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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and
Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 5

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO WOMEN

Mr. Mehedi and Ms. Warzazi: draft resolution

1999/... The situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 1998/17,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/13) containing substantive information and recommendations,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a State party to the International
Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,
Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on
the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection
of Civilian Persons in Time of War,

Noting with deep concern the numerous restrictions imposed by the
Taliban on women since 1995, restrictions which constitute massive and
flagrant violations of the provisions of the above-mentioned international
instruments,

Welcoming the unequivocal position of the Commission on Human Rights
which, in its resolution 1999/9 on the situation of human rights in
Afghanistan, expressed its deep concern about the seriousness of the situation
of women and girls in Afghanistan, in particular in the areas under the
control of the Taliban movement,

1. Condemns all forms of discrimination and violation of the most fundamental rights of women and girls who are deprived of the enjoyment of civil and political rights and the rights to health, employment, freedom of movement and security;

2. Notes, in particular, with concern that the access of girls to education is, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, forbidden in most regions of the country and that 2 million girls have never been to school;

3. Notes in this connection that this situation is totally at variance with the precepts of Islam, which imposes on Muslims the duty to acquire an education, as a number of ulemas have confirmed to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan;

4. Considers it essential that the international community should follow very closely the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and bring maximum pressure to bear so that all the restrictions imposed on women, which constitute flagrant and systematic violations of all the internationally recognized economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, are removed;

5. Congratulates the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations on the measures and programmes adopted with a view to lending their support and assistance to women and girls in Afghanistan, and strongly encourages them to continue their efforts despite the difficulties encountered;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the agreements signed by the World Bank with UNDP (Afghanistan) for the establishment of, inter alia, pilot programmes of support to Afghan non-governmental organizations for the protection of women;

7. Supports the United Nations activities aimed at promoting the fundamental rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, and also efforts to find possibilities of constructive engagement at the community level in the context of community projects;

8. Considers that it is the duty of the armed groups in Afghanistan to respect the fundamental rights of the individual, and particularly those of women, in conformity with international law and humanitarian law;

9. Expresses the wish that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women will be able to travel to Afghanistan;

10. Again calls upon Muslim religious leaders and scholars to give special attention to the extremely difficult and unprecedented situation of women in Afghanistan, and to use their authority and their knowledge with a view to bringing the policies and practices of the Taliban into line with the true spirit of Islam and the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

11. Considers that any diplomatic recognition and any financial agreement with the Taliban regime would reinforce the discriminatory treatment which the latter is reserving for women, whereas it must be induced to end such treatment;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to make available all information that can be compiled on this question;

13. Decides to continue consideration of this question at its fifty-second session under the same agenda item.
