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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Third special session
24-25 May 1994

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON ITS
THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

(Geneva, 24 and 25 May 1994)

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I. DRAFT DECISION RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The situation of human rights in Rwanda

II. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990, authorized the Commission on Human Rights to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a majority of States members of the Commission so agreed.
2. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1993, adopted decision 1993/286 of 28 July 1993, entitled "Procedure for special sessions of the Commission on Human Rights".
3. By a letter dated 9 May 1994, addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Acting Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva requested that a special session of the Commission be convened to discuss the situation in Rwanda.
4. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1993/286, the States members of the Commission were requested by a note verbale dated 9 May 1994, to indicate their wishes by 16 May 1994, in regard to the Canadian request, with a view to ascertaining whether the majority of the members agreed to the holding of a special session. At that time, the following members of the Commission had indicated that they were in agreement: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.
5. As the majority of the States members were in agreement, the Assistant Secretary-General convened the third special session of the Commission on Human Rights on 24 and 25 May 1994.
 - A. Opening and duration of the session
6. The Commission on Human Rights held its third special session at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 24 and 25 May 1994. It held ? meetings (E/CN.4/1994/S-3/SR. ?) during the session.
7. The third special session was opened by Mr. Peter Paul van Wulfften Palthe (Netherlands), Chairman of the Commission at its fiftieth session.
8. At the first meeting, on 24 May 1994, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made a statement.

B. Attendance

9. The session was attended by representatives of States members of the Commission, by observers from other States Members of the United Nations and from non-member States, by representatives of United Nations bodies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. An attendance list is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Officers

10. At its fiftieth session the Commission had elected the following officers, who again served as the officers of the third special session of the Commission:

Chairman: Mr. Peter Paul van Wulfften Palthe (Netherlands)

Vice Chairmen: Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Mr. Romulus Neagu (Romania)

Mr. Minoru Endo (Japan)

Rapporteur: Mr. François Xavier Ngoubeyou (Cameroon)

D. Agenda

11. At its first meeting, on 24 May 1994, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the third special session (E/CN.4/S-3/1 and Add.1), drawn up in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

12. The agenda was adopted without a vote. For the text of the agenda as adopted, see annex II to the present report.

E. Organization of work

13. At its first meeting, the Commission considered the organization of its work.

14. The Commission agreed that the requirement stipulated in rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, that proposals and substantive amendments be discussed or put to the vote no earlier than 24 hours after copies had been circulated to all members, should be waived.

F. Meetings, resolution and documentation

15. Four meetings were held by the Commission, of which ... were extended to the equivalent of ...

16. The resolution adopted by the Commission at its third session is contained in chapter II of the present report. A draft decision for action by the Economic and Social Council is set out in chapter I.

17. Annex III contains a statement concerning the administrative and programme budget implications of the resolution of the Commission, in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

IV. LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1994 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

18. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its first to ... meetings, on 24 and 25 May 1994.
19. The Commission had before it the following documents:
Letter dated 9 May 1994 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/S-3/2);
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. José Ayala Lasso, on his mission to Rwanda, 11 and 12 May 1994 (E/CN.4/S-3/3).
20. At the first meeting, on 24 May 1994, the Representative of Canada made a statement with regard to the request contained in its letter dated 9 May 1994 (E/CN.4/S-3/2).
21. At the same meeting, the High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement introducing his report (E/CN.4/S-3/3).
22. In the general debate on item 3, statements 1/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Australia (1st), Austria (2nd), Bulgaria (2nd), Cameroon (2nd), Canada (3rd), Chile (2nd), China (2nd), Colombia (2nd), Ecuador (2nd), France (1st), Finland (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) (1st), Germany (1st), Hungary (2nd), India (2nd), Indonesia (2nd), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2nd), Japan (2nd), Mauritius (2nd), Nigeria (2nd), Pakistan (1st), Peru (2nd), Poland (2nd), Romania (1st), Russian Federation (2nd), Sri Lanka (2nd), Sudan (2nd), Tunisia (2nd), United States of America (1st).
23. The Commission also heard statements by the following observers: Greece (on behalf of the European Union) (1st), Malta (2nd), New Zealand (2nd), Rwanda (2nd), Senegal (2nd), South Africa (2nd), Zambia (on behalf of the African Group) (1st).

1/ The number in parenthesis following the name of a State or organization indicates the meeting at which the statement was made.

24. The observers for the Holy See (2nd) and Switzerland (2nd) made statements.

25. At the 1st meeting, on 24 May 1994, the High Commissioner for Refugees made a statement.

26. The Commission also heard statements by representatives of the following United Nations bodies: Department of Humanitarian Affairs (2nd), United Nations Children's Fund (2nd).

V. REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ON THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION
