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

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mr. Chernichenko, Mr. Eide, Mr. El-Hajjé,
Mr. Hatano, and Ms. Mbonu: draft resolution

1995/... Discrimination against indigenous peoples

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming the urgent need to recognize, promote and protect more effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982, in which the Council authorized the Sub-Commission to establish annually a working group on indigenous populations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Working Group on its thirteenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/24) and, in particular, of its conclusions and recommendations,

Taking note also of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/30 of 5 March 1993, in which the Commission recommended to all thematic rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups to pay special attention, within the framework of their mandates, to the situation of indigenous people,

Mindful of the relevant recommendations adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, in particular those contained in Part I, paragraph 20 and Part II, paragraphs 28 to 32 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23),

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and in particular to its Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Erica-Irene A. Daes, for the work accomplished during its thirteenth session;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Working Group on its thirteenth session to indigenous organizations, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as to all thematic rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups;
3. Recommends that the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group be entrusted with the preparation of a working paper on the concept of "indigenous people" and that the working paper be transmitted to Governments, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations for their comments for submission to the Working Group at its fourteenth session;
4. Also recommends that the Working Group cooperate as a body of experts in any conceptual clarifications or analysis, which might also assist the working group established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995 to elaborate further the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples;
5. Endorses the recommendation of the Working Group to highlight specific topics at its future sessions and to focus on indigenous health at its fourteenth session;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous and non-governmental organizations to provide information, in particular on matters relating to indigenous health, to be made available as a background paper at the fourteenth session of the Working Group;

7. Requests the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group to inform the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations that the Working Group at its fourteenth session will highlight health questions so that the Board can bear this in mind when it meets for its ninth session in April 1996;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an annotated agenda for the fourteenth session of the Working Group containing, inter alia, the following items: standard-setting activities, review of developments, the study of treaties and agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples, the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, including a sub-item on United Nations operational activities and indigenous peoples, the permanent forum for indigenous people, the future of the Working Group and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations;

9. Recommends that the Commission on Human Rights request the Economic and Social Council to authorize the Working Group to meet for eight working days prior to the forty-eight session of the Sub-Commission;

10. Decides to recommend to the Commission on Human Rights the following draft decision for adoption:

"The Commission on Human Rights, noting resolution ... of ... of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, decides to authorize the Working Group to meet for eight working days prior to the forty-eight session of the Sub-Commission."
