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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 101

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Australia, India, Iraq, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway and
Sri Lanka: draft resolution

National institutions for the protection and promotion
of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/123 of 16 December 1977, 33/46 of
14 December 1978, 34/49 of 23 November 1979, 36/134 of 14 December 1981, 38/123 of
16 December 1983, 39/144 of 14 December 1984 and 40/123 of 13 December 1985
concerning national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights,

Mindful of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and
local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, endorsed by
the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46,

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/
the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other international human rights
instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and
fundamental freedoms,

Conscious of the significant role that institutions at the national level can
play in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

developing and enhancing public awareness and observance of those rights and freedoms,

Welcoming the holding of seminars at Geneva, under the auspices of the United Nations, on the experience of different countries in the implementation of international standards on human rights, held in June and July 1983, and on commissions for community relations, held in September 1985 and other current United Nations initiatives to assist in the development of national machinery to combat racial discrimination,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 3/
2. Emphasizes the importance of developing, in accordance with national legislation, effective national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, and of maintaining their independence and integrity;
3. Encourages all Member States to take the appropriate steps for the establishment or, where they already exist, the strengthening of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights;
4. Draws attention to the constructive role that national non-governmental organizations can play in the work of such national institutions;
5. Encourages all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment of such national institutions;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to give due attention to the role of national institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights and to provide all necessary assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of paragraphs 3 and 5 above, according high priority to the needs of developing countries;
7. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide and, as appropriate, to enhance assistance in the field of human rights to Governments, at their request, within the framework of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;
8. Encourages the Secretary-General to complete as soon as possible and submit to the General Assembly, through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, a consolidated report, for eventual publication as a United Nations handbook, on national institutions for the use of Governments, including information on the various types and models of national and local institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, taking into account differing social and legal systems;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.
