization" submitted by the

"Arabist" Valery Emelyanov to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1977, which had advocated the deportation of Jews to remote areas of the USSR. Emelyanov had been arrested in Moscow on 7 April 1980, not for incitement to racial hatred, but for the murder of his wife. After being expelled from the Communist Party and spending some time in a psychiatric hospital, he was now back at work as an activist for the anti-Semitic organization Pamyat'.

25. The time had come for the USSR and all the States which had voted for resolution 3379 (XXX) in 1975 to ensure that the resolution was swiftly declared null and void. Recalling that the United States Vice-President, Dan Quayle, had suggested two months earlier that the United States of America and the USSR should work together in the fight against anti-Semitism, he said that Mr. Alexander Golitsin, political counsellor at the Soviet embassy in London, had tacitly rejected resolution 3379 (XXX) the previous month, at a conference on Israel held in London under the auspices of the United Kingdom Foreign Office. Mr. Golitsin had declared: "The condemnation of Zionism as racism was part of the ideological war of the time, when everything related to Israel was presented in the Soviet Union in an unfavourable light We should get rid of ideological conflicts". In conclusion, he hoped that representatives of States which had recently regained their liberty would indicate their views on the subject during the current session.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission had finished its debate on agenda items 5, 6, 15 and 16.

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND STUDY OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING:

- (a) PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO ENJOY AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING: 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
- (b) THE EFFECTS OF THE EXISTING UNJUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER ON THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE OBSTACLE THAT THIS REPRESENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
- (c) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS
(agenda item 7) (E/CN.4/1990/8 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19)

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 8)
(E/CN.4/1990/9 (Part III), E/CN.4/1990/33 and E/CN.4/1989/10)

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (agenda item 17)
(E/C.12/1988/1; CCPR/C/2/Rev.2 and A/44/441)

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF BODIES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (agenda item 18) (E/CN.4/1990/39; A/44/539 and 668)

27. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Deputy Director, Centre for Human Rights), introducing agenda items 7 and 8, said that the issues they addressed had been under consideration in the United Nations for many years. In 1945, the peoples of the United Nations had declared in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations their determination "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". Economic, social and cultural rights had been laid down in articles 23 to 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1966 along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The indivisibility and interdependence of the two categories of rights had been reaffirmed in a number of instruments.

28. The Commission on Human Rights had begun to consider the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in 1968, and had accorded it high priority since 1975. At its forty-fifth session, in resolution 1989/15, the Commission had decided to add a sub-item to the agenda item, on foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, because of the great concern aroused by the problem in recent years. Mr. Bettino Craxi, former Prime Minister of Italy, had been appointed as the Secretary-General's representative to study the most appropriate ways of alleviating the debt burden of certain countries as effectively and swiftly as possible. A meeting of non-governmental organizations had been held in November 1989 on the effects of the debt crisis on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

29. At the request of the Commission, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had asked one of its members, Mr. Danilo Türk, to study problems, policies and progressive measures relating to a more effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Mr. Türk's preliminary report had been issued in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19.

30. Pursuant to the request formulated in resolution 1989/14, the Commission had before it a report (E/CN.4/1990/8) containing comments from Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations on the study on popular participation.

31. The question of the realization of the right to development was dealt with in agenda item 8. The identification of problems raised by various aspects of human rights and development had led to the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the Declaration on the Right to Development on 4 December 1986, from which he quoted extensively. The Commission on Human Rights had then set up the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development, which had met prior to the Commission's 1987, 1988 and 1989 sessions to study any proposals relating to ways and means of guaranteeing the effective implementation of the Declaration at the individual, national and international level. At the Commission's forty-fifth session, in resolution 1989/45, it had invited the Secretary-General to organize in 1989, within existing resources, a global consultation, involving experts and representatives of the United Nations system, including its specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations, on the realization of the right to development. The Global Consultation, which had taken place in Geneva

from 8 to 12 January 1990, had produced extremely interesting discussions of a wide range of interrelated subjects, each dealt with from the point of view of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Consultation had clearly shown the interdependence between the right to development, as a human right, and other areas of activity.

32. The Commission and other United Nations bodies might well use the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Consultation as a basis for considering future action in that very important field. Besides the report on the global consultation (E/CN.4/1990/9), the Commission had before it an analytical compilation of comments and views by Governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations organs and specialized agencies on the implementation and further enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development (E/CN.4/1990/33).

33. Finally, he wished to draw the Commission's attention to General Comment No. 2, on the interdependence of all human rights, recently adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In the document the Committee drew attention to a number of specific measures which should be taken to integrate human rights concerns into development activities, in line with the Global Consultation's conclusions.

34. All those issues were complex and at times extremely difficult to understand, but they dealt with the way men and women lived throughout the world. It was, therefore, to be hoped that the Commission's work would contribute to achieving the objective of the United Nations in the economic, social and cultural fields, as set forth in the Charter of "better standards of life in larger freedom".

35. Turning to agenda item 17, concerning the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights, he drew the Commission's attention to the Secretary-General's report (A/44/441), which provided information on the number of signatures and ratifications of both Covenants and the Optional Protocol and was submitted to the Commission in pursuance of resolution 1989/17. Since the completion of that report, Algeria and Ireland had ratified, and Somalia had acceded to the two Covenants, thus bringing the total number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic and Cultural Rights to 95 and that of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to 90. Further, the number of ratifications or accessions to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had increased from 43 to 49 during 1989, the six new States parties being Algeria, Ireland, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand, the Philippines and Somalia. Algeria and Ireland had also made the declaration provided for in article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thus bringing the total number of States parties which had made that declaration to 26.

36. Since the Commission's last session, the Human Rights Committee had continued to discharge its mandate in a highly positive manner, despite an increasingly heavy workload. During its three sessions in 1989, it had considered a total of 12 reports. Two of those had been third periodic reports, which had been considered using a new methodology which placed primary emphasis on maintaining and strengthening the dialogue between the

Committee and the States parties. In order to facilitate its work relating to communications, the Committee had appointed a Special Rapporteur to deal with new communications, and had made several amendments to its rules of procedure. During the past year, it had adopted two additional general comments (one on the rights of children to protection under article 24 of the Covenant, and one on non-discrimination), which brought the total number of its general comments to 18.

37. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had held four sessions since its inception. At its third session (6-24 February 1989), the report of which was contained in document E/1989/22, it had devoted considerable effort to a review of various aspects of its methods of work. For the first time, it had held a general discussion on the rights contained in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, giving particular attention to the right to food. It had also adopted its first General Comment entitled "Reporting by States parties", as well as its provisional rules of procedure. It had further made a number of suggestions and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council with respect to its future work relating, *inter alia*, to arrangements for the transition to the new reporting periodicity, the advisory services programme, co-operation with the specialized agencies.

38. At its 1989 session, the Economic and Social Council had expressed its satisfaction with the constructive manner in which the two committees were carrying out their functions. It had decided that, in 1990, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should hold an additional session. The General Assembly had approved that decision at its forty-fourth session and, accordingly, the fifth session of the Committee would be held in Geneva from 26 November to 14 December 1990. From 1991 onward, the Committee would meet every year at that time, to avoid the overlapping of its sessions with those of the Commission on Human Rights.

39. At its fourth session, which had taken place from 15 January to 2 February 1990, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had considered nine reports from seven States parties, bringing the total number of reports examined by it since its establishment to 49. It had also adopted its General Comment No. 2, on international technical assistance measures, and had continued its discussion of the rights contained in article 11 of the Covenant, giving particular attention to the right to housing. It had also adopted a number of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature formulated on the basis of its consideration from the reports of States parties and the reports of the specialized agencies. The Committee had, *inter alia*, expressed the hope that the Economic and Social Council would approve its provisional rules of procedure and would authorize a working group to meet one to three months before the Committee's annual session.

40. More detailed information could be found in the Committee's report on its third session (E/1989/22). The report on the fourth session would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session in 1990 to be held in May.

41. Introducing agenda item 18, he said that the item had been included in the agenda in accordance with Commission resolution 1989/47 and dealt with the effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to the United Nations

human rights instruments. The Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/539) was before the Commission and it gave details of progress achieved by the treaty bodies and by the Secretary-General in simplifying, rationalizing and improving reporting procedures. Significant progress had been made during the past year in respect of the consolidation of the Reporting guidelines produced by the various treaty bodies; a revised draft text of the consolidated guidelines had been approved by most of the international human rights treaty bodies, and the final text was expected to be agreed by all of them during 1990. The adoption of the consolidated guidelines would ease the burden on States which were parties to several international instruments, by making it possible for them to submit the same core document to the various treaty bodies in respect of the initial part of their report (A/44/539, para. 5 and annex).

42. The preparation of a detailed reporting manual, to assist States in fulfilling their reporting obligations (A/44/539, para. 6) was receiving priority attention. Additionally, in an effort to expedite the timely and effective consideration of States parties' periodic reports, a number of treaty bodies had decided to appoint rapporteurs or pre-sessional working groups and had instructed them, *inter alia*, to draw up a specific list of issues to be considered in respect of each report (A/44/539, para. 7).

43. The Commission also had before it a study carried out by an independent expert, in accordance with resolution 1985/47, on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operations of the bodies established under the United Nations human rights instruments. That study (A/44/668) had been submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. Finally, a task force had been instructed to study computerizing the work of the treaty monitoring bodies in relation to reporting, in accordance with Commission resolution 1989/46. The report of the Secretary-General on that study had been submitted to the Commission (E/CN.4/1990/39).

44. Mr. de RIVERO BARRETO (Peru) said that, when considering the agenda items which Mr. Nyamekye had just introduced, the Commission should give some thought to the effects which economic adjustment policies undertaken as a result of foreign debt, might have - and did have - on the effective enjoyment of human rights. The issue was a sensitive and complex one, but one which had to be discussed. He was not trying to provoke a North-South confrontation, because such an exercise would not only be futile, but would run counter to the spirit of dialogue which, in the current world situation, should activate the Commission's current session. The world had seen the irresistible advance of civil and political rights and democracy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, to which Western Europe and the United States of America had responded with an enthusiastic determination to strengthen the economies of those countries. Surely that was tantamount to recognition that civil and political rights must be based on a sound economy or, in other words, on the full enjoyment of economic and social rights?

45. Latin America had never experienced such a wide-ranging phenomenon as the growth of democratic régimes over the last 10 years and more, but neither had it known such instability or such a major and protracted economic and social crisis. The democracies established in Latin America were poor and debt-ridden, and consequently extremely vulnerable. Nevertheless, that

dichotomy between political freedom and social unrest had not been found worthy of the same concern or the same interest as the dichotomy between democracy, on the one hand, and economic inefficiency and poverty, on the other hand, in Central and Eastern Europe. Yet, democracy was unique and indivisible; there was no dividing line along the Equator between democracy in the South and democracy in the North, nor was there a wall between the democracies of the West and those of the East. The promotion of civil and political rights called for the energy and solidarity of the entire international community; preference should be shown in respect of certain regions or groups of countries which had formerly been rivals.

46. To form some idea of the enormous sacrifice made by many Latin American countries in order to achieve economic adjustment, a comparison should be made with the sacrifice which Germany had been obliged to make in order to make its reparations after the First World War, following the Treaty of Versailles. Germany had received assistance and its debt had been completely remitted, which was certainly not the case for the heavily indebted developing countries, and still less the case for the Latin American countries. When the democratic Governments of heavily indebted developing countries asked for economic co-operation to enable their peoples genuinely to enjoy their economic rights, it did not mean that they had assigned economic and social rights priority over civil and political rights; on the contrary, the facts showed that, despite their meagre resources, despite the enormous burden of debt servicing, despite the scourge of terrorism and drug trafficking, the countries of Latin America respected the rule of law, freedom, political pluralism, trade union rights and freedom of opinion, and held regular and honest elections.

47. Why did the developing countries of Latin America still wish to preserve democracy in spite of their economic difficulties? It was because the political class and the people of Latin America and other democracies were convinced that trying to ensure the survival of the people and the satisfaction of its basic needs without being concerned about civil and political freedoms was an option which would not withstand the test of history, as recent events in Central and Eastern Europe had shown. In the modern world, the indivisibility of political and economic rights was self-evident. It was therefore no coincidence that the United Nations General Assembly had adopted the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the same day and in the same resolution.

48. The indivisibility and interdependence of human rights had one essential aspect which should not be forgotten: the link between the economy and the individual, the human person. The Charter of the United Nations and all the international human rights instruments recognized the primacy of the human person. In general, people tried to resolve economic problems by applying purely mathematical and quantitative formulae, without considering their effect on flesh-and-blood human beings, with their needs, ideals and rights. The human condition was not merely a metaphysical concept; it could be measured by means of parameters such as the infant mortality rate, the malnutrition rate, income levels, etc. Consequently, human factors must be taken into account in the macro-economic adjustment policies dictated by the debt problem.

49. However, the indications were that the world was beginning to take those factors into account. For example, Peru had just signed a frame agreement with the International Monetary Fund, in which the human factor had been taken into account in drawing up the medium-term adjustment programme which the country would have to apply in order to normalize its relations with the international financial community. Under the agreement, which had proved difficult to negotiate, the adjustment plan was primarily intended to increase the percentage of the active population with suitable employment and to raise the real purchasing power of wages. Secondly, the economic adjustment measures should include measures to prevent negative effects on the low-income urban and rural population, or at least provide some compensation for them. Thirdly, the programme took into account the high economic and social cost of such factors as armed subversion, drug trafficking, unemployment and low incomes, all of which undermined the foundations of democracy. That new approach was a very healthy one, and his delegation hoped that the frame agreement would mark the beginning of a new trend in the economic adjustment programmes which the Commission would be called upon to consider.

50. Moreover, Mr. Danilo Türk, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, who had been instructed to study problems, policies and progressive measures relating to the more effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights, considered that the international co-operation provided by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank was crucial for the realization of those rights while countries which wished to re-enter the international credit market were applying their structural adjustment policies.

51. One of the most useful studies prepared by the international community on the social and human aspects of the adjustment process, namely the UNICEF study, clearly showed that it was scientifically possible to apply adjustment programmes which would simultaneously guarantee development, on the one hand, and the protection of vulnerable groups, on the other. The publications in question were entitled "Adjustment With a Human Face" (1989) and "The situation of children in the world" (1990). The study on adjustment policies with a human face described the tragic consequences for the individual of the economic crisis and the large-scale indebtedness incurred by many developing countries during the 1980s. The groups most affected had been children, women and other vulnerable groups in most of the countries of Africa and Latin America and in some Asian countries.

52. In its publication on world debt statistics (Debt Tables, 1989-1990), the World Bank had indicated that it was aware that the serious problem of foreign debt was one of the factors that had most impact on economic and social development in many developing countries, as well as the standard of living of their people.

53. New initiatives had been taken on the issue of debt, and positive results were expected; but the problem was far from resolved, as the reports of the World Bank, the IMF, UNCTAD and many non-governmental organizations and universities indicated. That vital issue should, therefore, remain on the agenda of international bodies. Peru considered that it should be included in the agenda of the Commission's forty-seventh session, so that the Commission could consider the way in which human factors were taken into account in economic adjustment policies. His delegation would join other Latin American delegations in submitting a draft resolution to that effect.

54. Mr. ARTEAGA (Venezuela) said that agenda items 7 (a) and 8, on the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to development, were of capital importance for his delegation, and constituted a sensitive, specific and highly topical issue. At present, it was difficult not to begin every statement with a reference to the great upheaval which was taking place in the world political order, and which everyone expected to usher in a new era of solidarity and co-operation among the members of the international community. The consolidation of freedom and the democratization of societies were advancing apace, and the end of the century looked like being a time of liberalization, of intensified dialogue and of legitimate hope that the peoples of the world might realize their desire for détente and improved international economic relations, built necessarily on just foundations.

55. In the current situation, it seemed a logical assumption that the problems related to the right to development, such as the right of peoples to enjoy an adequate standard of living, might be discussed in an atmosphere of greater understanding and solidarity on the part of all countries. The present unique moment in time should not be allowed to slip away, when it was essential that its effects should be felt in other, and no less important, areas; nor should an event which was beneficial for some become prejudicial for others. His delegation had in mind the socio-economic situation of the developing countries, which had deteriorated so dramatically that it could be claimed that the 1980s had been a wasted decade for development.

56. The efforts to guarantee the peoples of the developing countries a minimum standard of living to enable them to enjoy the right to development had been hampered by the crushing financial burden of foreign debt and the sacrifices which it imposed. That factor posed a serious threat to the political and social future of the small nations, where the very existence of democratic institutions was threatened. By way of illustration, he need only remind the Commission that by means of a variety of procedures, including debt servicing, the countries of the South had transferred massive amounts of capital to the international financial centres and that, according to the World Bank, the net outflow of capital from developing countries had amounted to \$164 billion between 1984 and 1988.

57. Problems such as those were relevant to the work of the Commission on Human Rights because the central subject of the right to development was the individual, who could not enjoy that right if society did not provide him with the requisite conditions. The development of the individual could not be dissociated from the development of the country in which he lived; the responsibility of guaranteeing the realization of the right to development lay with States, and their task would be easier in an international climate of supportive co-operation. It was clear, therefore, that economic, social and cultural rights could not remain peripheral or secondary concerns. The Declaration on the Right to Development stated that the right to development was an inalienable human right and that all human rights and all fundamental freedoms were indivisible and interdependent. It would, therefore, be unthinkable and unacceptable for international solidarity to make a distinction between certain human rights, of a kind which would mobilize the active interest of countries and organizations, and other human rights, which would be reserved for the countries which already enjoyed them, and which would feel no moral obligation to share them.

58. Since it was impossible to debate the way of realizing the right to development without giving some thought to the social cost of crises that were as serious as those caused by foreign debt, the Commission had added an item to its agenda in 1989 - item 7 (a) - which allowed it to analyse the link between the problem of foreign debt and the enjoyment of human rights in the light of the right to development. His delegation considered it absolutely essential that Governments should be aware of the serious social consequences of the problem, and that international co-operation should be mobilized to find a solution.

59. Since the Commission's previous session, important studies had been undertaken; they had shed light on the problem of indebtedness, which was not only an economic and financial problem, but also a political one. His delegation particularly wished to highlight the report by Mr. Danilo Türk, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, on the new international economic order and the promotion of human rights. The report's conclusions deserved the utmost attention, particularly those concerning the activities of the international financial institutions and the consequences of those activities for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The Special Rapporteur concluded that the solutions applied by those institutions did not take into account the real situation in the countries that were meant to apply them, and he had used Venezuela as an example.

60. In the UNICEF study entitled "The situation of children in the world", it was stated that foreign debt actually accounted for a larger proportion of the developing world's resources than that devoted to military expenditures, and that specific measures to protect the health, nutrition and education of children would not be enough unless they were accompanied by a solution to the debt problem. Finally, his delegation wished to refer to the Global Consultation on the realization of the right to development, which had been held in Geneva a few days earlier, and which had emphasized the link between respect for human rights, national stability and the promotion of international peace and security.

61. In conclusion, his delegation supported the recommendation that the Centre for Human Rights should co-ordinate the implementation of the right to development, and that each United Nations agency and programme dealing with development should have a centre for the right to development and human rights. That would be in keeping with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 44/62, which called upon the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the Declaration on the Right to Development when drawing up their programmes of activity. Finally, his delegation would be joining others in submitting a draft resolution on the consequences, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, of economic adjustment policies linked to foreign debt.

62. Mr. GONDOR (Hungary) said that his Government considered the relationship of States to international conventions and agreements to be a cardinal aspect of human rights. The fact that the Universal Declaration had been ratified by a very large number of States, whereas only a little over half of States Members of the United Nations had become parties to treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights, which laid down specific obligations in international law, led to the inevitable conclusion that the time had come

to conduct a study of the question. The international machinery for the protection of human rights could not function effectively as long as a large number of States refused to become parties to those conventions or to participate in those international mechanisms. Purely formal accession or the failure by a State to comply with its treaty obligations, or again violation of the provisions of a treaty, were of course also a cause for concern. His delegation therefore welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of an independent expert with the task of preparing a study on ways of enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations human rights instruments, and the appointment of a task force to study the computerization of the work of treaty monitoring bodies.

63. Generally speaking, the catalogue of human rights should be enlarged only on the basis of carefully considered decisions, with attention focused on new international legal instruments that were likely to help solve current problems or eliminate wrongful practices. In that respect, the rights of national, ethnic and linguistic minorities and religious groups should be codified as a matter of priority, since massive and flagrant violations of those rights were the cause of many present-day problems. National minorities should enjoy special rights for which there was as yet no provision in the international system of human rights. The Hungarian Government, particularly sensitive as it was to violations of the rights of national minorities and discrimination against them, would therefore like priority to be given to the work of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the drafting of a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in order to fill a gap in international standard-setting activities concerning human rights.

64. Since the Commission's previous session, the Republic of Hungary had witnessed radical changes towards further democratization and humanization of the State and the restoration of the rule of law, and they had already yielded tangible results in legislation.

65. In October 1989, the Hungarian Parliament had adopted a law amending the Constitution and providing, in particular, for incorporation into the legal system of the generally recognized norms of international law and for the conformity of domestic law with all international legal obligations, with emphasis on respect for and protection of the inviolable and inalienable fundamental human rights. The relevant constitutional provisions had been made more precise and comprehensive, one of them stipulating that no one could be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; no restriction could be placed on that provision in any circumstances, even under a state of emergency. The new law also established a constitutional court and a parliamentary ombudsman. It further adjusted the provisions of Hungary's fundamental law concerning refugees to its international obligations. Finally, among the amendments to the Penal Code, it was now stipulated that no one could be sentenced to death for political acts.

66. With regard to the implementation of the provisions of international human rights instruments, the Republic of Hungary had acceded to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, and to the Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Convention, on the occasion of the one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary of the Red Cross.

67. The Republic of Hungary considered itself bound by the individual complaint mechanism in respect of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The obligation to refer to a third party in the settlement of disputes had been recognized, and all previous reservations concerning the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice had been withdrawn in respect of all international instruments to which Hungary was a party.

68. All of those changes had come about as a result of the recent social and political developments in Hungary.

69. Mr. NASTASE (Observer for Romania) recalled that his country had just emerged from a totalitarian régime and truly entered the course of contemporary history. The Revolution had enabled the nation to rediscover its dignity and the values which bound it to European and universal civilization. At the same time it had fostered dialogue and co-operation with all United Nations human rights bodies, and made the country more aware of the universal rules concerning human rights and of the activities of the United Nations, especially those of the Commission on Human Rights.

70. After years of dictatorship, Romania was in a difficult economic and social situation brought about by an autarchic, totalitarian and over-centralized régime. The former socio-economic partners must therefore be integrated in the country's new economy, with the welfare of the people as the prime consideration. The civilian and military population had paid a heavy tribute to the Revolution, and socio-economic life as a whole must now be reconstructed, but it was necessary to avoid over-hasty reforms that would place too heavy a burden on the economy, and to refrain from resorting to external resources before taking stock of the state of the country's economic and industrial structures. The recovery could only be slow and gradual and would involve social constraints which must be kept to a minimum.

71. In the immediate aftermath of the Revolution, the major concern had been to step up food, energy and fuel supplies to the people. Certain laws had been abolished and measures had been taken to assist industry, while the energy quotas allotted to the population, especially with regard to natural gas and petroleum products, had been increased at the expense of certain large consumers. Social measures had also been adopted in such areas as maternity leave, and other provisions with an excessively depressive effect on wages had been abolished.

72. In the field of human rights, about a hundred repressive or restrictive laws had been repealed or amended, such as the laws on land division ("systematization"), the decrees on farming activities and the law prohibiting foreign credit. Other legislative provisions prohibiting individuals from taking part in international life, such as the regulations concerning telephone calls to foreign countries, payment in foreign currency, international rail links and postal services had been abolished. With the introduction of the new system of passport delivery, all individuals now had freedom of movement and could possess a passport which they were entitled to keep, and a decree-law had been adopted on the subject of the repatriation of Romanian citizens.

73. The political pluralism that had been established meant the participation of all the creative forces of the nation in the construction of a modern society which must involve participation by the people. Some 30 political parties, as well as free trade unions and professional associations, had already been formed.

74. The new democracy was based on the equal rights of all citizens; the rights of persons belonging to national minorities were a constant concern; a law on the subject was to be passed in the near future and a ministry for minorities set up.

75. The draft electoral Act and the new Constitution would be the subject of a wide-ranging debate to ensure that the country's present needs could best be met, since the establishment of the political and juridical foundations of the State would be an important test for the fledgling Romanian democracy. The aim was to ensure the transition from a totalitarian society to a democratic society in which all citizens could effectively enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights. The friends of free Romania would appreciate the extraordinary effort the country must make to take its place in the democratic and civilized world as soon as possible.

76. Mr. SENE (Senegal) first commended the Secretariat for having organized in Geneva, from 9 to 12 January 1990, a broad-ranging exchange of views and experience on the theme "right to development and human rights" as part of a high-level Global Consultation with the participation of the Director General for Development and International Co-operation, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the representative of the World Bank in Geneva and numerous development specialists.

77. Since the concept of the right to development had become part of legal language even before being recognized as a reality, its assimilation to human rights still gave rise to controversy, despite the Declaration on the Right to Development contained in General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986. However that may be, it could be said that the right to development as a right to solidarity was one of the third generation human rights, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights alike. The Working Group of Governmental Experts which had drafted the Declaration had drawn on Articles 1, 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutions of many specialized agencies, the International Covenants on Human Rights, articles 22 and 29 of the Universal Declaration, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960), the Proclamation of Teheran, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, one of the more specific instruments in that regard, but also the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (1974), which was called for by the developing countries, the UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978), the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (1974), and the resolution of 14 December 1962 concerning permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

78. The right to development continued to raise a great many questions and even to arouse disputes, for it was the tangible expression of the expectations of the vast majority of peoples on earth and of the right of every individual to a better life. It was therefore an extension of the right

to life. International development law did not have the same binding force as domestic law, and must adjust to the new challenges of the contemporary world. At the San Marino seminar on international humanitarian law, in 1972, President Keba Mbaye of Senegal had stated that the ultimate purpose of the right to development was to introduce justice and law into the economic order, transforming "aid-as-charity" into "aid-as-an-obligation", and to highlight the responsibility of the Governments of the developing countries in the development process.

79. Global relations calling for greater equity at the international level were inseparable from the problems arising within each national community. In many respects, the United Nations bore the responsibility for implementing the right to development, seen as the realization of social ideals concerning life, progress, peace and justice, taking into account the diversity of cultures, which were mutually enriching. Development could only be realized in a context of peace conducive to the mobilization of all resources to foster economic growth, social well-being and respect for human rights. Conversely, those conditions could not be created without an improvement in people's material circumstances, which only development could provide. Development must therefore be aimed at promoting the human being within his own social environment and enhancing his personal spiritual, moral and material development. It was by no means merely a question of making up for lost time, but was a state of mind, the successful transition by a country to a new way of thinking and acting in the context of international relations.

80. A development effort brought about in a disorderly and abrupt fashion or imposed from the outside could only disrupt peoples' lives and result in their being uprooted or marginalized or left to stagnate, all of which would lead to despair, distress and instability, and thus undermine respect for human dignity. On the contrary, all must be able to enjoy the fruits of development and equal opportunity so that peoples could participate in decision-making on the course of their development and improvement of their living and working conditions, in justice, freedom and solidarity.

81. In matters of regional co-operation, one saw that the legal instruments in force demonstrated the full extent of the concerns raised by development issues. According to article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, adopted as long ago as 1948, one of the purposes of the OAS was to promote, by co-operative action, economic, social and cultural development. In the same year, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man provided that it was the duty of every individual so to conduct himself in relation to others that each and every one might fully form and develop his personality. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights was very explicit about the right to development, in preambular paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 7. Its article 22 provided, moreover, that all peoples had the right to their economic, social and cultural development with due regard for their freedom and identity, and in the equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind. It provided that States had the duty, individually or collectively, to ensure the exercise of the right to development.

82. The European Convention on Human Rights (1950) was less explicit on the subject, but the Convention of Lomé, concluded between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, provided a testing-ground for the

right to development as a human right in the context of North-South relations. Associating the requirements of development with those of human rights, it assigned to co-operation the objective of promoting the ACP States' social and economic progress and the well-being of their populations through the satisfaction of their basic needs and the enhancement of people's capacities, with respect for their dignity.

83. On the subject of the right to development, Mr. Cheysson, former Minister and member of the Commission of the European Communities, had said that it was a right that must be recognized as being complementary to the rights of individuals and that it had been recognized by many as being the fundamental right. It was the right of a community to build and consolidate itself and it was the right of individuals to a future set on a forward-moving course.

84. When taking stock of the past decade, the participants in the recent Global Consultation in Geneva (9 to 12 January 1990) had raised the question of the realization of the right to development as a human right. In the area of development strategies, it was undeniable that there had been some positive achievements despite the relative shortage of resources. However, as far as many countries were concerned, the obstacles seemed to loom ever larger as endeavours were made to overcome them. It was difficult to assess the magnitude of the real needs of countries which had not yet really reached the "take-off" stage. During the consultation, some experts had even pointed to cases of collapsing social structures, loosening bonds of solidarity, the brain drain and various other effects of social disintegration.

85. A number of questions such as the participation of women in development, the situation of indigenous peoples, the rights of the child, the protection of the most deprived groups, the struggle against poverty, environmental protection, population and the prevention of natural disasters had been the focus of particular attention by the participants.

86. The participants had recommended concerted action, on the part of the competent bodies, on such matters as the resources available to finance development, debt, trade, commodities, energy, food, the transfer of disarmament technology, employment, education and communication, with a view to reactivating the world economy.

87. The obstacles to the right to development most frequently cited included massive violations of human rights such as apartheid, racism, the oppression of minorities and religious or ideological intolerance. Aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right to self-determination, political repression, torture and terrorism were denounced, and reference was made to drugs, hunger, illiteracy, the development of AIDS and, finally, the arms race.

88. The urgent need to reduce poverty as a source of tension and frustration incompatible with the promotion of human rights and the right to development had been recognized. The experts had described the new trends emerging from recent developments in the world economy, and had expressed the view that the right to development should be taken into consideration in structural adjustment projects, procedures for debt repayment and regional integration. The Centre for Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly must see to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development. That right must form the basis of all negotiations on

the improvement of international economic structures; meanwhile, nothing could be achieved without the political will to change the rules of the world economic system by peaceful means. In the final analysis, the right to development was part of the global process of economic, social, cultural and political progress.

89. Affirming the right to development should make it possible gradually to put an end to injustice in international economic relations, and, by the same token, to the scourges of hunger, disease and illiteracy throughout the world.

90. Mrs. MOLINA (Deputy Secretary of the Commission) informed the Commission that it had not been possible to distribute the report of the Director-General on the "effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments" (E/CN.4/1990/39) in all the languages within the scheduled time-limit or as widely as the Secretariat would have wished, on account of the limited resources available to the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Conference Services.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.