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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-seventh session
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE
PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION;
ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Question of an intersessional role for the Bureau of the
Commission on Human Rights and of the possible
need for convening emergency sessions
of the Commission

Report of the Secretary-General

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1. The Italian Government is in principle in favour of the new measures envisaged by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 28 (XXXVI) concerning the possibility of assigning an intersessional role to the Commission's Bureau, and the possible need for convening emergency sessions of the Commission in order to deal with mass and flagrant violations of an urgent nature.
2. At the same time, Italy considers that the adoption of such measures should not prejudice and possibility of adopting others which might ensure "continuous" and "immediate" action at the highest level, such as, for example, the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. In the opinion of the Italian Government, the adoption of the new measures calls for a careful consideration of the conditions and procedures for their implementation. In that connection, attention might be drawn to the following points: the need to decide which situations should be considered "urgent"; the need to define the exact nature of the Bureau's intersessional meetings and to decide, for example, whether they should be considered as preparatory to the Commission's next session; need to determine the maximum frequency and the duration of the Bureau's intersessional meetings and the duration of the Commission's emergency sessions; the need to establish the procedure to be followed for the convening of intersessional meetings of the Bureau, i.e. to decide whether such meetings should be convened by decision of a majority of the members of the Bureau or by the Chairman of the Commission; the need to specify the organ responsible for authorizing the convening of extraordinary sessions of the Commission.
4. The Italian Government considers that these questions and any others which may arise at the next session of the Commission on Human Rights could be discussed in the working group to be set up during the Commission's next session under paragraph 2 of resolution 28 (XXXVI).