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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/... International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
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 distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 50/157 of 21 December 1995, in which the Assembly adopted the comprehensive programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its fifteenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/14),

1. Welcomes the observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August;
2. Also welcomes the recommendation made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1997/32 of 11 April 1997 that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights assume responsibility for coordination of the International Decade;
3. Recommends that the Coordinator for the Decade consider holding a special fund-raising meeting with interested permanent missions and the members of the Advisory Group to encourage financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Decade and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, as well as the secondment of qualified staff, including indigenous persons, to assist with the work of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights relating to the programme for indigenous peoples;
4. Also recommends that attention continue to be given to improving the extent of the participation of indigenous peoples in planning and implementing the activities of the Decade;
5. Further recommends that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/157 of 21 December 1995, the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples be adopted as early as possible in the International Decade;
6. Welcomes 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);
7. Recommends that the permanent forum for indigenous peoples within the United Nations system be established as soon as possible in the course of the Decade;

8. Congratulates the Advisory Group for the Voluntary Fund for the Decade for the work it has accomplished, for its initiatives and for the transparency of its working methods and decisions;

9. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Spain for its offer to host a workshop of indigenous journalists in Madrid in 1998;

10. Urges the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, in consultation with the Government of Spain to accelerate the relevant procedure so that the planned workshop of indigenous journalists can take place early in 1998, with the participation of government representatives, indigenous journalists, competent United Nations agencies, including the Information Service of the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the International Press Institute;

11. Requests the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, at its sixteenth session to prepare for the mid-point review of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in 1999;

12. Welcomes the recommendation made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1997/32 that the High Commission/Centre for Human Rights convene a workshop in the spring of 1998 for research and higher education institutions focusing on indigenous issues.
