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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on Prevention of  
Discrimination and Protection  
of Minorities  
Forty-fifth session  
Agenda item 8

THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Ms. Attah, Mrs. Daes, Mrs. Forero Ucros, Mr. Guissé, Mr. Ramadhane,  
Mr. Saboia and Mr. Sachar: draft resolution

1993/... Human Rights and income distribution

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of  
Minorities,

Reaffirming the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelated nature  
of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights,

Mindful that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International  
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and a wide range of  
additional texts provide unequivocally that all persons are entitled to the  
full realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling paragraph I.10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of  
Action in which the World Conference on Human Rights, inter alia, reaffirmed  
the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral  
part of human rights, and urged States and the international community to  
promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the  
right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development,

Aware that all States possess legally binding obligations to respect,  
protect and fulfil economic, social and cultural 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,

Recalling the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, Mr. Danilo Türk in particular his final report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/16, paras. 76-84), which addressed a range of issues concerning the relationship between the enjoyment of human rights and income distribution,

Noting its resolution 1992/29 of 27 August 1992, in which it decided to consider, at its forty-fifth session, the possibility of examining in a future study the subject of income distribution and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

Noting also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/14 of 26 February 1993, in which the Commission took 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,

Disturbed that, according to the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report of 1992 and 1993, income distribution both within and between nations is becoming increasingly unbalanced and concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

Deeply alarmed that the gap between the rich and the poor has more than doubled over the past three decades, with the richest twenty per cent of the world maintaining an eighty-three per cent share of global income,

Conscious of the impact of inequitable income distribution on the realization of the rights to health, education, housing, food, environmental quality and other economic, social and cultural rights,

Aware that the relationship between income distribution and growing levels of poverty, as well as the violation of human rights, requires further in-depth research and analysis by the human rights community,

Recalling the numerous legal foundations of economic, social and cultural rights within international law, as well as within various domestic legal systems,

Reiterating the fundamental principles of equality of treatment, human dignity, equity and justice,

Affirming the inherent linkages between the enjoyment of all human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and the striving towards a more equitable distribution of economic resources both within and between nations,

Taking note of the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, annex),

1. Urges all States to undertake political, economic, fiscal, social, legal and other necessary measures designed to close existing gaps in the distribution of income and expand access to and control over economic and other resources;
2. Also urges the international community, the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other relevant actors to undertake measures designed to close the current widening gap in income distribution, both within and between nations;
3. Decides to entrust ..., as Special Rapporteur, with the task of producing a preparatory document on the relationship between the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and income distribution, at both national and international levels, taking also into account matters related to the realization of the right to development, with a view to determining how most effectively to continue attention to these issues;
4. Requests the Special Rapporteur to consult the widest possible variety of sources in the preparation of the preparatory document, including those of non-governmental organizations;
5. Encourages the Special Rapporteur to initiate consultations with the international financial institutions, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations bodies in the preparation of his preparatory document;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the financial, technical and expert assistance required in the preparation of the preparatory document;
7. Invites the Special Rapporteur to submit the preparatory document to the Sub-Commission at its forty-sixth session for examination of the issues arising from the relationship between income distribution and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

8. Recommends the following draft decision to the Commission on Human Rights:

"The Commission on Human Rights, taking note of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolution 1993/... of .. August 1993, endorses the decision by the Sub-Commission to appoint ... as Special Rapporteur on human rights and income distribution to submit a preparatory document to the Sub-Commission at its forty-sixth session and to request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the financial, technical and expert assistance required in the preparation of his study and the necessary assistance to compile and analyse the information and documents collected."

9. Also recommends the following draft decision to the Economic and Social Council for adoption:

"The Economic and Social Council, noting Commission on Human Rights decision 1994/... and resolution 1993/... of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, decides to endorse the request of the Sub-Commission and the Commission to appoint ... as Special Rapporteur on human rights and income distribution and requests ... to submit a preliminary report to the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance he may require.

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