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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Argentina, Australia, Canada,* China, Cuba,* Denmark,* Finland,*
German Democratic Republic, Honduras,* Netherlands,* New Zealand,*
Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Sweden,* United Republic of Tanzania,*
United States of America and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations

The Commission on Human Rights

Mindful that one of the purposes of the United Nations as embodied in the Charter is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982, authorizing the establishment annually of a working group on indigenous populations, with the mandate to review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations, giving special attention to the evolution of standards concerning the rights of indigenous populations,

Recalling also its resolution 1985/21 of 11 March 1985, which urged the Working Group to intensify its efforts, in carrying out its Plan of Action, to develop international standards in this field.

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling also resolution 1985/22 of 29 August 1985 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, whereby the Sub-Commission endorsed the Plan of Action drawn up by the Working Group for its future work, and the Group's decision to emphasize the part of its mandate related to standard-setting activities.

Having examined the report 1/ of the Working Group on its fourth session held from 29 July to 2 August 1985,

Conscious that, in various situations, indigenous populations are unable to enjoy their inalienable human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind that international standards must be developed on the basis of the diverse realities of indigenous populations in all parts of the world,

Determined to do everything possible to promote the enjoyment of the rights of indigenous populations,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, by which the Assembly decided to establish a voluntary fund to facilitate the participation of representatives of indigenous communities and organizations in the deliberations of the Working Group, to be administered by five trustees with relevant experience on issues affecting indigenous populations, who would serve in their personal capacity, and considering the implementation of the criteria outlined in that resolution as a matter of the highest priority.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Sub-Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations for its valuable work, in particular the preliminary steps taken at its fourth session in the area of standard-setting, and for its continued broad approach and flexible methods of work,

2. Further expresses its appreciation for the active and constructive participation in the work of the Working Group of observers of Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, and, in particular, organizations and communities of indigenous peoples,

3. Urges the Working Group to intensify its efforts, in carrying out its Plan of Action, to continue the development of international standards based on a continued and comprehensive review of developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous populations and of the situations and aspirations of indigenous populations throughout the world,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Working Group in discharging its tasks, including adequate dissemination of information about the activities of the Working Group to Governments, specialized agencies and relevant organizations of indigenous populations, in order to encourage the widest possible participation in its work.

1/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1985/22.