



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1996/L.10/Add.16
19 April 1996

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 25

REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft report of the Commission

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajamony Venu

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and linguistic minorities

* Documents E/CN.4/1996/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1996/L.11 and addenda.

XVI. RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC,
RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

1. The Commission considered agenda item 16 concurrently with items 11 and 18 (see chaps. XI and XVIII) at its 18th to 22nd meetings, from 29 March to 2 April 1996, and at its 35th meeting on 11 April 1996. 1/
2. For the documents issued for the fifty-second session of the Commission under item 16, see annex IV to the present report.
3. In the general debate on agenda item 16, statements 3/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Austria (20th), Bangladesh (20th), China (20th), Ethiopia (20th), Hungary (20th), India (20th), Pakistan (21st), Republic of Korea (20th), Russian Federation (20th), Sri Lanka (20th), Ukraine (20th).
4. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Estonia (21st), Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries) (21st), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (21st), Latvia (21st), Poland (18th), Romania (21st), Slovakia (21st), Sudan (19th), Switzerland (21st), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (21st), Viet Nam (21st).
5. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: African Association of Education for Development (22nd), Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (21st), All Pakistan Women's Association (22nd), Centre Europe-Tiers Monde (22nd), American Association of Jurists (22nd), Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (18th), Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (21st), Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation (19th), Indian Council of Education (19th), International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty (18th), International Association of Educators for World Peace (18th), International Council of Jewish Women (19th), International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements (22nd), International Institute for Peace (19th), Liberation (19th), Minority Rights Group (19th), Muslim World League (22nd), Pax Christi International (19th), Society for Threatened Peoples (21st), United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation (18th), World Federation of Democratic Youth (22nd), World Muslim Congress (22nd), World Peace Council (18th).
6. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China (21st) and Mexico (22nd) and the observers for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (19th), Estonia (21st) and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (19th).

7. At its 35th meeting, on 11 April 1996, the Commission took up consideration of the draft resolutions submitted under item 16.

Tolerance and pluralism as indivisible elements in the promotion and protection of human rights

8. The representative of India introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1996/L.26, sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Bhutan, Colombia, Cyprus, India, Poland, the Russian Federation and South Africa. Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Madagascar, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America subsequently joined the sponsors.

9. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. The representative of Pakistan made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

10. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1996/19.

Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

11. The representative of Austria introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1996/L.34, sponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Norway, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Hungary, Latvia and Malta subsequently joined the sponsors.

12. The representative of Austria orally revised the draft resolution, as follows:

(a) Delete the ninth preambular paragraph;

(b) In operative paragraph 13, after the word "Minorities", delete the words "to continue".

13. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1996/20.
