



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/L.30
19 August 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and
Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 7

HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Ms. Daes: draft resolution

1999/.. International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,
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, as well as with regard to their lands and their resources,

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,

Recalling the requests by the General Assembly, in its resolutions 50/157 and 52/108 of 12 December 1997, to assess the objectives of the Decade by quantifiable outcomes that will improve the lives of indigenous peoples and to evaluate the objectives halfway through the Decade and at its end,

Recalling also its resolution 1998/22,

Noting the delay in the work on the elaboration of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its seventeenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/19),

1. Welcomes the observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People which took place on 30 July 1999;
2. Recommends that the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People be held on the fourth day of the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in order to ensure as great a participation of indigenous peoples as possible;
3. Welcomes the decision by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/108 of 12 December 1997 to appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;
4. 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 Voluntary Fund for the Decade and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, as well as the appointment of qualified staff, including indigenous persons, from within the regular budget of the United Nations to assist with the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights relating to the indigenous programme;
5. Urges Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade established by the Secretary-General, and invites indigenous organizations to do likewise;

6. 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;

7. Strongly 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, and not later than the end of International Decade in 2004 and, to this end, appeals to the members of the inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights and to all others concerned to consider ways and means to accelerate the preparation of the draft declaration;

8. Welcomes Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/52 of 27 April 1999 in which the Commission decided to re-establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group on the permanent forum for indigenous peoples in the United Nations system;

9. Expresses its appreciation to Mr. Richard van Rijssen, Chairperson-Rapporteur, and to the other members of the ad hoc working group for the work they have so far accomplished;

10. Recommends that the permanent forum be established as soon as possible in the course of the Decade with functions that do not duplicate those already conferred on the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, financed through the regular budget of the United Nations and securing full participation of all interested indigenous peoples;

11. Endorses the view expressed by many indigenous participants during the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations that the establishment of the permanent forum should not be understood as a justification for the abolition of the Working Group, which should continue to carry out the ample, flexible mandate conferred upon it by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982 until the permanent forum is established;

12. 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;

13. Expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Government of Costa Rica for hosting the United Nations Workshop on Research and Higher Education Institutions and Indigenous Peoples in June 1999;

14. Encourages the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider organizing a follow-up workshop to put into practice the recommendations arising from the Workshop;

15. Expresses its appreciation to the Sami Parliament, the Sami Council, the Åbo Akademi-Institute for Human Rights, and to the Government of Finland for the excellent organization of the workshop on indigenous peoples and the right to self-determination held in Inari, Finland, in June 1999;

16. Invites the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider, as soon as possible, ways and means by which she might support the World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Games;

16. Recommends that the Higher Commissioner, in consultation with interested Governments, organize meetings and other activities within the framework of the International Decade in Africa and Asia in order, inter alia, to raise public awareness about indigenous issues in those regions;

17. Also recommends that the Higher Commissioner organize a workshop, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organization, the World Trade Organization and other relevant organizations, on indigenous peoples, private sector natural resource, energy and mining companies and human rights in order to contribute to the ongoing work of the Working Group on the working methods and activities of transnational corporations;

18. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider organizing a world conference on indigenous issues during the last year of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2004) with a view to evaluating the Decade and considering future international policies and programmes which will contribute to the reconciliation of Governments with indigenous peoples.
