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THIRD COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 98 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES  
FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico,  
Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Uruguay and Venezuela:  
draft resolution

Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2/ and other international instruments concerning human rights adopted by the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 44/148 of 15 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990 and other relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind resolution 1991/14 of the Commission on Human Rights whereby the Commission drew its attention to the contradiction between the existence of situations of extreme poverty and exclusion from society, which must be overcome, and the duty to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI).

Recalling resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, which proclaims the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the preamble to which identifies violence, social disorder and terrorism as characteristics of the past decade and the search for a significant reduction in extreme poverty as one of its principal goals and a shared responsibility of all countries,

Recognizing that extreme poverty is a violation of human dignity and a direct infringement of the right to life,

Recognizing that situations of extreme poverty may, in some cases, exacerbate social conflict, creating situations of violence which have a substantial impact on the life of peoples and of States,

Deeply concerned at the steady increase in extreme poverty in the world and at its effect on the most vulnerable groups of society, who are thus prevented from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the elimination of widespread poverty and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights are interrelated goals,

Recognizing that the grave suffering of the great majority of human beings who live in conditions of extreme poverty demands the immediate attention of the international community and the adoption of concrete measures for the elimination of extreme poverty and the resulting exacerbation of social conflict which heightens the suffering of the neediest,

Recognizing also the valiant effort of the very poor not to allow themselves to be swept away by violence and to build peace,

1. Affirms that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international measures are therefore required to eliminate them;

2. Stresses the need for an in-depth and complete study of the nature of the phenomenon of extreme poverty which affects mankind, and of its role in generating social disorder;

3. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to give appropriate consideration, in directing its studies of extreme poverty, to the causes which, combined with poverty, exacerbate social conflict and create situations of violence which affect the life of peoples and States;

4. Again requests the financial institutions of the international system to intensify their efforts to mitigate poverty, basically by giving priority to their poverty-oriented loan operations and to economic research and policy analysis related to extreme poverty;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the concrete measures taken by the United Nations Children's Fund to lessen the effects of extreme poverty on children and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give

priority to the search for a means of alleviating poverty within the framework of resolutions 45/199 and 45/213;

6. Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-seventh session in connection with the item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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