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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 7

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND STUDY OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING: PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO ENJOY AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING; FOREIGN DEBT, ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT POLICIES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, Ghana*, Guatemala*, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines*, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Viet Nam* and Zambia: draft resolution

1993/... Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the purpose of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the full promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

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

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Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 and the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Welcoming the final report on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/16), submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Danilo Türk,

Bearing in mind Sub-Commission resolutions 1989/20 and 1989/21 of 31 August 1989, 1990/16 of 30 August 1990, 1991/27 of 29 August 1991 and 1992/29 of 27 August 1992,

Recognizing that the activities of the various organizations in the United Nations system should be closely interrelated and that it is necessary to draw on all the efforts made in the various disciplines relating to man in order to promote all his rights effectively,

Having in mind the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1990 (E/CN.4/1991/59, annex),

Having in mind also the considerations of the World Bank contained in the publication World Debt Tables 1991-92 (volume 1) of December 1991, relating to the external debt of developing countries,

Aware that the serious problem of foreign debt remains one of the most acute factors adversely affecting economic and social development and the living standards of the inhabitants in many developing countries, with serious effects of a social nature,

Concerned about the repercussions of structural adjustment programmes in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

Deeply concerned that the debt-service obligations remain high, that the factors determining the capacity to pay have not moved in consonance with the debt-service obligations of the majority of developing countries, and that the prospects for reducing the adverse effects of the debt burden on the development process in developing countries continue to be uncertain,

Stressing that measures for debt reduction also need to be accompanied by vigorous efforts to improve the international economic environment in order to facilitate the growth and development of developing countries,

Considering that the new strategies for solving the debt problem, of both official and private origin, require policies of economic adjustment accompanied by growth and development and that it is essential, within those policies, to give priority consideration in their implementation to human conditions, including standards of living, health, food, education and employment of the population, especially among the most vulnerable and low-income groups,

Taking into account the particular concern expressed by the General Assembly at the growing deterioration of living conditions in the developing world, at its negative effects on the full enjoyment of human rights, and especially at the very serious economic situation of the African continent and at the terrible effects of the heavy burden of external debt on the developing countries,

Recalling its resolutions 1989/15 of 2 March 1989, 1990/17 and 1990/18 of 23 February 1990, 1990/24 of 27 February 1990, 1991/13 of 22 February 1991 and 1992/9 of 21 February 1992,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the preliminary report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19), first (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/19) and second progress (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/17) and final (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/16) reports on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Danilo Türk;

2. Stresses the importance of alleviating the debt and debt-service burdens of developing countries with debt problems in the framework of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

3. Affirms that a major objective of any debt strategy should be to help debtor developing countries achieve a level of growth sufficient to enable them to satisfy their social, economic and development needs;

4. Also affirms that debt payments should not take precedence over the basic rights of the people of debtor countries to food, shelter, clothing, employment, health services and a healthy environment;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in consultation with Governments, the specialized agencies and concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session on the repercussions and prospects of the debt crisis and adjustment programmes on the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of developing countries;

6. Decides to continue to consider, at its fiftieth session, the agenda item entitled "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including: problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development".
