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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

Australia, Austria, Belgium\*, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Guinea-Bissau, Netherlands, Norway\*, Peru, Philippines\*, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal\*, Slovakia\*, Spain\*, Switzerland\* and Zimbabwe\*: draft resolution

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

GE.93-11005 (E)

1993/... 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

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the peoples of the United Nations have reaffirmed in the Charter of the United Nations their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Mindful that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that all persons are entitled to the realization of their economic, social and cultural rights, which are indispensable to their dignity and the free development of their personality,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Convinced that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Aware that, despite progress achieved by the international community with respect to the setting of standards for the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the implementation and promotion of these rights and the problems of their realization have not received sufficient attention within the framework of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Member States, individually and through international cooperation, should intensify their efforts to secure an adequate standard of living for all people, giving priority to those living in extreme poverty,

Recalling the essential importance of national efforts and international cooperation based on free consent to the realization of the right of all

persons to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to a continuous improvement in living conditions,

Conscious of the need to secure full respect for the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the rights of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged,

Emphasizing the importance of the Limburg Principles on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/CN.4/1987/17),

Recognizing that popular participation in its various forms is an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing public awareness of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the role that non-governmental organizations can play in that regard,

Welcoming the efforts made with a view to an intensive study of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and recognizing the urgent need for a more vigorous and effective multidisciplinary approach to the promotion and protection of the rights contained in the Covenant,

Recalling its resolution 1992/10 of 21 February 1992,

1. Welcomes the contribution of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which continues to give impetus to the implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Covenant;

2. Encourages States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to give their full support and cooperation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

3. Further encourages States parties to use their reporting obligation as a process to assist the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, ensuring popular participation in the preparation of their periodic reports as well as the widest possible distribution at the national level;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to urge all States parties to submit reports on time and to take appropriate measures in relation to those States parties whose reports are long overdue;

5. Further welcomes the adoption by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of general comments and takes note with interest of General Comment No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing (E/1992/23, annex III) and the reaffirmed importance attached in this framework to respect for human dignity and the principle of non-discrimination;

6. Recognizes the importance of ensuring the study of specific economic, social and cultural rights and in this framework takes note of resolution 1992/26 of 27 August 1992 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and takes note with interest of the working paper prepared by the expert, Mr. Rajindar Sachar, on the right to adequate housing (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/15);

7. Invites States parties, in conformity with article 2, paragraph 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in pursuance of General Comment No. 3 (1990) (E/1991/23, annex III), to consider identifying specific national benchmarks designed to give effect to the minimum core obligation to ensure the satisfaction of minimum essential levels of each of the rights;

8. Notes with interest the organization, under the United Nations programme for human rights activities, of the Seminar on appropriate indicators to measure achievements in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights and held at Geneva from 25 to 29 January 1993;

9. Recognizes the importance of using indicators as a means of measuring or assessing progress in the realization of human rights and in this framework stresses the need for ensuring the collection of appropriately disaggregated data;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar to the attention of Member States, the Commission on Human Rights, other United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations;

11. Affirms that the full respect of the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is inextricably linked with the process of development, the central purpose of which is the realization of the potentialities of the human person in harmony with the

effective participation of all members of society in relevant decision-making processes as agents and beneficiaries of development, as well as fair distribution of the benefits of development;

12. Invites Member States to include measures to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in national legislation, policies and development programmes, using the Covenant as a framework for this purpose;

13. Welcomes the continuing efforts made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to develop greater in-depth understanding of the relevant issues of the Covenant by holding a general discussion on one of its specific rights or articles, and takes note of the general discussion which took place during the seventh session of the Committee on the right to take part in cultural life;

14. Takes note of the support expressed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the drafting of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights granting the right of individuals or groups to submit communications concerning non-compliance with the Covenant;

15. Takes note with deep appreciation of 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, Mr. Danilo Türk;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the wide distribution of the progress reports of the Special Rapporteur throughout the United Nations system, namely by ensuring their publication in a single document;

17. Welcomes the suggestion made by the Special Rapporteur that cooperation between the financial institutions and the human rights organs of the United Nations be strengthened, namely by encouraging the participation of the representatives of those institutions in the meetings of human rights bodies;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to consider organizing, within the framework of the overall budget of the United Nations and under the programme for human rights activities, an expert seminar on the role of the financial institutions in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment and economic, social and cultural rights, which could serve as a basis for a continued dialogue between human rights

bodies and the international financial institutions, in the light of the conclusions of the Special Rapporteur in his final report and of the discussions held at the expert seminar on appropriate indicators;

20. Takes note of the decision of the Sub-Commission to consider the possibility of studying the subject of income distribution and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

21. Encourages the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to make available, through its programme of advisory services and technical assistance, expert assistance to States for the purpose of formulating policies on economic, social and cultural rights in the light of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to promote coordination of the human rights activities of the United Nations and those of development agencies with a view to drawing upon their relevant expertise and support;

23. Invites the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to article 22 of the Covenant and taking into account General Comment No. 2 (1990) (E/1990/23, annex III), to identify ways in which international cooperation and technical assistance would contribute, particularly in developing countries, to the effective progressive implementation of the rights recognized in the Covenant;

24. Decides to consider issues raised by the present resolution at its fiftieth session under 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".

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