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Agenda item 98 (b)

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

Australia, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile,
Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador,
El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Mexico,
Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Peru,
Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden,
Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Vanuatu:
draft resolution

International Year for the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly.

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, set forth in its Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation 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,

Reiterating its resolution 45/164 of 18 December 1990, proclaiming 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in such areas, inter alia, as human rights, the environment, development, education, health,

Taking into account the guidelines for international years and anniversaries adopted by the General Assembly in decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/57 of 6 March 1991,

Noting with satisfaction the initiatives taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund in its resolution 1991/7 and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in its resolution 1991/12 in response to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/57,

Noting the entry into force on 5 September 1991 of the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organisation,

Welcoming decision 3/7 of 4 September 1991 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development regarding the opportunity afforded by the International Year for the World's Indigenous People as a first step towards mobilizing international technical and financial cooperation for the self-development of indigenous people and their communities, 1/

Informed of the endorsement by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-third session of the second working paper 2/ submitted by Mr. Asbjorn Eide and Ms. Christy Mbonu,

Mindful of the preparatory process for the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General 3/ regarding the preparation and the organization of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People,

Recognizing the value and the diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of the world's indigenous people,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to proclaim during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the theme "Indigenous people - a new partnership" for the International Year;

2. Recommends that the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, in their consideration of the contributions that they can make to the success of the Year, be guided by how:

1/ A/46/48 (Part II).

2/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/39.

3/ A/46/543.

(a) Their operational activities can most effectively contribute to the solutions of problems faced by indigenous people;

(b) Indigenous people can play an important role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects which may affect them;

3. Encourages States to consult with indigenous people, and non-governmental organizations working with them, regarding activities for the Year;

4. Invites States again to inform the Secretary-General of their initiatives;

5. Adopts the annexed programme of activities for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People;

6. Recommends the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights as the Coordinator of the International Year with functional duties to be assigned to the Centre on Human Rights in conjunction with the Office of the Director-General for International Economic Cooperation and the International Labour Organisation;

7. Requests the Coordinator actively to solicit the cooperation of other elements of the United Nations, including financial and development institutions;

8. Decides:

(a) That the Coordinator shall convene early in 1992 a technical meeting of agencies, regional commissions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system with representatives of States, organizations of indigenous people and other non-governmental organizations having a special interest in indigenous matters:

- (i) To identify programme areas or capabilities that are of particular relevance and priority to indigenous people;
- (ii) To agree on specific objectives for special projects to be implemented in 1993 as part of the International Year and to ensure their consonance with the theme and objectives of the Year;
- (iii) To consider existing project guidelines and recommend effective means for including indigenous people in the initiation, the design and implementation of the special projects to be undertaken in 1993;
- (iv) To suggest appropriate procedures and criteria for the evaluation of projects involving indigenous people, in 1993 and thereafter;
- (v) To consider what financial provisions, if any, need to be made to ensure implementation of the foregoing;

(vi) To report on the outcome of the technical meeting conference to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session;

(b) To continue to take into account the ongoing work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities as well as that of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations;

(c) To conduct the opening ceremonies for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People at its forty-seventh session in 1992;

9. Invites those States that are in a position to do so to consider means by which they could provide resources to assist the United Nations work on the International Year, for example by the secondment of suitable staff;

10. Urges States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as indigenous peoples' organizations to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year opened by the Secretary-General;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to give all the necessary assistance to permit the implementation of the Coordinator's tasks;

12. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to convene a meeting of participating parties to the programmes and projects of the International Year to assess after the International Year what conclusions can be drawn from the activities.

Annex

Programme of activities for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People

I. ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

A. United Nations observances to set the general tone for activities under the International Year

(a) A formal opening-day ceremony by the Secretary-General in New York, during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

(b) Messages of support by heads of State or Government, executive heads of United Nations bodies as well as chairpersons of the principal committees;

(c) A formal day of observance during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva;

(d) Issuance of slogan cancellations by the United Nations Postal Administration, paraphrasing "indigenous people - indigenous rights"/International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 1993;

(e) Design of a symbol by an indigenous artist for use in connection with activities during the International Year.

B. Projects and activities to be undertaken by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, in cooperation with the Coordinator and in consultation with indigenous organizations

(a) Production in all languages and dissemination of a poster highlighting the global diversity of indigenous people, and of a public service announcement using the same design as the poster for placement in international magazines, as space is donated;

(b) Publication of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in local languages;

(c) Production and wide distribution of special programmes in the radio series of the Department of Public Information, aimed at general and non-indigenous audiences;

(d) Production in all six official languages of an illustrated brochure on the Year, intended for use by United Nations information centres, non-governmental organizations, schools, the media and the general public.

C. Activities of the United Nations system

(a) Increasing the coordination, cooperation and technical assistance by the United Nations agencies and bodies for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health. In this connection, it is recommended that United Nations operational agencies explore possible new areas of cooperation, in particular technical and financial assistance;

(b) Funding of concrete projects for indigenous communities, reflecting the wishes of indigenous people, that can have a direct benefit to the community;

(c) Increasing publicity, especially to indigenous communities, on the work of the United Nations in areas related to the objectives of the Year;

(d) Increasing awareness of the existence of relevant international legal instruments related to the objectives of the Year, and promoting their widespread ratification and implementation;

(e) Establishing networks of indigenous organizations and communities for the sharing of information and experience in particular fields, such as health care, bilingual education, resource and environmental management;

(f) Contracting or secondment of indigenous organizations and persons with relevant expertise in carrying out projects for the benefit of indigenous communities throughout the world;

(g) Examining the possibility of holding the next two sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in the western hemisphere and in the Asia/Pacific region;

(h) Promoting an international trade fair of indigenous products;

(i) Providing technical assistance to Governments wishing to make provisions in their legislation for the protection and promotion of the human rights of indigenous people, in particular on questions of land, environmental protection and strengthening of cultural identity, as well as technical and financial assistance for the implementation of such legislation.

II. ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Member States are invited, in conformity with their right to determine freely their own development objectives in the light of their particular situations, to consider adopting the following measures to ensure the success of the Year:

(a) Governments could designate a contact person for the Year in the appropriate ministry and establish national committees composed of governmental, indigenous and non-governmental representatives to prepare a national programme of activities;

(b) Governments could raise public awareness through information and education projects. These might include the publication of books, posters and leaflets by and/or on indigenous people; an educational book about the values, history and aspirations of indigenous people; special programmes on national radio and television; grants and awards for research about indigenous people by indigenous scholars; meetings and conferences;

(c) Governments could promote indigenous initiatives in such areas as radio and television and model projects on education, health, employment, housing and the environment;

(d) Governments could present information, prepared in partnership with indigenous people, about the situation prevailing in the country and the activities initiated during the International Year;

(e) Governments could encourage participation of indigenous people in the preparation and implementation of all activities undertaken in connection with the International Year;

(f) Indigenous organizations and communities could be encouraged to prepare their own programmes of activities and to take such measures as:

- (i) Establishing contact points and committees for the Year, with a view to facilitating participation in the organization and implementation of activities carried out at the national level;
- (ii) Preparing programmes of information activities, including publications, exhibitions, educational material, meetings, cultural events and training courses. Support for such activities should be sought from international organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations;
- (iii) Indigenous communities could plan demonstration projects in development, environment, health, education or in other areas; support for such activities could be sought from international organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations.

