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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica,
Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France,
Gambia, Greece, Iceland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Morocco,
Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sweden,
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and
Zambia: draft resolution

Summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, which states that every human being has the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Having regard to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that every human being has the inherent right to life, that this right shall be protected by law and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life,

Recalling also its resolution 34/175 of 17 December 1979, in which it reaffirmed that mass and flagrant violations of human rights are of special concern to the United Nations and urged the Commission on Human Rights to take timely and effective action in existing and future cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights,

Recalling further its resolution 36/22 of 9 November 1981, in which it condemned the practice of summary or arbitrary executions, and its resolutions 37/182 of 17 December 1982, 38/96 of 16 December 1983, 39/110 of 14 December 1984 and 40/143 of 13 December 1985,

Deeply alarmed at the continued occurrence on a large scale of summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions,

Recalling resolution 1982/13 of 7 September 1982 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in which the Sub-Commission recommended that effective measures should be adopted to prevent the occurrence of summary or arbitrary executions,

Welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984, and the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, annexed thereto, which resolution was endorsed by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in its resolution 15, as well as the ongoing work on summary or arbitrary executions within the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control,

Recognizing the need for closer co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in efforts to bring an end to summary or arbitrary executions,

Convinced of the need for appropriate action to combat and eventually eliminate the abhorrent practice of summary or arbitrary executions, which represents a flagrant violation of the most fundamental human right, the right to life,

1. Strongly condemns once again the large number of summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions, which continue to take place in various parts of the world;
2. Demands that the practice of summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end;
3. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/35 of 7 May 1982, in which the Council decided to appoint for one year a special rapporteur to examine the questions related to summary or arbitrary executions;
4. Also welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/36 of 23 May 1986, in which the Council decided to continue the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. S. A. Wako, for a further year and requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of summary or arbitrary executions as a matter of high priority at its forty-third session;
5. Urges all Governments and all others concerned to co-operate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights in order that he may carry out his mandate effectively;
6. Requests the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to respond effectively to information that comes before him, in particular when a summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened, or when such an execution has recently occurred;

7. Endorses the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur in his report 1/ to the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights on the need to develop international standards to ensure that proper investigations are conducted by appropriate authorities into all cases of suspicious death, including provisions for adequate autopsy;

8. Invites the Special Rapporteur to receive information from appropriate United Nations agencies and other international organizations and to examine the elements to be included in such standards and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-third session on progress made in this respect;

9. Considers that the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, should continue to seek and receive information from Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur so that he may effectively carry out his mandate;

11. Again requests the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appear not to be respected;

12. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-third session, on the basis of the report of the Special Rapporteur to be prepared in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/35, 1983/36, 1984/35, 1985/40 and 1986/36, to make recommendations concerning appropriate action to combat and eventually eliminate the abhorrent practice of summary or arbitrary executions.
