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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Cuba: draft resolution

Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field
through the promotion of international co-operation and the strict
observance of the principle of non-intervention

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and the need to promote social progress and to raise the level of life within a wider concept of liberty,

Bearing in mind that one of the cardinal purposes of the United Nations is to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace,

Recalling that in accordance with Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations all Member States are obliged to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, in order to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and the effectiveness of these rights and freedoms,

Convinced that such co-operation should be based on an in-depth understanding of the wide range of problems existing in the various societies represented in the Organization and in the full respect for their respective political, economic and social realities,

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it stated that all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the human person and peoples were inalienable, indivisible and interdependent, and consequently the questions relating to human rights should be examined globally, taking into account both the overall context of the various societies and their modalities, as well as the need for the promotion of the full dignity of the human person and the development of the well-being of the society,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and 36/103 of 9 December 1981, which contain, respectively, the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States,

Reiterating that nothing contained in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations, a Member State or a group of States to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Reaffirming the duty of a State to refrain from the exploitation and distortion of human rights issues as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of States, of exerting pressure on other States or creating distrust and disorder within and among States or groups of States,

Also reaffirming the right and duty of States to combat, within their constitutional prerogatives, the dissemination of false or distorted news that can be interpreted as interference in the internal affairs of other States or as being harmful to the promotion of peace, co-operation and friendly relations among States and nations,

Taking into account the increase in governmental, non-governmental and transnational mass media actions in defamatory campaigns, vilifications or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the internal affairs of other States under the pretext of humanitarian concerns,

1. Reaffirms the sovereign right of all people freely to determine, consolidate and defend their own political, economic, cultural and social system, without outside interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever;

2. Reiterates that the exploitation and distortion of human rights issues as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of States, of exerting pressure on other States or creating distrust and disorder within and among States or groups of States, is as contrary to the basic principles of international law as any other kind of intervention;

3. Expresses its profound conviction that the use of the human rights issue for political purposes creates serious obstacles for the achievement of an atmosphere of détente, peace and co-operation in international relations and

adversely affects the real possibilities to find a solution to international humanitarian problems as well as an effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular in the developing countries subject to such campaigns;

4. Underlines the urgent need to achieve dissemination of impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries, in particular concerning the existing situation in the developing countries in the field of human rights, in order to contribute to the promotion of a climate of true confidence, co-operation at the international level, friendly relations and effective collaboration among all nations large and small, regardless of their diverse political, economic and social systems and different levels of development;

5. Calls upon all Member States to adopt, within the framework of their respective legal system, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve such objectives;

6. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to establish at its forty-seventh session an open-ended working group to examine the contents of the present resolution in order to consider:

(a) The elaboration of a declaration regarding the strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international co-operation and the strict observance of the principle of non-intervention;

(b) The ways and mechanisms that could be established to strengthen United Nations action in this field and to examine non-compliance with the present resolution;

7. Requests the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of the discussion in the open-ended working group;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account, in the implementation of the resolutions regarding programmes on the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the concerns and provisions contained in the present resolution, as well as the concepts and principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 2131 (XX), 2625 (XXV), 36/103 and 32/130;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to Member States the text of the present resolution, requesting them to communicate their views on ways to strengthen the United Nations action in this field through the promotion of co-operation among Member States and the strict observance of the principle of non-intervention, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session the answers received, under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

