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SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Agenda item 18

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Netherlands* and Belgium: draft resolution

Suppression of the traffic in persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1982/20 of 10 March 1982 1/ on the question of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, 1988/42 of 8 March 1988, 2/ 1989/35 of 6 March 1989, 3/ 1990/63 of 7 March 1990, 4/ and 1991/58 of

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 2 (E/1982/12), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., 1988, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

4/ Ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

GE.93-70315 (E)

6 March 1991 5/ and 1992/47 of 3 March 1992 6/ and taking note of Commission resolutions 1993/27 of 5 March 1993 7/ and decision 1993/122 of 10 March 1993 8/ on the reports of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and 1992/74 of 5 March 1992 on programmes of action for the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and for the elimination of the exploitation of child labour, 6/

Recalling also its resolutions 1982/20 of 4 May 1982 and 1983/30 of 26 May 1983 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, 1988/34 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/74 of 24 May 1989 on the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and 1990/46 of 25 May 1990, 1991/35 of 31 May 1991 and 1992/10 of 20 July 1992 on the suppression of the traffic in persons,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/36 on a draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others,

Considering that the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Economic and Social Council on the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others 9/ still constitutes a useful basis for further action,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1983/30 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, 10/

5/ Ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ Ibid., 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

7/ Ibid., 1993, Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

8/ Ibid., chap. II, sect. B.

9/ E/1983/7 and Corr.1 and 2.

10/ E/1993/61 and Add.1.

Noting that only a few Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations have submitted information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30,

Gravely concerned that slavery, the slave trade and slavery-like practices still exist, that there are modern manifestations of those phenomena and that such practices represent some of the gravest violations of human rights,

Convinced that the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery will play an important role in the protection of the human rights of victims of contemporary forms of slavery,

Aware of the complexity of the issue of the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and the need for further coordination and cooperation to implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur and by various United Nations bodies,

Sharing the grave concern expressed by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1993/27 at manifestations of contemporary forms of slavery as reported to the Working Group,

Mindful of the resolutions on violence against women, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Welcoming the determined stance, represented in the Vienna Declaration, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, against gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking and the pertinent reference made in that Declaration to legal measures, national action and international cooperation in such fields as economic and social development, education, safe maternity and health care, and social support,

1. Reminds States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926, 11/ the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956, 11/ and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949 11/ that they should submit to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of

11/ See Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. F.

Discrimination and Protection of Minorities regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the relevant conventions and under Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1983/30 on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others; 10/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the Council, at its substantive session of 1994, on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30 by those Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations that have not yet submitted such information and to make that report available to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in that report, or to make available to the Council in some way, information on activities of the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organisation regarding the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure the protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery;

5. Takes note in this connection of the information on activities of the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organisation regarding the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure the protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery; 12/

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in that report information on any operational activities of the United Nations system that can foster the implementation of standards designed to ensure the protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery and activities that may be geared to the prevention of violations and alleviation of the plight, or rehabilitation, of victims;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to include in that report information on the matter of close collaboration of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat on the issue of the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery;

8. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure effective servicing of the Working Group and of other activities related to the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices, and requests him to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1994 on the steps taken in this regard;

9. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to designate the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat as the focal point for the coordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery and requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up of this request;

10. Urges the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to collaborate closely with the Centre for Human Rights on the issue of the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery;

11. Welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

12. Approves the endorsement by the Commission on Human Rights 13/ of the recommendation by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in its resolution 1992/2 of 14 August 1992, that the arrangements regarding the organization of the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, as contained in Commission decision 1992/115 of 3 March 1992, 14/ be repeated in subsequent years;

13. Welcomes Commission on Human Rights decision 1993/112 8/ to authorize the Sub-Commission to consider the possibility of appointing a special rapporteur to update the report of the Special Rapporteur on the exploitation of child labour, Mr. Abdelwahab Boubdiba;

14. Concurs with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in its assessment of the relevance of the Riyadh Guidelines for the

13/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1993/27.

14/ Ibid., 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap II, sect. B.

Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency 15/ contained in General Assembly
resolution 45/112;

15. Decides to consider the question of the suppression of the traffic
in persons at its substantive session of 1994 under the item entitled "Human
rights questions".
