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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 17

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Algeria*, Argentina, Armenia*, Bhutan, Bolivia*, Botswana,
Brazil*, Burundi*, Cameroon*, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia,
Congo, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Croatia*, Cuba, Cyprus*,
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic*,
Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea*, Eritrea*, Ethiopia*,
Georgia*, Ghana*, Guatemala, Haiti*, Honduras*, India,
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco,
Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua*, Niger, Panama*, Paraguay*,
Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia*, Senegal,
South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda*, Uruguay, Venezuela:
draft resolution

1999/.. Towards a culture of peace

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/173 of 22 December 1995, 51/101 of 12 December 1996 and 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace, resolution 51/104 of 12 December 1996 on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights; 52/15 of 20 November 1997, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace; and 53/25 of 10 November 1998 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010),

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

Also recalling its resolution 1998/54, entitled "Towards a culture of peace", of 17 April 1998,

Taking note of the report presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in coordination with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which contains a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace,

Bearing in mind the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the purposes and principles contained therein,

Reaffirming that, since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed,

Taking into account that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights, strengthens solidarity among peoples and dialogue between cultures, and promotes democratic participation and the right to development of women and men on an equal footing,

Recognizing that culture is an integral whole and a basis for the intellectual development of all human beings, affirms the need for access, on an equal basis, by children, men and women, including the elderly, to the science of knowledge, in particular to an education for peace, to the enjoyment of the beautiful legacy of mankind, for the full development of individuals as human beings,

Underlining, at the dawn of the new millennium, the need to develop effective policies for the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all people, thereby encouraging them to actively contribute to the further development of a culture of peace,

1. Recognizes the contributions made by United Nations entities, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and by international organizations to the Secretary-General's report on a culture of peace, in particular, those elements pertaining to the activities to foster the respect of human rights;

2. Encourages the General Assembly to conclude its deliberations on the adoption of a declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace;

3. Takes note with appreciation of initiatives of civil society, in coordination with United Nations entities, to observe the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace;

4. Reiterates its invitation to States to promote a culture of peace based on the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for all human rights, democracy, education for peace, promotion of sustainable development, tolerance, respect for pluralism, positive acceptance of multiculturalism, the wider participation of women, and equal opportunities for all, as an integral approach to preventing violence in its diverse manifestations;

5. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report, taking into consideration the comments and views of all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on the contribution of the promotion and protection of human rights to the further development of a culture of peace, and to present this report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session;

6. Decides to continue considering the question of a culture of peace at its fifty-sixth session, giving due attention to the fact that the year 2000 has been proclaimed, by the General Assembly, as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.
