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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 22

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium*, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile,
Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark*, Finland, France,
Gambia, Germany, Greece*, Guatemala*, Hungary*, Iceland*,
Ireland*, Italy*, Latvia*, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*,
Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway*, Poland, Portugal, Romania,
Russian Federation, Senegal*, Spain*, Sweden*, United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America,
Venezuela and Switzerland*: draft resolution

1993/... Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms
of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves to promote and
encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental
freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of
the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recognizing that these rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

Reaffirming that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 47/129 of 18 December 1992, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

Emphasizing that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief,

Conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

Alarmed that serious incidents of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief occur in many parts of the world, including acts of violence, as evidenced in the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1993/62 and Corr.1 and Add.1), Mr. Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro,

Conscious that incidents of discrimination and intolerance carried out by persons or groups of persons on the grounds of religion or belief continue to occur in many parts of the world,

Believing that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. Reaffirms that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Special Rapporteur and takes note of his report and the various views expressed thereon during its forty-ninth session;
3. Urges States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide adequate guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief;
4. Recognizes that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief;
5. Urges all States, therefore, to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, including those motivated by religious extremism, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;
6. Also urges States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;
7. Calls upon all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for these purposes;
8. Also calls upon all States in accordance with their national legislation to exert their utmost efforts to ensure that religious places, buildings and shrines are fully respected and protected;
9. Recognizes that the exercise of tolerance and non-discrimination by persons and groups of persons is necessary for the full realization of the aims of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;
10. Considers it desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to this end in the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;
11. Reiterates, therefore, its invitation to the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration

on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief in all the official languages of the United Nations and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

12. Encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

13. Encourages Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

14. Recommends that the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion be given appropriate priority in the work of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, including with regard to the drafting of basic legal texts in conformity with international instruments on human rights and taking into account the provisions of the Declaration;

15. Encourages the Special Rapporteur to consider whether the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights might be of assistance in certain situations, at the request of States, and to make appropriate recommendations in this regard;

16. Welcomes the intention of the Human Rights Committee to make available soon a general comment on article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, dealing with freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

17. Welcomes the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration, including the submission of their views to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights;

18. Invites interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing in the implementation of the Declaration and its dissemination in national and local languages;

19. Calls upon all States to consider disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in national and local languages;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session;

21. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on measures taken to implement the present resolution;

22. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fiftieth session under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief".
