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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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- (c) ADAPTATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MACHINERY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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\* Documents E/CN.4/1999/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1999/L.11 and addenda.

XVIII. EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS:

- (a) TREATY BODIES;
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- (c) ADAPTATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MACHINERY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Commission considered agenda item 18 at its 46th to 48th meetings, on 21 and 22 April, and at its 58th meeting, on 28 April 1999. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 18, see annex VI to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

National institutions

3. At the 47th meeting, on 21 April 1999, the Commission heard statements by the following national institutions: Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Mexico, Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme - France, Commission nationale togolaise des droits de l'homme, Commission supérieure des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales de Tunisie, Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme du Royaume du Maroc, Danish Centre for Human Rights, Defensor del Pueblo de Colombia, Federación Iberoamericana de Ombudsman, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia, Human Rights Commission in New Zealand, Indonesian Human Rights Commission, International Ombudsman Institute, National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom of Cameroon, National Human Rights Commission of India, National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Observatoire national des droits de l'homme - Algérie, Philippine Commission on Human Rights, Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos de El Salvador, South African Human Rights Commission, Uganda Human Rights Commission.

4. In the general debate on agenda item 18, statements were made by members of the Commission, observers and non-governmental organizations. For a detailed list of speakers, see annex III.

Regional cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region

5. At the 58th meeting, on 28 April 1999, the representative of India introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.75, sponsored by Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

6. Operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 were orally revised by the representative of India.

7. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, decision 1999/69.

Composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

8. At the 58th meeting, on 28 April 1999, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.78, sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ghana, Malaysia and Turkey subsequently joined the sponsors.

9. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada, Chile, France and the United States of America.

10. The representative of Germany (on behalf of the European Union) requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Cuba, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 34 votes to 16, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines,

Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Austria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Liberia, The Russian Federation, South Africa.

11. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/70.

Regional arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

12. At the 59th meeting, on 28 April 1999, the observer for Belgium introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.82, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela. Belarus, Cameroon, Croatia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritius, Moldova, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and Togo subsequently joined the sponsors.

13. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/71.

Human rights and thematic procedures

14. At the 59th meeting, on 28 April 1999, the representative of the Czech Republic introduced draft decision E/CN.4/1999/L.83, sponsored by the Czech Republic.

15. A statement in connection with the draft decision was made by the representative of Cuba.

16. The draft decision was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1999/110.

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

17. At the 59th meeting, on 28 April 1999, the observer for Australia introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.87, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru,

the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Costa Rica, Croatia, Germany, Israel, Morocco, Senegal, Ukraine and Venezuela subsequently joined the sponsors.

18. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/72.

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