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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 11

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF
WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Albania*, Algeria*, Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile,
Czech Republic, El Salvador*, Germany, Greece*, Haiti*, Ireland*,
Mexico, Morocco*, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania,
Russian Federation, Rwanda*, Senegal*, Slovakia*, Sweden*,
Switzerland* and Uruguay: draft resolution

1993/... Development of public information activities in the
field of human rights, including the World Public
Information Campaign for Human Rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights are essential to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations set out in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, education and information are essential to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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

Recalling previous General Assembly resolutions on this subject, in particular resolutions 43/128 of 8 December 1988, 44/61 of 8 December 1989, 45/99 of 14 December 1990 and 47/128 of 18 December 1992, as well as its own resolutions 1989/53 of 7 March 1989, 1990/72 of 7 March 1990, 1991/24 of 5 March 1991 and 1992/38 of 28 February 1992,

Recognizing the catalytic effect of United Nations initiatives on national and regional public information activities in the field of human rights,

Acknowledging the valuable role that non-governmental organizations can play in these endeavours,

Believing that the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights is a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1993/29 and Add.1);

2. Appreciates the measures taken by the Secretariat to ensure the further production and effective dissemination of human rights information materials in regional and local languages, in cooperation with regional, national and local organizations, as well as with Governments;

3. Welcomes the recent efforts of the Centre for Human Rights to carry out a comprehensive review of the programme of information in the field of human rights and to elaborate a new information strategy as described in the report of the Secretary-General (see E/CN.4/1992/29 and Add.1);

4. Notes with appreciation the new approach of the Centre for Human Rights to the development of training courses and materials, which are designed to be practical in their content, audience-specific, culturally adaptable and which include information on effective pedagogical techniques, and welcomes the decision of the Centre for Human Rights to convene a series of expert meetings in 1993 for the purpose of elaborating training manuals based on this new approach;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to afford particular attention, within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights to activities aimed at disseminating information on the World Conference on Human Rights and its outcome and welcomes the recent initiatives of the

Secretariat to develop supplementary public information activities for the World Conference;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the progress made by the Centre for Human Rights in the updating and supplementing of the publications entitled Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments, Human Rights: Status of International Instruments and United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, consistent with General Assembly resolution 46/116;

7. Encourages the Centre for Human Rights to continue its review of the programme of translation of human rights instruments, with a view to increasing both the range of instruments translated and the number of language versions produced and making full use of the valuable assistance of national non-governmental organizations, and requests the Department of Public Information to make every effort to ensure the broadest possible availability and dissemination, through United Nations Information Centres, of instruments translated, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

8. Urges the Secretary-General to utilize more fully and effectively United Nations Information Centres for the purpose of disseminating, within their designated areas of activity, basic information and reference materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms and, to this end, to ensure that United Nations Information Centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials, both in the official languages of the United Nations and the relevant national languages;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that recent periodic reports of States parties to treaty-monitoring bodies, the summary records of discussions on them and the concluding observations adopted by the relevant body be available in the United Nations Information Centres of the countries which have submitted these reports;

10. Requests the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to make full use of its available resources in the field of human rights to produce audiovisual materials on human rights issues, as specifically requested in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 45/99, and to increase the print-run of the information and reference material produced by the United Nations for worldwide distribution;

11. Stresses the need for close cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information, inter alia, in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and

requests the Secretary-General to take advantage as much as possible of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations in this process, including in the dissemination of human rights materials;

12. Encourages all Member States to make special efforts, particularly in view of the World Conference on Human Rights, to provide, facilitate and promote publicity for the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and to accord priority to the dissemination in their respective national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international instruments and to provide information and education on the practical ways in which the rights and freedoms enjoyed under these instruments can be exercised;

13. Urges all Member States to include in their educational curricula, at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels, materials relevant to a comprehensive understanding of human rights issues and, recalling the publication by the Centre for Human Rights of the booklet Teaching Human Rights, encourages the production by the Centre of further materials for this purpose;

14. Appreciates the enhanced cooperation enjoyed between the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations, and emphasizes the need for the Secretariat to harmonize its public information activities with those of other relevant international bodies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to make provisions in the regular budget of the United Nations for increased resources for activities within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, and encourages Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the funding of those activities;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the efforts currently under way within the Secretariat to carry out a comprehensive review of the human rights information programme and of any views expressed during the World Conference on Human Rights, to further consider the recommendation of the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that an expert group from outside the Secretariat be appointed to review the existing information programme of the Centre for Human Rights;

17. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its fiftieth session, a report on public information activities with special emphasis on the activities of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, including information on expenditures incurred in 1993 and those envisaged for future activities, as well as an assessment of the impact of the World Campaign;

18. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fiftieth session under the agenda item entitled "Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission".

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