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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-first session  
Agenda item 11 (a)

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

Argentina\*, Austria, Belgium\*, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica\*,  
Czech Republic\*, Denmark\*, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary,  
Ireland\*, Italy, Luxembourg\*, Netherlands, Norway\*, Peru,  
Poland, Slovakia\*, Spain\*, Sweden\*, Switzerland\*, United States  
of America and Uruguay\*: draft resolution

1995/... Human rights and thematic procedures

The Commission on Human Rights,

Considering that, over the years, thematic procedures established by the Commission with regard to the consideration of questions related to the promotion and protection of civil and political rights have earned an important position among its human rights monitoring mechanisms,

Noting with satisfaction that an increasing number of Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations, have developed a working relationship with one or more of the thematic procedures,

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

Recalling its resolutions 1991/31 of 5 March 1991, 1992/41 of 28 February 1992, 1993/47 of 9 March 1993 and 1994/53 of 5 March 1994,

Recalling also its various resolutions in which it urged Governments to intensify their cooperation with the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups, and to provide information requested on any measures taken in pursuance of recommendations addressed to them,

Recalling further recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), especially in part II, paragraph 95, in which the World Conference on Human Rights underlined the importance of preserving and strengthening the system of special procedures, rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups of the Commission,

Recalling the first meeting of the special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and members or chairmen of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, held from 14 to 16 June 1993 on the occasion of the World Conference on Human Rights,

Recalling also the meeting of the special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, held from 30 May to 1 June 1994,

Noting that some human rights violations are specific to or primarily directed against women, and that the identification and reporting of these violations demand specific awareness and sensitivity,

1. Commends those Governments that have invited the thematic special rapporteurs or working groups to visit their countries;
2. Recommends that Governments consider follow-up visits designed to assist them with effective implementation of recommendations by the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups;
3. Encourages Governments to respond expeditiously to requests for information made to them through the procedures, so that the thematic special rapporteurs concerned, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention may carry out their mandates effectively;
4. Also encourages Governments encountering problems in the field of human rights to cooperate more closely with the Commission through the pertinent thematic procedures, in particular by inviting a thematic special rapporteur or working group to visit their countries;

5. Invites the Governments concerned to study carefully the recommendations addressed to them under thematic procedures and to keep the relevant mechanisms informed promptly on the progress made towards their implementation;

6. Invites the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to include in their annual reports information provided by Governments on follow-up action, as well as their own observations thereon;

7. Invites the non-governmental organizations to continue their cooperation with thematic procedures;

8. Welcomes all appropriate measures the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups take in response to situations of human rights violations, including bringing those violations to the attention of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Secretary-General and the competent United Nations organs and bodies;

9. Endorses the recommendations of the meeting of the special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the programme of advisory services with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, held from 30 May to 1 June 1994 (E/CN.4/1995/5, annex, para. 26);

10. Encourages the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to make recommendations for the avoidance of human rights violations;

11. Also encourages the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to follow closely the progress made by Governments in their investigations carried out within their respective mandates;

12. Further encourages the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to continue close cooperation with relevant treaty monitoring bodies and country rapporteurs;

13. Encourages the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to strengthen cooperation among the thematic special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and members and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the human rights treaty bodies, as well as to consider ways in which their work can be coordinated;

14. Requests the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to include in their reports comments on problems of responsiveness and the results of analyses, as appropriate, in order to exercise their mandates even

more effectively, and to include also in their reports suggestions for areas where Governments might request relevant assistance through the programme of advisory services administered by the Centre for Human Rights;

15. Calls on the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to include in their reports gender-disaggregated data and to address the characteristics and practice of human rights violations under their mandates that are specifically or primarily directed against women, or to which women are particularly vulnerable, in order to ensure the effective protection of their human rights.

16. Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups, to issue annually their conclusions and recommendations, so as to enable further discussion of their implementation at subsequent sessions of the Commission;

17. Welcomes the joint declaration (A/CONF.157/9) of the independent experts responsible for the special procedures for the protection of human rights, of 17 June 1993;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening further periodic meetings of all the thematic special rapporteurs and the chairmen of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights in order to enable them to continue to exchange views, cooperate more closely and make recommendations;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General, in implementing the United Nations budget for the biennium 1994-1995, to ensure the availability of such resources as are necessary for the effective implementation of all thematic mandates, including any additional tasks entrusted to the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups by the Commission.

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