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on Tuesday, 21 July 1998, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. FULCI (Italy)
(Vice-President)

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COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: COORDINATED FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: COORDINATED FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (continued) (E/1998/60)

Mr. NDIAYE (Director, New York Office, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)) said that the right to development as a universal, inalienable and fundamental part of human rights had been reaffirmed at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, and that reaffirmation continued to have an impact on the work of the United Nations. The basic elements of the consensus reached in Vienna were that the human person was the central subject of development; democracy, development and respect for human rights were interdependent and mutually reinforcing; States and the international community must cooperate to ensure development and eliminate obstacles; and lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development required effective national policies, equitable economic relations and a favourable international economic environment.

A development approach to human rights and a rights-based approach to development were not in opposition but reflected the two aspects of the moral imperative to respect the inherent dignity of each individual. Such an approach ensured that human rights standards, as established in international law, were used to orient policy, and also that the individuals who should benefit from those standards could take an active part in the design and implementation of related policies and activities. The experience of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as the first development organization to adopt a rights-based approach, substantiated the view that the approach helped to focus development activities on the needs of people, thus contributing to the development of societies. It also helped to coordinate and streamline development activities by basing them on an agreed, stable and consistent set of international standards, ensuring more efficient use of resources, and, through the participation of the people, promoting a sense of responsibility for the future.

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By the same token, a development approach to human rights meant looking at the implementation of human rights from a development perspective. Such a perspective could lead to a better understanding of the nature of some obstacles to the implementation of human rights and to measures to eliminate those obstacles. It could create the economic and structural foundations for effective and universal implementation of human rights, with the close involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions. In addition, problems which in the past had not been recognized as relevant to human rights, for example extreme poverty, food shortage, inadequate housing or HIV/AIDS, could be approached from the human rights perspective. The philosophy underlying the right to development was that the goal of development was not simply economic progress but rather creating the conditions to ensure a life of dignity, a view which promoted the equality of all human rights. Moreover, linking human rights and development provided a framework for cooperation and coordination among the human rights and the development arms of the United Nations system. It also enhanced the link between the national and international dimensions of the implementation of human rights by highlighting Government responsibility as well as the role of equitable economic relations and a favourable international economic environment. The recently adopted "Agenda for Development" was an illustration.

The right to development determined one of the fundamental perspectives from which human rights should be integrated and thus interpreted as universal, indivisible and interdependent. In an operational sense, particular efforts should be made to promote those rights requiring special attention. Organizations working in human rights and related areas should try to contribute to a balanced approach, and cooperation between organizations with mandates in various areas was one of the basic means to ensure that assistance offered to Governments and society would promote that approach.

Mr. GARCIA REVILLA (Chairman, Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on the Right to Development) said that the Working Group on the Right to Development, in its report submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session, had drawn the main conclusion that there was a need to present concrete and practical suggestions for a strategy to implement the Declaration on the Right to Development. Implementing the Declaration would be a difficult and time-consuming task that would face many obstacles. The Working

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Group, which represented a diversity of views and was composed of representatives and experts from all regions, quickly reached a consensus that the right to development, an issue which had become highly politicized, needed a forum for discussion within the United Nations system.

The Working Group had decided that it must come up with a set of practical measures for the implementation of the Declaration, addressed first to the United Nations and other international agencies, but also to States, as another central actor in development, and to civil society. The principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be borne in mind as well.

Among suggestions addressed to the United Nations and international agencies, the Working Group had said that dialogue must be established among all the parties involved in implementation, and the activities of all international institutions must be coordinated. There was consensus in the Working Group that the High Commissioner for Human Rights should take the main role in coordination. The renewed dialogue with States and civil society must call attention to the urgency of implementing the Declaration, particularly in the context of globalization, which could create obstacles to its implementation and give rise to new threats to peace and security because of increasing interdependence among nations. Globalization also highlighted the concept of shared responsibility for the implementation of the Declaration and the importance of disseminating its content. The High Commissioner must enter into dialogue with the financial institutions and agencies of the United Nations system. AS for States, they must incorporate the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development in their national legislation and make the right to development a priority, cross-cutting theme of their policies. Civil society, represented by non-governmental organizations, must participate more actively in the dialogue on the right to development.

Mr. SENE (Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on the Right to Development), said that as Chairman of the Working Group from 1982 to 1986, it had been his task to oversee the drafting of the Declaration on the Right to Development. That task had been complicated by the ideological confrontations of the Cold War period, and he had no doubt that it would have been easier to draft such a declaration in the current international political environment. The 1993 Vienna Conference had brought the right to development to the forefront of the international human rights agenda and prompted the establishment of the

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post of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It had been the developing countries which had bridged the gap between the position maintaining that the right to development was a collective right and that maintaining it was an individual right. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action made it clear that every segment of society - individuals, peoples, the State, indigenous groups, international and non-governmental organizations, women's groups - must be involved in defending the right to development. It also pointed out that extreme poverty was an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights, and that human dignity could only flourish in a stable society free from want and fear.

In the light of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, he welcomed the priority placed by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on measures to strengthen the partnership between human rights and development. Urgent measures were needed to prevent the further marginalization of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups in the context of the Asian financial crisis. Specific proposals in the areas of strategy, policy and monitoring would be presented in the course of the dialogue.

Mr. FORGET (Legal Adviser, World Bank) said that the mandate of the World Bank was economic development. Through its efforts to achieve its overarching objective, the reduction of poverty, the Bank contributed to the realization of the right to development. The themes of poverty and social development, participation, partnership and governance were particularly important for the realization of integrated human development as called for by the Declaration.

The link between poverty reduction, social development and human rights was self-evident, and in fact, directly or indirectly, all the Bank's actions were aimed at that objective. The Bank had completed 83 poverty assessments which provided the basis for loans and credits targeted directly at poverty reduction and were integrated into the country assistance strategy. Many of those loans and credits were directed at providing the most essential social services, such as basic education, health services, food production and water supply, which were human rights in themselves. In addition, the Bank assisted its borrowing members in setting up a structural adjustment process that would protect the poor and even improve conditions, as part of overall anti-poverty strategies.

The Bank had found that the success of its projects depended in large part

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on the involvement of those affected in preparation and implementation: it had thus adopted a participatory approach which was applied at the project, country and global levels. Effective participation also required that groups should have the ability to meet, to obtain necessary information from Governments and to communicate their views, all of which had human rights implications.

The Bank also cooperated with a wide range of partners in sponsoring regional and global initiatives that had direct benefits for the poor. Some of those initiatives were directed against major diseases plaguing humanity, denying the right to health to many, including the UNAIDS effort and the programme to eliminate river blindness in West Africa, to name just two examples. Over the past few years, it had also strengthened its partnership with the High Commissioner for Refugees and the High Commissioner for Human Rights and had taken steps to allow it to respond much more quickly and effectively to the needs of countries emerging from conflict.

It had been recognized that institutions played a crucial role in economic development, and that weak institutions were a major constraint on development in many regions of the world. Improving the efficiency and integrity of public-sector institutions, including judicial systems, was necessary in order to foster a climate in which private initiative and investment could flourish. The Bank helped its borrowing members by providing funds and technical assistance for projects in civil service, legal and judicial reform, and had added another dimension to its work through its recent anti-corruption initiative. The Bank's work on governance was clearly rooted in its economic development mandate, yet progress in the area of good governance and respect for the rule of law had beneficial effects for the enjoyment of all human rights.

Ms. SULLIVAN (Expert Consultant, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)) said that the Vienna Conference had resulted in a new emphasis on the right to development and a historic consensus that the international community and Member States were responsible for the promotion and protection of women's rights as human rights. Thus, as an essential component of the right to development, women's human rights must be fully integrated, at all stages, into United Nations policies and programmes to promote that right. Experience had shown that systematic discrimination against women cut across all categories of rights. Strategies for the implementation of women's right to development must recognize the interdependence of all those rights; for example, the right to

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health could not be achieved unless other rights, such as the right to education, food, housing, political participation, safe working conditions, equal rights in marriage, freedom from violence, freedom of information and non-discrimination, were effectively guaranteed.

The core components of a strategy for the system-wide integration of women's human rights into all efforts concerning the right to development included the analysis of the effects of gender on the human rights of both women and men; implementation of policy commitments to gender equality as the objective of all policies and programmes relating directly or indirectly to women's human rights; incorporation of international standards on women's human rights, particularly those contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, into the policy frameworks of all United Nations bodies; routine inclusion of women's human rights in efforts to mainstream human rights in the context of United Nations reform; integration of women's human rights and the gender perspective into all initiatives to promote economic, social and cultural rights, including research and analysis on the content of those rights; integration of international commitments concerning women's human rights into the monitoring of the implementation of the right to development; special attention to the role of women's groups in providing information to the human rights system and as beneficiaries of and participants in the development process and technical cooperation projects; and provision of training to all United Nations staff, especially field and research staff, on women's human rights and the gender perspective.

Another core component of such a strategy was the integration of women's human rights into United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF) documents and staff training. In developing and implementing UNDAF at the country level, the legal obligations of States under human rights treaties should be among the core criteria for identifying development assistance priorities, and country-level staff should be given information and training on human rights treaties and the activities of the treaty bodies as they related to women's human rights. Lastly, all activities to promote the right to development, including the sessions of the open-ended working group established by the Commission on Human Rights, technical cooperation activities and the work of UNHCHR in relation to national human rights institutions, should routinely address obstacles to women's ability to participate in and benefit from

development.

Mr. OBERLEITNER (Observer for Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, recalled that Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72 on the right to development had established an open-ended working group and a mandate for an independent expert to monitor the implementation of the right to development and had emphasized the need for system-wide coordination and cooperation under the leadership of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In that connection, he asked for information on the current status of the dialogue on the right to development which was already under way between UNHCHR and the World Bank. He also wanted more details on specific World Bank programmes to ensure the transparency and accountability of government institutions. How did each of the various organizations intend to support the work of the new mechanisms established by the Commission on Human Rights?

Mr. Dae-Chong YOU (Republic of Korea) said that UNHCHR should be provided with enough human and financial resources to enable it to enhance its substantive assistance to special rapporteurs and independent experts on human rights in the areas of information-gathering, research and administrative arrangements. Despite the mainstreaming of human rights in the activities of the United Nations system, the resources allocated to human rights activities were still very limited. What measures was UNHCHR currently considering with a view to strengthening its resource base, especially in relation to its assistance for activities concerning the right to development?

Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) asked for comments on the organizations' experiences with and suggestions regarding the use of a rights-based approach to development policy.

Mr. NDIAYE (Director, New York Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said, in reply to the observer for Austria, that UNHCHR planned to enhance further its close cooperation with the World Bank, especially in the area of institution-building, and that it was considering the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding similar to the ones it had its work was in the interest of all countries. Those efforts emphasized the interdependence of peace, democracy and development and sought to attract funds from various sources, including foundations and development agencies.

In reply to the representative of the United States of America, he said

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that the Office was drawing upon the experience of development agencies, the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to develop a set of indicators and benchmarks for measuring progress in the effective enjoyment of those rights, which would emphasize their indivisibility and universality.

Mr. FORGET (Legal Adviser, World Bank) said that the World Bank was fully engaged in the dialogue on human rights with UNHCHR and with other organizations of the United Nations system. The specific projects on institution-building financed by the Bank addressed areas such as civil service reform and reform of legal systems and judicial systems. The proper functioning of those institutions signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services. Moreover, it was in the process of determining how it could enhance its cooperation in activities to promote good governance. Representatives of the World Bank were invited to participate in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and of all its subsidiary bodies.

In reply to the representative of the Republic of Korea, he said that UNHCHR would support the activities of the independent expert to be appointed pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72, paragraph 10 (b). New resources were needed to meet the new demands being made on the Office, which currently received only 1.6 per cent of the Organization's regular-budget resources. Government representatives in intergovernmental organs, particularly the General Assembly's Fifth Committee, must be persuaded to increase that share, since the office's excessive reliance on extrabudgetary resources could jeopardize the maintenance of its core activities. The Office was also stepping up its fund-raising efforts and trying to increase the number of donors, considering that provided the basis not only for economic growth but also for the enjoyment of all human rights. The participation of the populations affected by development projects had been recognized as a key to the success of such projects and also had spillover effects for the enjoyment of human rights. It was therefore important for the projects to be executed in a framework that fostered such participation by enabling populations to organize themselves, receive relevant information and take part in project preparation and execution. To further that process, the World Bank was holding consultations with Governments and non-governmental organizations in order to develop a set of best

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practices concerning government regulation of the activities of such organizations, with a view to maximizing their potential to contribute.

With respect to the rights-based approach, the World Bank's approach to its own activities was based on its Articles of Agreement, under which the Bank was defined as an economic development institution. However, the Bank took a broad view of economic development that included issues such as environmental sustainability, economic governance, participatory development, gender issues and the protection of vulnerable groups. That approach enabled the Bank to contribute to many facets of the right to development. Its activities for poverty reduction were consistent with the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development. At the same time, it complemented the efforts of other entities in that area by contributing its own financial resources, analytical work and technical expertise on specific issues, as well as its partnerships with private-sector and non-governmental organizations.

Ms. SULLIVAN (Expert Consultant, United Nations Development Fund for Women) said that the experience of UNIFEM had demonstrated the need for a human-rights-based approach to women and development. Development assistance could not be effective unless discrimination against women was eliminated through programmes and projects in areas such as legal reform, human rights education and the elimination of violence against women.

Mr. SENE (Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development) said that, under the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa, he had visited several countries to discuss their development priorities, which usually corresponded to those enumerated in the Declaration on the Right to Development. Therefore, resources should be provided to enable UNHCHR to disseminate the Declaration more widely through seminars and workshops at the national, regional and international levels. The fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights represented an opportunity to give the Declaration on the Right to Development more international visibility and to integrate it into the International Bill of Human Rights.

Mr. GARCÍA REVILLA (Chairman, Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development) said that the open-ended working group established pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72 should take into account the recommendations of the previous Working Group. He and the other

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members of the Group stood ready to participate actively in the work of the new entity and to exchange ideas on how to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

Mr. RONNAS (Sweden) said that his Government had undertaken long-term development cooperation with a number of developing countries on the basis of partnership. However, the enjoyment of the right to development also depended on the national policies of all countries. He asked how Governments could incorporate that right into their legislative, economic and other policies and how they could involve civil society, academic institutions and other actors in the consultation process on the implementation of that right. How could Governments foster a political climate conducive to the enjoyment of the right to development? How could they enhance the individual's role as an active participant in the development process?

Mr. COLELLA (Italy) asked whether the World Bank could provide the members of the Council with copies of the poverty assessments it had prepared. Considering the current situation of contributions to the World Bank, he asked whether the Bank projected an increase or a decrease in the amount it would allocate to poverty-reduction projects in 1998, as compared to the 1997 level of \$4 billion. Lastly, he asked how the Bank understood the relationship between poverty eradication and the right to development.

Ms. ITO (Japan) asked what specific measures could be taken to ensure the implementation of the right to development.

Mr. NDIAYE (Director, New York Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) stressed that Governments, which bore the primary responsibility for development at the national level, should focus on the individual both as a participant in and beneficiary of development efforts. The job of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was to assist States in elaborating human rights strategies and policies, encouraging the involvement of non-governmental institutions and civil society. The High Commissioner's Office had established closer cooperation with UNDP and was working through the United Nations Executive Committee on Development to establish a framework for inclusion of the human rights dimension in technical cooperation and development assistance programmes. Further, it actively pursued cooperation with all relevant bodies and entities to ensure effective implementation of the right to development.

Mr. FORGET (Legal Adviser, World Bank) said that the World Bank placed considerable emphasis on the role of civil society in development policy, encouraging Governments to create open partnerships with civil society in policy elaboration and implementation. The World Bank's poverty assessments, which were available for public consultation, highlighted a number of issues concerning poverty reduction. While the Bank had not yet formulated an official view on the relationship between the right to development and human rights, its focus, consistent with its mandate, was on economic and social rights. Nonetheless, it had indirect influence on the promotion and protection of political, cultural and economic rights at the country level, through its work with States on good governance, development mechanisms and matters of a practical nature.

Mr. REVILLA (Chairman, Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development) said that the Working Group had made a number of recommendations concerning greater participation of civil society in development. States should include civil society, particularly representatives of vulnerable groups, more fully in the elaboration and implementation of social and economic policies and in budgetary matters and decision-making at the local and national levels. They should establish consultative bodies and advisory offices on the right to development, with the participation of civil society.

Ms. SULLIVAN (Expert Consultant, United Nations Development Fund for Women) said that she wished to highlight the importance of United Nations activities as a nexus between Government activities and United Nations efforts to implement the right to development, recognizing, however, that State actions had the greatest impact in realization of that objective.

Mr. SENE (Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development) said that promotion, protection and realization of the right to development were integral parts of the promotion and protection of human rights. Each State should establish person-centred development policies, based on democracy, good governance, transparency, accountability and the participation of all sectors of civil society. The United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa encompassed that approach, providing for meetings between Government representatives, donors and civil society in the context of development cooperation.

States could help solve economic and social problems through balanced human

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rights policies. Moreover, the eradication of poverty was the sine qua non for the establishment of peace, stability and freedom within and between nations. Efforts should be made to disseminate the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through seminars, workshops and public information events at the local, national and regional levels. It was important to stress the interdependence between development, democracy and human rights, which were mutually reinforcing themes.

UNHCHR should work to promote interagency coordination on those matters and should seek to ensure that a similar approach was used in the follow-up to major conferences, through, inter alia, the creation of human rights focal points.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights offered an opportunity to evaluate progress on human rights in development policy at the State level, with a view to removing obstacles such as illiteracy, disease, conflict and corruption. The Declaration on the Right to Development should now be included in the International Bill of Human Rights and evaluation mechanisms should be put in place. None of those objectives could be achieved, however, without consensus at all levels. There was an urgent need to evaluate the potential for monetary and economic crises to isolate and deprive developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, of the right to development.

Ms. GUSTAVA (Mozambique) commended the efforts of the Organization in seeking to promote and protect human rights through the strengthening of its human rights machinery, coordination of its human rights activities and adoption of a comprehensive and balanced approach to human rights issues. Closer cooperation between Governments, international organizations, civil society and academic institutions was vital to that task. Although such rights were universal and indivisible, account should also be taken of regional and national particularities.

The United Nations had done admirable work in assisting States with the development of laws and institutions for the eradication of poverty and improvement of the quality of life in developing countries, particularly in the least developed world, recognizing that poverty constituted a serious threat to the full enjoyment of human rights.

The international community should provide adequate financial resources for a system-wide approach to human rights and should develop an integrated approach

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to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, taking account of the outcomes of the major conferences and of the interdependence of development and human rights. All United Nations bodies should rationalize their activities in the area of human rights, involving the Bretton Woods institution more fully. Human rights focal points should be established at the headquarters and field levels, while all United Nations activities should reflect human rights and humanitarian concerns, particularly with regard to women and children affected by armed conflict. The Organization should continue to focus on implementation of the agreed conclusions on poverty, particularly extreme poverty, and should seek to ensure that all States acceded to human rights instruments.

Ms. MCVEY (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, said that greater inter-agency cooperation was needed for an integrated approach to human rights within the United Nations system. Her delegation strongly supported a human rights-based approach in all United Nations activities and programmes, through, inter alia, effective coordination between UNHCHR, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. The High Commissioner was successfully strengthening links between the work of United Nations human rights experts and that of other parts of the United Nations system.

The creation of human rights focal points would be a welcome step, provided that they oversaw the incorporation of human rights into the work of the entire system. All United Nations staff should receive human rights training, while human rights officers should be integrated into the country teams and the "United Nations houses". All components of the United Nations system should coordinate their field projects in human rights and related areas, and human rights priorities should be included in preparation of the common strategy notes, UNDAFs and other strategic approaches.

The High Commissioner had shown commendable leadership in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of her Office, particularly through the establishment of a gender team on the human rights of women. The team should be given the necessary resources and access to carry out its work effectively, and the gender perspective should be evident in field operations.

The participation of the Special Rapporteur on Disability in the proceedings of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Special Rapporteur on

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the Elimination of Violence against Women in the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women were positive signs of the mainstreaming of human rights in the United Nations system.

The High Commissioner had a key role to play in implementing the goals of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, through facilitation and drafting of the declaration on the rights of indigenous people and through coordination of related activities.

It was encouraging to note the inclusion of human rights in the work of the four main Executive Committees, the Senior Management Group and the funds and programmes. However, more needed to be done to share reports on human rights produced by the treaty bodies and special procedures with other United Nations bodies and organs. More should also be done to integrate a human rights element into all the Secretary-General's reports.

The involvement of civil society was vital to the protection and promotion of human rights, and non-governmental organizations and other interested parties should respond to the Commission on Human Rights Bureau's invitation to provide concise written submissions on enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission's human rights machinery. The partnership between UNHCHR and non-governmental organizations should be strengthened; the latter should participate more fully in policy development, education projects, training and technical assistance programmes.

No real progress could be achieved, however, unless the High Commissioner had sufficient regular budget resources for the effective discharge of both her existing responsibilities and her new mandates.

Mr. ABELIAN (Observer for Armenia), after commending the decision of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to regularly brief delegations in New York, said that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had had an important impact on the promotion and protection of human rights world-wide. The Secretary-General's reform package reinforced the role of human rights as a central, cross-cutting concern throughout the United Nations system, but the system-wide coordination effort outlined in the package must avoid duplication.

His Government had recently established a human rights presidential commission, with the eventual goal of creating an official human rights ombudsman. In cooperation with the United Nations and local non-governmental organizations, the Government was carrying out a programme of activities

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commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

It was also 50 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The unfortunate persistence of genocide in the closing decades of twentieth century underlined the need to take a fresh look at the Convention and to discuss ways and means of prevention and punishment. Accordingly, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, his delegation had introduced a draft resolution on the subject of the Convention's fiftieth anniversary, which the Commission had adopted.

Since 1993, the United Nations system had made substantial progress in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms world-wide. The Council's coordination segment was an appropriate occasion to reaffirm the principles adopted in Vienna and to define new ways to implement them.

Mr. Dae-won SUH (Republic of Korea) said that since its inception, UNHCHR had made impressive contributions to the strengthening of the United Nations human rights machinery and had come to serve as the focal point for system-wide human rights activities. His delegation strongly supported the steps taken by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to mainstream human rights and promote cooperation and coordination. His Government was fully committed to making human rights an integral part of human society, permeating all aspects of life.

While much had been accomplished, there was a continuing need to emphasize a balance between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, to bolster cooperation among members of the United Nations system and to increase the participation of the Bretton Woods institutions in the human rights process. In the vital area of gender mainstreaming, it was necessary to further strengthen the roles of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and the ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and to increase interaction between the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. Finally, with regard to national capacity-building, he stressed the importance of technical assistance for effective operations in the field and echoed the concern expressed by the Commission on Human Rights regarding the inadequate financing of UNHCHR and other concerned entities. His delegation therefore supported measures to secure regular budget resources for those entities and to implement the logical framework method for managing

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technical assistance programmes.

Mr. DONOKUSUMO (Observer for Indonesia) reiterated the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as an effective vehicle for achieving the human rights goals and aspirations of the member States. The deliberations of the international community in that regard should continue to be guided by a spirit of compromise and a willingness to consider diverse points of view.

While welcoming efforts to strengthen the human rights activities of the United Nations overall, his delegation felt that the Council should focus its attention on those United Nations bodies which had been mandated to undertake such activities. The trend towards a system-wide human rights approach should in no way detract from the mandated tasks of the development bodies or divert resources from development activities, particularly where the goal was the elimination of poverty. His delegation saw no need for the Council to burden the nascent United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF) with human rights priorities. On the other hand, it regretted the lack of commitment to the alleviation of developing countries' external debt burden. At the current session, the Council should focus its efforts on increasing national capacity-building, including training in and dissemination of information on human rights, and emphasising technical cooperation.

Indonesia's National Assembly had adopted a set of guidelines on human rights to be followed by the Government in implementing its latest development plan, and the President had recently launched Indonesia's National Plan of Action on Human Rights for 1998-2003, which included action guidelines and implementation timetables. That plan paved the way for Indonesia's future ratification of international human rights instruments, and provided for human rights education and the implementation of human rights instruments already ratified by Indonesia.

Mr. VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ (Observer for Ecuador) said that the agenda item under consideration was of particular importance for Ecuador. In order to carry out its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action at the national level, it had formulated a national action plan on human rights with the assistance of UNHCHR and such agencies as UNICEF and UNIFEM. That undertaking had been a concrete example of the importance of effective coordination among the agencies of the United Nations system for assisting

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Governments and civil societies to implement national plans to ensure respect for human rights at all levels.

His delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and supported the recommendations contained in Chapter III of the Secretary-General's report (E/1998/60). It called in particular for increased cooperation among members of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to improving the realization of the right to development. The struggle to eradicate extreme poverty should continue, with special commitment to providing women in poverty with access to development and micro credit programmes.

Ecuador firmly supported the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance no later than 2001 and joined in the call for members of the United Nations system to assist Governments in organizing preparatory meetings for that Conference at the national level. It urged other members of the system to follow the example of UNIFEM in supporting innovative activities aimed at eliminating violence against women. Finally, in reiterating its support for the integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, it recognized the need for the comprehensive integration of basic human rights into United Nations policies, programmes and periodic reviews of implementation and follow-up to conferences and summits.

Ms. WISEBERG (Human Rights Internet) said that representatives of non-governmental organizations from approximately 50 countries had held a Forum in Ottawa, Canada, in June 1998 to review progress made and obstacles encountered in implementing the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. With regard to mainstreaming human rights in the work of the United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations at the Forum had urged that the system should continue its efforts in that regard, recommended that the Secretary-General should invite the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address the Security Council every year and suggested that the United Nations should closely monitor the possible impact of the World Trade Organization and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment on the promotion and protection of human rights.

They had recommended that the High Commissioner for Human Rights should sign a memorandum of understanding with the international financial institutions to mainstream human rights in their operations and had urged that those institutions should assess and publicize the impact on human rights of their

projects, report to human rights treaty bodies on how their practices had affected the countries in which they operated, and systematically consult with national and international non-governmental organizations in the design and implementation of programmes.

They had recommended that steps should be taken to ensure that multilateral sanctions against States routinely violating human rights did not harm vulnerable sections of their populations and that sanctions should be imposed on the sale or transfer to such States of weapons and material for military, security or police purposes.

They had urged that cooperation between UNHCHR and the Division for the Advancement of Women should be strengthened and had endorsed the integration of women's human rights into United Nations human rights activities. Furthermore, they had recommended that the Commission on Human Rights should include consideration of human rights for persons with disabilities and that all Governments should ensure that their legislation contained non-discrimination provisions guaranteeing human rights for such persons.

They had suggested that the General Assembly should increase the resources allocated to UNHCHR and to the Secretariat for the promotion and protection of human rights and had recommended that the entities of the United Nations system should coordinate their human rights projects and incorporate human rights priorities into all their programming frameworks.

Finally, they had strongly recommended that human rights training should be given to United Nations staff in order to foster a system-wide approach to human rights based on international standards.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.