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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH
THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED

Mr. Ali Khan, Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mrs. Chavez, Mr. Chernichenko,
Mr. Eide, Mrs. Forero Ucros, Mrs. Gwanmesia, Mr. Hatano and
Mrs. Koufa: draft resolution

1995/... Democratic society

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

Bearing in mind the fulfilment of its mandate as defined in various
resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Commission on Human
Rights,

Pursuing the objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,
namely to establish conditions under which justice and equal rights for men
and women can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better
standards of life in larger freedom,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enunciated
in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the foundations of any
democratic society,

Aware that implementation of the principles of the Universal Declaration
of Human Rights, such as the principles of human dignity, freedom of opinion,

freedom of association and freedom of expression and the right of participation, takes place through the establishment of a democratic society,

Bearing in mind that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, state in part I, paragraph 8, that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Taking account of the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, adopted by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy held at Montreal from 8 to 11 March 1993,

Taking account also of General Assembly resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994 entitled "Support by the United Nations system for the efforts of Governments to approach and consolidate new or restored democracies" and recognizing the importance of the Managua Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies held in Managua from 4 to 6 July 1994,

Considering that democracy best serves to facilitate individual and collective expression of freedom of opinion,

Reaffirming that in a democracy the widest participation in the democratic dialogue by all sectors and actors of society must be promoted in order to come to agreements on appropriate solutions to the social, economic and cultural problems of society,

Taking account of the fact that freedom of opinion and expression is reflected in a democratic society through an electoral system which allows all tendencies, interests and feelings to obtain representation at the level of the executive and legislative power and, therefore, at all levels of power,

Fully aware that the creation of conditions for a democratic society is essential for the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities,

Taking account of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/60 of 7 March 1995, in which the Commission recommended that the Sub-Commission should discuss at its next session ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the consolidation of democratic societies, taking into account the relation between democracy, development and human rights,

Having considered the subject of democratic society at its forty-seventh session,

Having taken into consideration the oral statement on this matter by Mr. Osman El-Hajjé, which was circulated as a working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/49),

Recommends that the Commission on Human Rights should appoint Mr. Osman El-Hajjé as Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission to identify and list obstacles to democracy, classify them by category of rights and propose solutions for their elimination, and that he should submit a preliminary report on the subject to the Sub-Commission at its forty-eighth session in 1996;

Recommends that the Commission on Human Rights should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Commission on Human Rights, taking into consideration resolution 1995/... of ... August 1995 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, approves the recommendation that it should appoint Mr. Osman El-Hajjé as Special Rapporteur to identify and list obstacles to democracy, classify them by category of rights and propose solutions for their elimination, and that he should submit a preliminary report on the subject to the Sub-Commission at its forty-eighth session in 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with the assistance he needs to perform his task".
