



Economic and Social Council

Distr. GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/32 22 August 1988

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fortieth session
Agenda item 14

SLAVERY AND SLAVERY-LIKE PRACTICES

QUESTION OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE IN ALL THEIR PRACTICES AND MANIFESTATIONS, INCLUDING THE SLAVERY-LIKE PRACTICES OF APARTHEID AND COLONIALISM

Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its thirteenth session

Chairman-Rapporteur: Mr. Asbjørn Eide

CONTENTS

			Paragraphs	Page
ı.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION		1 - 7	3
II.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS 8 - 15			5
III.	REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE IN ALL THEIR PRACTICES AND MANIFESTATIONS		16 - 79	6
	A.	Slavery and the slave trade	16	6
	В.	Sale of children	17 - 28	6
	c.	Exploitation of child labour	29 - 57	8
	D.	Debt bondage	58 - 64	13
	E.	Traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of Others	65 - 73	15
	F.	Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism	74 - 79	17
IV.	REVIEW OF THE SITUATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS 80 - 81			20
v.	RECOMMENDATIONS			21
VI.	PROGRAMME OF WORK 1989-1991 89 - 92			25
VII.	ADO 1	PTION OF THE REPORT		27
		Annexes		
	I. Attendance			28
	II.	Documentation		31

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- The Economic and Social Council, upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights, in its decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, authorized the Sub-Commission to establish a five-member working group to review developments in the field of the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as defined in the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949. The Working Group was established, and since then it has held a session prior to each session of the Sub-Commission. By resolution 1988/42 of 8 March 1988, the Commission on Human Rights endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Commission that the name of the Working Group on Slavery be changed to "Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery".
- 2. The Working Group held its thirteenth session at Geneva from 1 to 5 and on 12 August 1988. The Group held 11 meetings. The session was opened by Mr. Kwadwo F. Nyamekye, Deputy Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Geneva, who made an opening statement regarding the substance of the Working Group's mandate.
- 3. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities by its decision 1987/113 established the composition of the working groups of the Sub-Commission, subject to the re-election of the members concerned. After election of the members by the Commission on Human Rights on 29 February 1988, the Chairman of the Sub-Commission held consultations on the final composition of the working groups and appointed the following five members of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery:
 Mrs. M.C. Bautista, Mr. I. Diaconu, Mr. A. Eide, Ms. F-Z. Ksentini and Mr. L. Varela-Quirós. Due to difficulties with travel connections,
 Mr. L. Varela-Quirós was delayed and participated only in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th meetings.
- 4. The list of participants appears in annex I to the present report.

Election of Chairman-Rapporteur

5. At the 1st meeting, on 1 August 1988, Mr. Asbjørn Eide was elected Chairman-Rapporteur by acclamation.

Adoption of the agenda

- 6. At the 1st meeting, the Working Group adopted the following agenda:
 - 1. Election of officers.
 - Adoption of the agenda.
 - 3. Review of developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including:

- (a) Slavery and the slave trade;
- (b) Sale of children;
- (c) Exploitation of child labour;
- (d) Debt bondage;
- (e) Traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others;
- (f) Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism.
- 4. Review of the situations considered by the Working Group at its previous sessions.
- 5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Sub-Commission.
- 7. The Working Group had before it a series of documents, of which the list appears in annex II.

II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- 8. At the 1st meeting, participants discussed questions relating to the substantive issues on which the Working Group under its revised mandate should focus, and on its methods of work.
- 9. With regard to substantive issues, it was agreed that, in addition to traditional slavery, attention should be given to the traffic in persons and sale of children. Exploitation of children, by way of child labour, child prostitution and child pornography, should be a core concern.
- 10. One member reviewed steps and processes required in the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery; education of children and parents; comprehensive and effective legislation to outlaw all such practices; socio-economic development of the country concerned. The United Nations and all its agencies should be called on to participate in the common struggle against all forms of contemporary slavery. The member felt that caution was needed in taking measures to eradicate slavery in order to ensure that the problems were not simply placed in a different context.
- 11. One member pointed out that poverty and adverse socio-economic conditions were major factors leading to the existence of contemporary forms of slavery. Another member took the view that the international community as a whole should support the efforts of developing countries to achieve socio-economic development.
- 12. Another member held that no form of slavery could be justified or excused on the basis of the social and economic situation of a country. The proper approach was simply to acknowledge the rights of every human being, including children, and to help them to realize their rights.
- 13. Regarding methods of work, it was agreed that there should be an examination of relevant standards both at the international and national levels, and of real life situations. Gathering and dissemination of information should be strengthened.
- 14. Some participants called for closer links with the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, which was meeting simultaneously, so that the two Working Groups might benefit from one another's expertise. Some reservations were voiced about this by other participants and the Chairman undertook to investigate the practicalities of having such links. Another proposal made by participants was that more people with first-hand knowledge of the problems of contemporary forms of slavery should be encouraged and helped to attend the Working Group, so that it might benefit from their special knowledge, and help give a more global overview of the problem. It was suggested that a Trust and/or Voluntary Fund be set up for this purpose.
- 15. An observer suggested that the Working Group should endeavour to complete work it had left undone from its previous sessions. A member emphasized that it was important for the Working Group to take measures aimed at realizing recommendations which it had already made.

III. REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE IN ALL THEIR PRACTICES AND MANIFESTATIONS

A. Slavery and the slave trade

16. Information under this subitem was presented by the Anti-Slavery Society on certain problems which had arisen in the context of the conflict in Sudan. Subsequently, an understanding has been reached between the Anti-Slavery Society and the Government of Sudan for a visit to that country in order to have available next year more precise information.

B. Sale of children

- 17. The attention of the Working Group was drawn by the representative of the Anti-Slavery Society to information alleging that babies were being kidnapped in Thailand and smuggled over the border into Malaysia. Although police on both sides of the frontier had recently become more active and had reportedly arrested some 60 kidnappers, no Thai government agency seemed to be officially charged with ending the trafficking. Credit for uncovering the infamous trade was due to the Bangkok-based Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (CPCR), which was nearing the end of its investigations.
- 18. Minders were paid a small sum per day to keep each baby in a safe house until he or she was taken across the border. The Society joined the CPCR in calling for stricter observance of international law and for higher penalties than the 10 years in prison faced by convicted smugglers in Thailand. The Society also welcomed the Thai Government's intention to raise the minimum employment age from 13, and hoped that concern for child welfare would be extended to stopping the kidnapping and smuggling of babies, as well as avoidable deaths in the process.
- 19. Other instances of sale of children were brought to the attention of the Working Group by the representative of the Defence for Children International Movement, who made reference to an alleged traffic in children from Asian to Arab countries where they worked, inter alia, as jockeys in camel races in the desert.
- 20. The representative of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers described to the Working Group the different stages of an inquiry that Association had carried out in Haiti, along with the International Federation of Human Rights, to investigate the alleged kidnapping and sale of children for the purpose of organ transplants for the children of well-to-do families. The representative of the Association explained that the inquiry had provided no formal proof, although she stressed that organ transplants from poor and illiterate persons, and, in particular, children, were considered to be a sad reality by many of the people interviewed by the representatives of the Association. Allegedly, the children were kidnapped under the pretence of false adoption procedures and then disappeared (they were probably sent abroad); they were also subjected to all kinds of abuse. The Association underlined that these were the views of the persons interviewed but were not necessarily shared by the Association.
- 21. The Observer for Haiti, reviewing the report in detail, described it as unproven, unsubstantiated and maliciously motivated and rejected all the allegations made.

- 22. The Working Group noted that much more solid evidence would be required if the allegations on sale of children for organ transplants were to be substantiated.
- 23. The Observer for Venezuela drew the attention of the Working Group to the draft convention on the rights of the child being prepared by the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights, and in particular to the draft articles (18, 18 bis, 18 ter, 18 quater, 18 quinto and 18 sexto) which attempted to protect the child from all forms of exploitation, including economic exploitation, narcotic and psychotropic substances, sexual exploitation, abduction, sale or traffic and to provide for the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of the children victims of exploitation. The Observer raised the issue as to whether the information and experience of the Working Group would reveal some form or forms of exploitation not covered by the draft convention; she invited the Working Group to review the articles of the draft convention for that purpose and to make its views known to the Sub-Commission.
- 24. Mrs. Bautista suggested accordingly that the concept of "mutilation" should be included in draft article 18 sexto of the draft convention as one of the practices that ought to be specifically forbidden. She added that an express prohibition of the use of children for medical experimentation should also be included in the draft convention.
- 25. One member of the Working Group wondered whether, at this late stage of the negotiations on the draft convention on the rights of the child, it was still possible to make any recommendations on that subject to the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights.
- 26. The representative of Defence for Children International (DCI) informed the Working Group of a project undertaken by that organization at the request of the Government of Argentina. In 1987, the Argentine Government had asked DCI to make an investigation into certain questions affecting children in that country. An international commission of experts had accordingly been set up to make a full and independent investigation of trafficking in, and the sale of, children, among other matters, and a report had been produced analysing the causes of trafficking and making a number of interim recommendations, covering legislative reform, social policies and police practices.
- 27. The representative of DCI stated that the complexity and clandestine nature of the sale of and traffic in children inhibited the gathering of information; such information as had been obtained thus represented only the tip of the iceberg. Yet it was only by examining those practices that a framework could be established whereby an overview of the general situation could be obtained; this required co-ordinated action by Governments, international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as all other relevant sources. In particular, the help of groups and organizations at local and national levels, where these practices occurred was most relevant. At the same time, the co-operation of Governments was required both at the international and national levels. The different practices of the sale of and traffic in children needed to be distingiushed within a socio-economic and cultural context in order to provide the basis for policy formulation; thus, judicious research programmes at the national level should be undertaken for this purpose.

28. In addition, the representative of DCI made reference to the revised report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/30) on the question of the sale of children, noting that it had not taken account of the comments made by DCI and others in regard to the contents of the initial report. Finally, she requested the Working Group to consider the most effective way to deal with the above-mentioned practices, and explore the possibility of appointing a Special Rapporteur pursuant to the recommendation by the Commission on Human Rights. She further indicated that international co-operation between States was essential in the identification of networks of traffickers and also in the search for missing persons, underlining that the role of INTERPOL in that connection should be reinforced.

C. Exploitation of child labour

- 29. The Working Group first examined information on child prostitution and child pornography, followed by an examination of child labour in general. One member appreciated the contribution of participants to the Working Group but indicated that if information given did not specify the country or region concerned the Working Group would not be able to develop a more general overview of the problems of slavery.
- 30. The International Abolitionist Federation claimed that there was a general increase in child pornography, child prostitution and sexual abuse of children, brought about by the moral degradation of society, the break-up of families, poverty and the abandonment of children. In Belgium, newspapers reported that the number of youngsters in Brussels affected by this problem was around 1,600.
- 31. A Congress in Ghent, in December 1987, recommended that an Ombudsman should be set up for the protection of children being exploited. A meeting of Ministers of Justice of the members of the Council of Europe had been held at Lisbon, from 21 to 22 June 1988. Some recommendations emerged from this meeting including that national laws on this subject should be harmonized; that more precise information should be gathered; that existing Conventions should be ratified by countries; and that benefits stemming from child exploitation should be confiscated. Information from the Belgian Minister of Justice indicated that to tackle child exploitation, multi-disciplinary units were being set up in various regions of the country consisting of a doctor, a social worker and a psychologist. The Federation further reported that it organized an International Day for the Abolition of Slavery in All Its Forms on 27 November 1987.
- 32. The Federation stated that in the United Kingdom there was a large increase in the number of child abuse cases reported. It however pointed out that two help-lines had been established to help children and that the Criminal Justice Bill proposed to make it an offence simply to possess an indecent photograph of a child unless one could bring oneself within the exceptions to the law. It was also claimed that many children had been sold into adoption from Sri Lanka via western-based agencies.
- 33. In connection with the foregoing report, the Observer for Belgium stated that only 30 cases of minors working as prostitutes had been brought to the attention of the authorities in Brussels. It was also pointed out that individuals exchanging sex for drugs could not strictly be viewed as prostitutes.

- 34. The representative of Pax Romana and of the International Abolitionist Federation reported that child prostitution in Japan was often carried out by Filipino girls who had entered Japan illegally, often as young as 14 and 15 years. There had been a large increase of illegal immigrant women, the majority of whom were from South-East Asia engaged in sex-related work, who had been lured to Japan by promises of legitimate work only to be sold into prostitution and kept in bad conditions.
- 35. Regarding these reports, Mrs. Bautista pointed out that sex tours conducted by Japanese men to the Philippines had only ceased under the weight of public opinion due to information released by non-governmental organizations. Mrs. Bautista also stated that girls were lured to Japan by syndicates who promised them legitimate jobs and helped them to travel there only for them to be forced into prostitution. To combat this, Filipino women had been banned from travelling to Japan except for legitimate purposes.
- 36. The Federation stated that major reasons for the problem of exploited migrant women in Japan were the difference between economic standards enjoyed in Japan and the rest of South-East Asia, as well as a certain sense of discrimination towards aliens by the Japanese. The Federation suggested that under its existing international obligations, Japan should (a) provide protective facilities for victims; (b) provide medical and other facilities for the relief of victims; (c) inform foreigners from South-East Asia of the dangers they faced in Japan and inform them of where they might seek refuge; (d) co-operate with the home countries of victims in an effort to stem the flow of migrant women; (e) grant an amnesty to illegal immigrants and legalize their immigration status; (f) assist victims in the prosecution of the criminal controllers of the prostitution; and (g) examine the effectiveness of the Official Development Assistance Programme.
- 37. Regarding the remarks made by Pax Romana and the Federation, the Observer for the Government of Japan stated that every human being, including foreigners staying illegally in Japan, was entitled to enjoy their basic human rights and the Japanese Government would take appropriate measures if any violation of these rights was revealed. In this connection, the Observer pointed out that many women from South-East Asia, who were said to be treated unreasonably, were staying illegally in Japan and they were very reluctant to report to the competent authorities on their unjust treatment, thus making it extremely difficult to grasp the actual situation. The Observer reported that the Japanese Government was combating the problem by taking necessary measures, such as controlling illegal employment, the illegal stay of foreigners as well as illegal activities of employers, and would continue to do so. The Observer also stressed the importance of close co-operation between relevant countries to find suitable solutions to the problem.
- 38. A report was presented by the International Abolitionist Federation regarding the sexual exploitation of children in the Ivory Coast. The report indicated that a number of factors led to the early prostitution of children, including local customs which encouraged children to indulge in sexual activities at a young age. The report further indicated that some children prostituted themselves in order to have money to pay for their studies, or those of other members of their family. Many children were said to be introduced to prostitution by tutors with whom they were left who were supposed to take care of their education, by people who took them away from home ostensibly for the purpose of marriage and by unscrupulous parents.

- 39. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization reported that five studies concerning the problem of prostitution had been carried out under its aegis. They covered the problem in theory as well as case reports on India, Sweden and Tunisia. Summaries of the studies were made available to the Working Group for consultation. The Working Group was also invited to make any recommendations it felt were necessary to the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the role which education might play in combating child exploitation.
- The representative of the International Catholic Child Bureau reported that a study on children and pornography was carried out from 1987-1988 with financial support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The aim of the study was to examine ways in which Governments sought to protect children at risk from pornography, why they were failing and what could be done about this. Surveys were sent to individuals, organizations and the Ministry of Justice of 32 countries around the world. The survey revealed that although many countries had laws to protect children, the combination of loopholes in the laws, weak penalties and difficulties in enforcement made them ineffective. Technological developments were seen to be compounding this ineffectiveness. A number of recommendations were made on the basis of the survey including a call on Governments to close loopholes in the laws, to constantly review their laws in order to cover, inter alia, technological developments, to initiate projects to prevent street children from abuse, to make children and parents aware of the dangers of child sex abuse and to provide greater resources for enforcement. A summary of the survey and its recommendations was made available to the Working Group for consultation.
- 41. The representative of Defence for Children International reported the decision of the Pakistani Government to launch an inquiry into child exploitation. The representative stated that children were being kidnapped and disappeared to be sold into slavery by highly organized networks. Many were said to be sold into forced labour camps, patrolled by armed guards and dogs, in which they were kept under very bad conditions. The representative recommended that Pakistan request technical assistance from the International Labour Organisation in its efforts to combat the problem, that the Working Group should propose the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to report on the progress of the inquiry by the Pakistani Government and that the Pakistani Government should enlist the aid of local organizations in its inquiry.
- 42. With reference to the report by the Defence for Children International regarding Pakistan, the Observer for Pakistan indicated that the allegations contained in that report were unsubstantiated. The Observer went on to mention some of the laws in Pakistan outlawing the exploitation of child labour and stated that if the Government was informed of any instances of child labour exploitation, it would prosecute the offenders in accordance with the law. The Observer also indicated that Pakistan had ratified the United Nations Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery as well as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of Others.
- 43. The representative of the Anti-Slavery Society referred to a statement made by the Society to the Working Group at its twelfth session concerning the

Ashanti Goldfields of Ghana. The representative reported that the authorities in Ghana had promised to mount an investigation and make known its findings but regretted that no such information had reached the Society. The representative reported that the Ghana National Commission on Children was to mount its own investigation into child labour and hoped that this would signal the end of hazardous child labour in the Ashanti Goldfields.

- 44. The representative of Pax Christi presented some information on child labour in India. A number of industries associated with child labour, including the carpet-weaving, pencil, glass bangles and diamond-cutting industries were examined. A review of Indian legislation related to child labour was also carried out. The question was raised whether the Government had taken enough action to ensure the effective implementation of the laws. Some loopholes in the laws were also pointed out regarding, for instance, the minimum age of children allowed to work and the definition of hazardous work which children were not allowed to perform. It was recommended, inter alia, that all such loopholes should be corrected, that an awareness campaign should be launched using the media to warn against child exploitation and that many industries should be modernized so as to reduce the need for child labour.
- The Observer for India, while replying to the statement on India by Pax Christi, stated that the Government was aware that legislation alone could not bring an end to child labour, and, therefore, it had formulated the National Policy on Child Labour as a follow-up of the Child Labour Act of 1986. He indicated that this policy incorporated such ideas as the stringent enforcement of legislation, focusing of development programmes of different departments/Ministries on child workers and their families in order to create socio-economic conditions in which the compulsion to send the children to work diminished and was taking steps to benefit child workers in areas of child labour concentration. Government action is targeted in the following areas: enforcement of legislation, employment generation programmes, formal and non-formal education programmes for working children as also for their parents, establishing special schools for child workers with provisions for vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care as also stipends to compensate the children for their loss in earnings and general awareness programmes. Two pilot projects had already been launched in major concentrations of child labour, namely, the match industry of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu and the carpet-weaving industry of Varanasi-Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. The Observer for India said that his Government's method for implementing the new law on the subject of child labour had received a favourable comment from the ILO.
- 46. The representative of the Anti-Slavery Society presented a report on Indian boy carpet-makers to the Working Group. The report highlighted the employment of children in the carpet-weaving industry in contravention of the law and under poor working conditions.
- 47. The representative of the Anti-Slavery Society announced the founding of Project Mala. This was aimed at providing more schools and better living conditions for children in affected areas. The project also sought to improve the working conditions of workers and to pay a stipend to the families of the children who would be encouraged to go to school, as compensation for lost income that the children might otherwise have brought into the family. The representative of the Anti-Slavery Society pointed out that the project brought together voluntary organizations, the State Government of

Uttar Pradesh and representatives of the carpet industry in a collaborative effort which could serve as a model for similar schemes in other industries and countries.

- 48. With regard to the report on India by the Anti-Slavery Society, the Observer for India welcomed the announcement of Project Mala which is in keeping with the Government's National Policy on Child Labour. The schools being set up under this project had the same objectives as the special schools to be set up by the Government in the project areas under the National Child Labour Policy. The Indian Government is taking active steps to eradicate child labour by enforcing legal provisions, implementing poverty removal programmes and projects envisaged in the National Child Labour Policy.
- 49. The representative of the International Labour Organisation drew the attention of the Working Group to document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1988/5/Add.2 regarding the International Labour Organisation's efforts in Pakistan.
- 50. The International Abolitionist Federation intervened to raise two principal issues. Firstly, the representative suggested that the authorities in France were lax in their treatment of violators of children. Secondly, the representative raised the issue of technological developments in the audio-visual field, for instance Minitel Rose, and indicated how these were being used for the sexual exploitation of children. It was also pointed out that any attempt to control the sale or use of this technology would be bound to be considered a violation of the freedom to buy and sell goods and the freedom to correspond privately between individuals.
- 51. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund indicated that the United Nations Children's Fund was participating in the Working Group for the first time and intended to do so in the future. It had always worked closely with the International Labour Organisation in its efforts to improve the general conditions of children.
- 52. The representative of Defence for Children International gave examples of children forced to work for up to 14 hours a day enslaved on palm or rubber plantations in Asia. Not only were certain economic groups in Asia said to be responsible for this, but it was also suggested that the world-wide consumers of the products derived from the work of the children should be viewed as contributing to its continued existence.
- 53. The Observer for Venezuela stated that since it was established that children were being maltreated, it was important to take measures with a view to establishing institutions charged with defending the rights and interests of children and to provide assistance in rehabilitating victims and punishing the perpetrators of the crimes. It was emphasized that practical steps must be taken for and on behalf of the children as they were unable to articulate their problems and needs themselves. The attention of the Working Group was drawn to paragraph 5 (f) of a report on page 3 of document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1988/5, in which similar sentiments were expressed by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.
- 54. Mrs. Bautista reported that in the Philippines persons found to be engaging in child prostitution were being arrested, tried, convicted and, if foreigners, deported. It was stated that the laws of the Philippines banned child pornography. It was also reported that the laws on adoption had been

severely tightened up so that abuses should be prevented. Street children were also reported to be better cared for by the combined efforts of the Government of the Philippines and non-governmental organizations. Among other measures, free schooling and child day-care centres for working mothers were to be provided. As an example of child exploitation in the Philippines, Mrs. Bautista gave the example of Japanese fishermen working in the Philippines using 8-16 year-old Filipino boys to dive under dangerous conditions as part of the fishing operations. Mrs. Bautista took the view that exploitation was an economic problem which could only be met by providing income-creating projects for families, a path which the authorities in the Philippines had already embarked upon. An extensive progress report covering many issues in the Philippines was also made available to the Working Group for consultation.

- 55. In response to Mrs. Bautista's statement, the Observer for Japan stated that the Japanese delegation had got the information that there were no Japanese fishing enterprises which were using as divers, exploiting or abusing Filipino children.
- 56. The Observer for Venezuela referred to document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1988/6 in which it was mentioned that INTERPOL would be organizing a symposium on human trafficking and suggested that it would be useful to have the results of that symposium before the Working Group at its fourteenth session.
- 57. The Working Group debated the concept of children and of minors but felt that no general recommendation could be made on the issue since in using those terms it would always be necessary to take into account the context discussed as well as relevant national and international standards. The Working Group stated that as it used the term, the word child could be taken, depending on the context, as referring to persons up to a maximum of 18 years of age.

D. Debt bondage

- 58. The representative of Defence for Children International reminded the Working Group that debt bondage existed in many countries in Africa, North and South America, Europe and the Middle East as well as in Asia, and that a general programme should be drawn up for its elimination.
- 59. The representative of the Anti-Slavery Society again raised the issue of bonded labour in India, maintaining the Society's position that there was cause for concern, because, although India was not the only country where debt bondage occurred, it was home to the largest number of bonded labourers in the world (the Society's sister organization, the Bonded Liberation Front, conservatively putting the number of chronic cases at 5 million).
- 60. The Working Group was informed that the Society had recently finished its own investigation into the nature of contemporary bonded labour, particularly as it affected the landless in, and migrants from, Bihar. Allegedly, thousands of Biharis migrated to economically more advanced areas every year. Frequently they were forced to do so by the village money-lender. Until the money was repaid in full, the debtor remained in bondage and his family formed a living surety for his return if he left to work as a seasonal worker or repayment. Reference was also made to sharecropping, which allegedly continued to be a means of entrapping borrowers into debt bondage; a poor peasant farmer might become a sharecropper and fall further into debt, in

which case his land could be taken in lieu of unredeemed loans, causing him to join the ranks of the landless. In such a manner, a landless labourer or a poor peasant with insufficient land might be forced through the lack of alternative local employment to sharecrop for a large landlord or rich peasant; he became indebted to his "partner" through taking out loans in order to perform his role as a sharecropper. The eventual result was an increase in debt bondage.

- 61. In addition, it was suggested that the introduction of new technology in the more economically advanced States, particularly in Punjab and Haryana, had aggravated rather than relieved the age-old condition of debt bondage in India. That development, allied with traditional practices and obligations, had resulted in an increase in contemporary slavery. The Society repeated its pleas made in the Working Group in previous years, and urged the Government of India to take all measures not only to free its most vulnerable people, but to ensure that freed bonded labourers received the full rehabilitation sums due to them under the 1976 Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act.
- 62. Another representative of the Society suggested that a United Nations fact-finding mission could be sent to investigate the situation of bonded labour in South Asia. Extensively quoting from a committee of the Indian Parliament, he indicated that bonded labour was still a serious problem in India and pointed out that the problem also existed elsewhere, including Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. He also urged that the Working Group's recommendation at its fifth session regarding the organization of a round table or symposium in order to study the problem in depth should be implemented, suggesting that its venue be New Delhi. He also called for the implementation of all other relevant recommendations adopted by the Working Group during its previous sessions.
- 63. The Observer for India stated that his Government was acutely conscious of the urgency of the problem of bonded labour and emphasized that attempts to tackle the problem were being made at various levels of the Indian Government. The Parliamentary Committee Report quoted in detail by a representative of the Anti-Slavery Society showed how much the Parliament was doing in this area. The press had also been giving a good deal of attention to the question and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies were also engaged in the struggle against bonded labour. In view of the fact that such awareness already existed in India and also because of the tremendous involvement of the Government in the efforts to end bonded labour, the Observer for India requested the Working Group to reject the suggestion made by one of the representatives of the Anti-Slavery Society that a United Nations investigative team should go to India for the purpose of examining the problem of bonded labour. Had the Government been turning a blind eye to the problem there would have been some justification for a visit by such a team but since this was not the case this suggestion did not merit consideration.
- 64. The Observer for India reiterated his Government's commitment to abolish the inhuman and degrading practice of bonded labour. The Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act in India had been amended in 1985 to clarify the definition of bonded labour, and it was hoped that the amendment would facilitate speedier and easier identification of bonded labourers. It had also been decided to secure the participation of voluntary agencies in the work of identification, and he explained that the procedure for the sanctioning of rehabilitation

schemes for bonded labourers and the release of grants had been simplified and clarified. The sum allocated for rehabilitation assistance had been increased by more than 50 per cent in 1986, and measures had been taken to integrate the programmes for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers into other programmes. The principal idea underlying those measures was to ensure that the bonded labourers did not fall back into bondage; in certain States where government land was not available, land had been purchased and then allotted to released bonded labourers. In informing the Working Group of all those actions, the Observer for India said that they testified to his Government's determination to translate its commitment to eradicate bonded labour into action. The Observer for India answered some specific questions raised by the representative of the Anti-Slavery Society. However, he said that he would transmit them to his Government for information.

E. Traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others

The International Abolitionist Federation referred the Working Group to its Congress of 1984 held at Vienna which highlighted several factors which led, inter alia, to the traffic in persons and prostitution. An indifferent public opinion, irresponsible press, the inertia of Governments, fundamental inequality of men and women in many societies and economic crises were viewed as leading factors. The representative of the Federation also criticized the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others on the grounds that its vaque terminology and ineffective implementation machinery allowed States to ignore its application. The attention of the Working Group was drawn to resolution 1988/42 adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session calling on States and the Sub-Commission to draw up plans for the taking of concrete measures in the field of slavery. It was announced that an Asian regional conference in collaboration with the Federation would be held in November 1988 at New Delhi in India and that the Federation would hold a European Congress at Bern in 1989.

66. Another report presented by the International Abolitionist Federation concerned France. It pointed out that there were disparities between principles and declarations contained in the laws of France and what actually obtained in practice. It was pointed out, for instance, that although women and children were regarded as elements of society to be promoted and protected, their positions were constantly being undermined by the way in which they were projected in advertisements and pronography, as well as by their exploitation by prostitution. It was also pointed out that, although international and national standards in France opposed the exploitation of the prostitution of others, the Government profited from prostitution by taxing the earnings of prostitutes, as well as from the revenues it received from the operation of Minitel Rose, a communications system run by the Ministry of Posts and Communications and often used by those involved in prostitution. The report also indicated and analysed some inconsistencies within the texts of government policies themselves. The report criticized the ambiguities it had illustrated and emphasized the importance of good laws, conforming with established human rights standards, especially with the advent of greater harmonization in Europe. The report referred to the Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation held in Stuttgart in 1987 which called for a study by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the motivations of prostitutes, pimps and clients and

indicated that the Federation itself would commence a publication concerning prostitution internationally. The report further indicated that the Federation called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to press more States to sign the Convention of 1949 and to hold a diplomatic conference consisting of States parties to the Convention to establish means to ensure better implementation of its terms.

- 67. With reference to the report made by the International Abolitionist Federation concerning France, the Observer for France indicated that the Government of France was aware of the abuses of such new technology as Minitel Rose and was working on ways to prevent this. The Observer also stated that, although the earnings of prostitutes in France were taxed, this was simply because all income in France was taxable and that this in no way meant that the Government acknowledged prostitution as a legitimate profession. As an incentive for prostitutes to become rehabilitated, it was pointed out that they were sometimes exempted from tax whilst they were making such efforts. The Observer for France paid tribute to the role played by non-governmental organizations in the field of prevention and rehabilitation; he stressed the eagerness of his authorities to continue and to increase the co-operation with non-governmental organizations that was already taking place.
- 68. Regarding the statement by the Observer for France, the representative of the International Abolitionist Federation raised two issues concerning the taxation of the earnings of prostitutes. The representative questioned whether there was any difference between pimps and the State who both profited from the prostitution of others. The representative also questioned whether prostitutes would not simply have to work harder so that they could meet their payments to their ponces as well as pay their taxes.
- The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization drew the attention of the Working Group to document E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/5, in which many of the organization's efforts in this field were detailed. Mention was made of the International Meeting of Experts held at Madrid in March 1987 during which the causes of prostitution were discussed. It was reported that the Meeting of Experts viewed prostitution as an economic phenomenon, involving the trade of a woman's body as an item of merchandise, as well as a phenomenon partly reflective of social structures and stereotypes. The document also highlighted the discovery of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the contribution that international marriage markets made to the international traffic in persons and prostitution world-wide. The document further emphasized UNESCO's dissatisfaction with the terms of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others in that they raise a distinction between voluntary and enforced prostitution. UNESCO took the view that there were grounds in contemporary society for believing that such a distinction was unrealistic and that all prostitution violated international human rights standards.
- 70. The International Abolitionist Federation drew the attention of the Working Group to reports it had given to previous sessions of the Working Group concerning prostitution in Belgium. The representative of the Federation stated that the Belgian authorities had not only failed to take measures in support of prostitutes in the past but had increasingly commenced to act in a manner contrary to the spirit of the 1949 Convention. It was pointed out that a Belgian law of 1948 permitted the authorities to enact

regulations concerning prostitution and that this power was being exercised contrary to the interests of prostitutes and the spirit of the 1949 Convention. It was reported that, in an effort to satisfy public opinion, the establishment of locations used for prostitution was being made more difficult. It was also reported that a regulation forcing prostitutes to work out of the view of passers-by had also been enacted. The representative of the Federation called for the abrogation of all such measures as they had the effect of further marginalizing people who were already the victims of prostitution.

- 71. With reference to the report by the International Abolitionist Federation concerning Belgium, the Observer for Belgium denied that the authorities in Belgium were neglecting the problem of prostitution. The Observer supported this by pointing out that Belgium was actively participating in the work of the Working Group and by reporting that the Minister of Justice of Belgium had spoken about prostitution at the Lisbon meeting of Ministers of Justice of the members of the Council of Europe. The Observer stated that the 1949 Convention was a problem in that its term were vague and that they lent themselves to a variety of interpretations.
- A report by the International Abolitionist Federation concerning Japan stated that there were laws for the prosecution of those involved in prostitution but that they were largely ineffective as regards the prostitution of foreigners. This was illustrated by pointing out that although only 10 procurers of foreign prostitutes were indicted from 1986 to 1987 over 2,500 procurers in 1987 alone were indicted for employing Japanese prostitutes. The ineffectiveness of the laws regarding the prostitution of foreigners was explained on the basis that the foreigners had language difficulties, little money and that they were simply often deported as illegal immigrants. The report requested the Japanese Government to grant an amnesty to the foreign prostitutes so that they could seek relief from established shelters, find alternative employment and exercise their rights to bring law suits against those that had exploited them. It was requested that the Official Development Assistance from Japan to the rest of South-East Asia be reviewed to ensure that it created jobs in South-East Asian countries in an effort to combat the problem of prostitution. The report pointed out that a survey had been carried out in Japan which revealed that prostitution was viewed there as a problem of society rather than an issue in terms of the human rights of victimized people.
- 73. The representative of the Branch for the Advancement of Women from the United Nations Office in Vienna made a statement in which issues were raised concerning relevant international conventions. Mention was also made of possible links which might be established between that office and the Working Group regarding the reports of States parties particularly in the field of human trafficking.

F. Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism

74. The representative of the African National Congress (ANC) brought to the attention of the Working Group the sufferings of the people of South Africa caused by the apartheid régime in that country. She informed the Group that arrests of anti-apartheid activists continued, that their torture in apartheid gaols also continued unabated, and that, despite an international outcry,

children continued to be detained for anti-apartheid activities under South Africa's security laws and still suffered torture at the hands of the authorities.

- The ANC representative stated that various bills before Parliament would, if adopted, entrench apartheid. In 1986, the Abolition of Influx Control Act had been passed, setting out inter alia to amend Act 38 of 1927, section 5 of which empowered the State President to move any group of Africans at will; it was under that provision that the people of Mogopa had been removed. But section 5 of the law had been replaced by a bill on squatting, which gave the same powers to magistrates, so that the burden of removal was transferred to the judiciary without the benefit of any parliamentary check on those powers. Section 6 of the bill on squatting, on the other hand, empowered committees of local government to decide to evict so-called illegal squatters. The ANC believed that the persons most likely to be affected by that legislation were farm tenant workers, who were likely to be removed when they lost their jobs as well as when they engaged in trade union activities. She also mentioned the new Group Areas Bill, which stipulated heavy fines for people living in areas designated for other racial groups. The ANC anticipated an increase in repression during the period leading up to the coming local authority elections and also during the elections.
- 76. The Congress was also concerned at the collusion between the State and the judiciary, and its representative reminded the Working Group that there were currently persons on death row awaiting execution for political activities. She demanded the removal and abolition of <u>apartheid</u> and called for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa in an effort to eradicate apartheid from that country.
- 77. Mr. Diaconu stated that <u>apartheid</u> constituted the most serious form of violation of human rights, and pointed out that <u>apartheid</u> was practised not only in South Africa but also in other countries. Part of the South African population had been denied land, and people had been sentenced to death and executed during 1988 as a direct result of <u>apartheid</u> policies. He advocated sustained action against <u>apartheid</u> that should cover economic, social and cultural domains as well as civil and political ones.
- 78. Ms. Ksentini stated that, when dealing with the item under consideration, the Working Group should address the problem of apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination and self-determination. Referring to the problem of apartheid, she emphasized that the practice was a crime against humanity and destabilized the countries of southern Africa. She called for the exercise of moral, political and economic pressure as well as efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the peoples that were victims of apartheid, a practice that had to be abolished. She also spoke about the denial to the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination.
- 79. The representatives of the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, and of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, addressed the Working Group. The representative of the former equated apartheid with slavery, and spoke at length of its pernicious influence on the labour market. The representative of the latter organization said that apartheid was a form of slavery practised in South Africa. He stated that when South Africa employed

black people to work in its enterprises, the workers often received very low wages and were deprived of their civil rights, being generally treated as an inferior people and race. He said that black persons under the system of apartheid lived under worse conditions than serfs in Europe in the Middle Ages. He believed that the exploitation of black people in South Africa was a form of slavery that should be denounced and condemned by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IV. REVIEW OF THE SITUATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS

- 80. Some participants in the Working Group called upon the Secretary-General to complete and submit a final report on the sale of children to the Working Group which would reflect all available information on the issue. Difficulties in the obtaining of information on the issue were emphasized and it was suggested that United Nations fact-finding missions to various countries might help in overcoming such difficulties. One member raised questions about any follow-up to the request by the twelfth session of the Working Group that a seminar be held on the sale of children and it was pointed out that the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-first session had made no such recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.
- 81. One participant indicated that the recommendations of the Working Group that States take concrete measures, and invite the Working Group to examine the effectiveness of measures taken, to combat the problem of debt bondage had not been acted upon and that States should be invited to submit information concerning those omissions.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. General recommendations

82. The Working Group on Slavery:

- (1) Expresses satisfaction with the greater number of intergovernmental agencies present at its thirteenth session and reiterates that the following bodies be urged to attend the sessions of the Group: Commission on the Status of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, UNICEF, ILO, WHO, World Bank, IMF, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNU, INTERPOL and the Inter-American Child Institute;
- (2) Recommends that ways be sought to facilitate the participation of non-governmental representatives from different regions of the world, for instance, through the establishment of a Trust and/or Voluntary Fund or in any other practical way;
- (3) Recommends that the report of the thirteenth session of the Working Group be sent to the Branch for the Advancement of Women at the United Nations Office in Vienna and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- (4) Recommends that the Division for the Advancement of Women at the United Nations Office in Vienna sends information, contained in the State reports submitted under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which refers to prostitution under article 6 of that Convention, to the Working Group;
- (5) Recommends the programme of work for 1989-1991 contained in Chater VI below;
- (6) Recommends that the item on slavery at the Sub-Commission be considered earlier in the session than it has been in recent sessions;
- (7) Recommends that means be sought to facilitate the participation of the indigenous peoples in the Working Group;
- (8) Recommends that all Sub-Commission documents pertaining to slavery should be considered as documents of the Working Group and should be available for consultation by the Working Group in all United Nations languages;
- (9) Recommends that an annotated agenda of the work of the Working Group be produced for each session;
- (10) Recalls that one professional post has been included in the budget of the Centre for Human Rights specifically for questions relating to slavery and practices similar to slavery, and requests the Secretary-General to assign a full-time professional staff member to serve the Working Group and other activities related to contemporary forms of slavery.

B. Slavery and slavery-like practices

83. The Working Group recommends:

- (11) That the Secretary-General call upon States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949 to submit regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the Conventions;
- (12) That States which have not ratified the relevant Conventions be invited to consider doing so as soon as possible, or to explain in writing why they feel unable to do so, and that they should consider providing information regarding their national legislation and practices in this field;
- (13) That intergovernmental organizations, relevant agencies of the United Nations including ILO, WHO, World Bank, IMF, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNU and INTERPOL and non-governmental organizations concerned be asked to supply relevant information to the Working Group.

C. Sale of children and exploitation of child labour

84. The Working Group:

- (14) Recommends the Secretary-General to submit information on the alleged sale of children received to Governments for any comments that they may wish to make;
- (15) Recommends that the results of the symposium to be held by INTERPOL on traffic in persons, including the sale of children, as well as other information which INTERPOL may have on the sale of children, be transmitted to the Secretary-General to facilitate the completion of his final report on this issue;
- (16) Recommends that interested specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations should gather information on the sale of children, including their observations on ways and means of how to prevent the occurrence of this phenomenon, and send this information to the Secretary-General to facilitate the completion of his final report on this issue;
- (17) Recommends that the Secretary-General submit his final report on the sale of children to the Working Group at its fourteenth session;
- (18) Recommends that the Secretary-General provide a report to the Working Group on the implementation of resolution 1988/34 adopted by the Economic and Social Council;
- (19) Emphasizes the importance of informing and educating children on the dangers of child prostitution and child pronography and appeals to relevant international institutions to promote this sort of information and education;
- (20) Underlines the importance of objective reporting by the press on slavery and slavery-like practices, avoiding sensationalism;

- (21) Recommends that Member States be urged to enact legislation, where they have not yet done so, making it a crime to produce, distribute or possess pornographic material involving children;
- (22) Recommends that all Member States be urged to consider the possibility of establishing national agencies or institutions to protect children and promote their rights;
- (23) Recommends that the United Nations agencies dedicated to child welfare, particularly UNICEF and ILO, study the problem of child labour with a view to assisting those countries in which it exists to eradicate it;
- (24) Recommends that all competent United Nations agencies, development banks and intergovernmental bodies involved in development projects ensure that no child be employed either directly or through local subcontractors.

D. Debt bondage

85. The Working Group recommends:

- (25) That all competent United Nations agencies, development banks and intergovernmental bodies involved in development projects ensure that their projects do not perpetuate or involve bonded labour, and that they contribute to its elimination;
- (26) That Member States where the phenomenon of bonded labour exists, be urged to take effective means, especially at the implementation level, to curtail bonded labour, e.g.:
 - (i) By seeking and encouraging the involvement of non-governmental organizations;
 - (ii) By effective dissemination of national legislation on labour rights and on the prohibition of bonded labour particularly directed towards victims of bonded labour;
 - (iii) By setting up vigilance committees under the law;
 - (iv) By invoking to the fullest extent the constraining power of the law against the violators;
- (27) That ways and means be found so that transnational financial benefits be provided for liberated bonded labourers within the framework of rehabilitation measures.

E. Traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others

86. The Working Group recommends:

(28) That urgent consideration be given to the problems of the implementation of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, with particular attention to the meaning and scope of its provisions in the light of new forms of prostitution and pornography imposed on children;

- (29) That a study be undertaken of ways and means by which an effective implementation mechanism, including reporting systems, may be established for the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;
- (30) That Governments be urged to pursue a policy of information, prevention and rehabilitation of women victims of the exploitation of prostitution and to take all economic and social measures deemed necessary to that effect;
- (31) That United Nations institutions, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, be encouraged to examine the possibility of organizing expert meetings on the international standards regarding the prevention of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others;
- (32) That at its future sessions the Working Group should give attention to the dissemination and proliferation of obscene publications and communications, particularly in the light of new technology;
- (33) That resolution 1985/23 of the Sub-Commission, endorsed by resolution 1986/34 of the Commission on Human Rights, be submitted for approval to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly so that a world day for the abolition of slavery in all its forms can be proclaimed;
- (34) That the receiving countries provide protection to migrant women against exploitation in the form of prostitution and other slavery-like practices;
- (35) That the receiving and mother countries of migrant women should co-operate closely in protecting migrant women and preventing their exploitation by prostitution and other slavery-like practices;
- (36) That all Member States be urged to consider the possibility of establishing national agencies or institutions for the protection of migrant women against exploitation by prostitution and other slavery-like practices.

F. Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism

- 87. The Working Group recommends that apartheid, including the labour practices under apartheid, should continue to be viewed as a collective form of slavery. The Group also recommended that the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission should be authorized to continue his efforts to bring pressure to bear on the South African Government for (a) the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, (b) the unconditional pardon and release of persons sentenced to death and awaiting execution for opposition to apartheid, and to request the South African Government to engage in meaningful dialogue with the leaders of the black majority for an early establishment of a democratic society in which the slavery-like practices of apartheid can be finally brought to an end.
- 88. The Working Group also recommended that in future sessions, under this item on the agenda, particular emphasis should be given to the situation of children and of women under apartheid.

VI. PROGRAMME OF WORK 1989-1991

- 89. The Commission, in its resolution 1988/42, invited the Working Group to draw up for submission to the Commission at its forty-fifth session, a plan of action concerning its future work regarding the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery, including the traffic in persons and the exploitation of others, and paying particular attention to the prevention of child prostitution and child pornography.
- 90. The Working Group discussed this invitation and decided to pursue the following aims in its programme of action: (a) to give more attention to the implementation of the slavery-related conventions; (b) to single out one main theme each year for in-depth study and recommendations, and (c) to maintain space on the agenda for a review of developments in the field of contemporary forms of slavery in all their aspects.
- 91. In singling out for attention one main theme each year, it would be required to prepare that session well in advance. Special information related to that theme should be sought from Governments, specialized agencies and other United Nations organs and regional intergovernmental organizations, and from non-governmental organizations. In addition, it might be useful to invite for each theme a rapporteur to review the implementation of the recommendations made in that field and the appropriate measures taken by United Nations organs and executing agencies, international organizations and Member States.
- 92. Consequently, the Working Group decided, as its plan of action, the following programme for 1989-1991:

For 1989:

- 1. Review of information received on the status and the implementation of conventions on slavery and slavery-like practices.
- 2. Main theme of the session: Prevention of sale of children, of child prostitution and of child pornography.
- Review of developments in other fields of contemporary forms of slavery, including:
 - (a) Slavery and the slave trade;
 - (b) Exploitation of child labour;
 - (c) Debt bondage;
- (d) Prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others;
 - (e) Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism.
 - Follow-up of recommendations adopted at previous sessions.

For 1990:

- 1. Review of information received on the status and the implementation of conventions on slavery and slavery-like practices.
- 2. Main theme of the session: Eradication of the exploitation of child labour, and of debt bondage.
- 3. Review of developments in other fields of contemporary forms of slavery, including:
 - (a) Slavery and the slave trade;
 - (b) Sale of children:
 - (c) Child prostitution and child pornography;
- (d) Prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others;
 - (e) Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism.
 - 4. Follow-up of recommendations adopted at previous sessions.

For 1991:

- 1. Review of information received on the status and the implementation of conventions on slavery and slavery-like practices.
- 2. Main theme of the session: Prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others.
- 3. Review of developments in other fields of contemporary forms of slavery, including:
 - (a) Slavery and the slave trade;
 - (b) Sale of children;
 - (c) Child prostitution and child pornography;
 - (d) Exploitation of child labour;
 - (e) Debt bondage;
 - (f) Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism.
 - 4. Follow-up of recommendations adopted at previous session.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Working Group adopted its report without a vote on 12 August 1988.

ANNEX I

Attendance

I. Members of the Working Group

Mrs. M.C. Bautista

Mr. I. Diaconu

Mr. A. Eide

Ms. F-Z. Ksentini

Mr. L. Varela Quirós

II. States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Belgium Ms. D. Struye

Mr. F. Gazan

Brazil Ms. M. Belner

Ethiopia Mr. K. Sinegiorgis

Mr. N. Morku

France Mr. S. Gompertz

Germany, Federal Republic of Mr. R. Hilger

Ms. M. Sievers

Haiti Mr. G. Charles

India Mr. P. Dayal

Japan Mr. M. Nishibayashi

Mr. M. Tatematsu

Pakistan Mr. M.A. Khan

Sweden Ms. E. Stjernswärd

Turkey Mr. Kaleli

United Arab Emirates Mr. Y. Hérese

Venezuela Ms. M-E. Ruesta de Furter

Ms. A.E. Hernández Correa

III. Non-Member States represented by observers

Holy See Mr. R. Gère Roch

IV. United Nations bodies

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Branch for the Advancement of Women)

Ms. C. Sellami-Meslem

United Nations Children's Fund

Ms. M. Newman-Black

V. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation

Mr. S. Ago

United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr. W. Tamzali

VI. Intergovernmental Organizations

League of Arab States

Mr. O. El-Hajjé

VII. National Liberation Movements

African National Congress

Ms. B.S. Negoma Mabandla

VIII. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Category I

International Abolitionist Federation

Ms. M-R. Jamet
Ms. R. Pledran
Ms. M. Schreiber
Mr. J. Dillenseger
Mr. Y. Takeoka
Mr. L. Droz
Mr. S. Micherda
Mme. M-C. Gauriat
Mme. G. Delstanche
Mr. R. Roelens

International Alliance of Women

Mme. Irmgard Rimondini

International Council of Women

Ms. R. Gaillard Ms. B. Webster

World Federation of Democratic Youth

Mr. J. Gajardo

Category II

Anti-Slavery Society Mr. P. Lowes

Mr. P. Davies

Mr. Swami Agnivesh Mr. J. Burger Mrs. M. Linnander Mrs. B. Ras Work

Mrs. S. Miers

Mr. D. von der Weid

Friends World Committee for

Consultation

Mr. A. Gordon

International Association of

Democratic Lawyers

Ms. Renée Bridel

International Catholic Child Bureau Ms. F. Bruce

International Federation of Women

Lawyers

Ms. H. Pfander

Pax Christi International Mr. J. Gathia

Mr. A.C. Zoller

Pax Romana Ms. N. Iyori

Mr. V. Karunan Mr. R.J. Rajkumar

Rädda Barnen International Mr. S. Ek

Roster

Defence for Children International Mr. M. Bonnet Ms. L. Levin

Mr. D. O'Donnel

Minority Rights Group Mr. G. McKeown

World Union for Progressive Judaism Mr. N. Garai

Mr. D. Littman

ANNEX II

Documentation

1. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/1

Provisional Agenda

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/2

Status of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices

Similar to Slavery

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 3/1988/3

and Corr.1

Status of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons

and of the Exploitation of the

Prostitution of Others

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/4

and Add.1 and 2

Information received from States concerning the Slavery Convention, the Supplementary Convention on the

Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, and the Convention for

Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the

Prostitution of Others

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/5

and Add.1 and 2

Information submitted by United Nations

organs, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to Commission on Human Rights

resolution 1987/32

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/6

and Add.1

Information submitted by the International Criminal Police

Organization (INTERPOL)

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/AC. 2/1988/7

and Add.1

Information received from

non-governmental organizations pursuant to Sub-Commission resolution 1987/32

2. As reference documents, the Working Group referred to the following Sub-Commission documents:

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1988/15

Report of the Working Group on

Detention (Question of human rights of

persons subjected to any form of

detention or imprisonment)

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1988/28

Report of the Secretary-General on the sale of children prepared pursuant to

Economic and Social Council

resolution 1983/30

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1988/29

Survey of recommendations made by the

Working Group on Slavery and Slavery-like Practices since its

inception

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1988/30

Preliminary report of the

Secretary-General on the sale of children pursuant to Sub-Commission

resolution 1987/32

E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1988/31

Note by the Secretary-General (concerning sexual minorities)

3. Other documents were also circulated in the Working Group, including many of the statements submitted by participants in Chapter III above.