



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/2000/L.19
11 April 2000

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 10

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Algeria*, Angola*, Bangladesh, Belarus*, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Congo, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Democratic Republic of Korea*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador, Egypt*, El Salvador, Eritrea*, Ethiopia*, Equatorial Guinée*, Guinea*, Haiti*, Honduras*, India, Indonesia, Iraq*, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Kenya*, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, Madagascar, Mauritania*, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa*, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic*, Togo*, Tunisia, Viet Nam*, Yemen*, Zambia:
draft resolution

2000/... The right to food

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her/his health and well-being, including food,

Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling further the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

Recalling all its previous resolutions in this regard, in particular resolution 1999/24 of 26 April 1999,

Recognizing that the problem of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions and that they are likely to persist and even to increase dramatically in some regions, unless urgent, determined and concerted action is taken, given the anticipated increase in the world's population and the stress on natural resources,

Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, both at a national and an international level, is the essential foundation which will enable States to give adequate priority to food security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as did the Rome Declaration, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations which endanger food security,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies, where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Stressing the importance of reversing the continuing decline of official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

1. Reaffirms that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and, therefore, requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

2. Also reaffirms the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger so as to be able fully to develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities;

3. Considers intolerable that 825 million people, most of them women and children, throughout the world and particularly in developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs, which infringes their fundamental human rights and at the same time can generate additional pressures upon the environment in ecologically fragile areas:

4. Stresses the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

5. Encourages all States to take all necessary steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and as soon as possible enjoy the right to food;

6. Takes note with interest of the updated study on the right to adequate food and to be free from hunger submitted by Mr. Asbjørn Eide to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in accordance with Sub-Commission decision 1998/106 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/12);

7. Also takes note with interest of the report submitted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to food, in accordance with Commission resolution 1999/24 (E/CN.4/2000/48 and Add. 1);

8. Welcomes the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 of 11 May 1999 relating to article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the international Bill of Human Rights and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

9. Recommends that the High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a third expert consultation on the right to food, following those held in 1997 and 1998, this time with a focus on implementation mechanisms at country level, inviting experts to bring experiences from all regions;

10. Decides, in order to respond fully to the necessity for an integrated and coordinated approach in the promotion and protection of the right to food, to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur, whose mandate will focus on the right to food;

11. Requests the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, in the fulfilment of her/his mandate, to accomplish the following main activities:

(a) To seek, receive and respond to information on all aspects of the realization of the right to food, including the urgent necessity of eradicating hunger;

(b) To establish cooperation with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations on the promotion and effective implementation of the right to food, and to make appropriate recommendations on the realization thereof, taking into consideration the work already done in this field throughout the United Nations system;

(c) To identify emerging issues related to the right to food worldwide;

12. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all necessary human and financial resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food;

13. Requests the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session;

14. Requests Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of her/his mandate, inter alia through the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food.
