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

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Mr. Alfonso Martínez, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mr. Chernichenko,
Ms. Daes, Mr. Guissé and Mr. Hatano: draft resolution

1996/... Permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous people

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

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the
United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the
International Covenants on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the recommendation contained in the Vienna Declaration
and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights that
the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the
United Nations system should be considered (A/CONF.157/23, para. II.32),

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993 and
50/157 of 21 December 1995 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/41
of 19 April 1996,

Deeply convinced that the establishment of a permanent forum cannot be
considered as an alternative to the continued existence of the Working Group
on Indigenous Populations,

Taking note of the report of the workshop held in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/41 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1996/5 and Add. 1 and 2) and of the documents of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations,

Taking into account the comments and suggestions of participants at the fourteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on this important topic,

1. Welcomes the request to the Commission on Human Rights by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 to give priority consideration to the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

2. Also welcomes the request by the Commission on Human Rights, contained in its resolution 1996/41 of 19 April 1996, that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations give priority consideration to the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people and submit its further comments and suggestions, through the Sub-Commission, to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his review of existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous people, to take into account the views and opinions on the permanent forum expressed at the fourteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the information received from indigenous peoples and communities, as well as from Governments;

4. Recommends that the Centre for Human Rights, drawing on the results of the Secretary-General's review of existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous people, and of the workshop on a possible permanent forum for indigenous people held in Copenhagen in June 1995, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/157 of 21 December 1995, organize a second workshop on a permanent forum for indigenous people in early 1997;

5. Welcomes the offer by the Government of Chile to host the second workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people;

6. Recommends that the permanent forum be established in the early part of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and that its mandate include questions relating to all fields included in the programme of activities for the International Decade;

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

"The Commission on Human Rights, taking note of resolution 1996/... of ... August 1996 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, endorses the recommendation of the Sub-Commission that the Centre for Human Rights organize a second workshop on a possible permanent forum for indigenous people."
