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LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution
contained in document E/CN.4/S-4/L.1/Rev.1

1. Under the terms of this draft resolution, the Commission would,
inter alia,
 - (a) Call upon the Secretary-General to establish an international commission of inquiry to gather and compile systematically information on possible violations of human rights in East Timor and to provide the Secretary-General with its conclusions with a view to enabling him to make recommendations on future actions and to make its report available to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session;
 - (b) Decide:
 - (i) To request the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the questions of torture, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out

missions to East Timor and report on their findings to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

- (ii) To request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a comprehensive programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, in cooperation with other United Nations activities, focusing especially on capacity-building and reconciliation with a view to a durable solution to the problems in East Timor.

2. As regards the establishment of an international commission of inquiry, at this stage the decision of the Secretary-General and the composition are not yet known. Furthermore, its duration would be contingent upon its terms of reference and the procedures adopted by the commission of inquiry itself. Detailed financial requirements will be determined when this information becomes available. Indicatively, costs are estimated at US\$ 184,600. No provision has been made under section 22, "Human rights", of the programme budget for the 1998-1999 biennium to cover the cost of a commission of inquiry. It is envisaged that, to the extent possible, expenses would be covered from within existing resources under the programme budget for the current biennium. In accordance with established procedures governed by General Assembly resolution 41/213, the related expenditures would be reflected in the second budget performance report for the biennium 1998-1999.

3. As regards the missions of the three Special Rapporteurs, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, while no provision has been made for this activity under the programme budget for the 1998-1999 biennium or under the proposed programme budget for the 2000-2001 biennium, it is estimated that the costs of the missions could be absorbed from within existing (1998-1999) or proposed (2000-2001) regular budget resources. The total cost of such missions is tentatively estimated at US\$ 91,750.

4. As regards the development of a comprehensive programme of technical cooperation, it is envisaged that, subject to the availability of funds, it would be financed from extrabudgetary resources contributed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.