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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 7

HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Ms. Attah, Mr. Boutkevitch, Ms. Daes, Mr. Guissé,
Ms. Gwanmesia and Mr. Hatano: draft resolution

1997/... Permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous peoples
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 1997/30
of 11 April 1997,

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 reports of the workshops held in Copenhagen and Santiago de Chile, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/30 and 1997/30 respectively (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7 and Add.1-3 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1997/CRP.1),

Taking into account the comments and suggestions of the members of the Working Group and other participants at the fifteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on this matter,

1. Recommends that the permanent forum be established in the course of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and that its mandate include, inter alia, questions relating to the rights of indigenous peoples and all matters contained in the programme of activities for the International Decade;

2. Endorses in particular the recommendation of the Santiago workshop and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations that the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session consider how to further the process of establishing a permanent forum for indigenous peoples in the United Nations, inter alia through the drafting of concrete proposals to this effect, bearing in mind the possibility of submitting the matter to the Economic and Social Council for action;

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

"The Commission on Human Rights, taking note of resolution 1997/... of ... August 1997 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, decides to submit the question of the establishment of a permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous peoples to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration."
