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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 11 (a)

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE
QUESTION OF TORTURE AND DETENTION

Albania*, Argentina, Austria*, Belarus*, Belgium*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Cameroon*, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica*, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland*, France, Georgia*, Germany, Greece*, Guatemala, Honduras*, Hungary*, Ireland*, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands*, Norway, Paraguay*, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, South Africa*, Spain, Sweden*, Switzerland*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Ukraine*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay* and Venezuela: draft resolution

2000/... Draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 1992/43 of 3 March 1992, in which it established an open-ended working group to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, using as a basis for its discussions the draft text proposed by the Government of Costa Rica at the forty-seventh session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1991/66), and decided to consider the question at its forty-ninth session,

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

Recalling also the subsequent resolutions on the subject and in particular decision 1999/237 of 27 July 1999 of the Economic and Social Council, in which the Council authorized the working group to meet in order to continue its work,

Recalling further that the World Conference on Human Rights firmly declared that efforts to eradicate torture should, first and foremost, be concentrated on prevention and called for the early adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention,

1. Takes note of the report of the working group on the draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (E/CN.4/2000/58);

2. Requests the working group, in order to continue its work, to meet prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for a period of two weeks, with a view to completing expeditiously a final and substantive text, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the working group to all Governments, the specialized agencies, the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to submit their comments to the working group;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the Chairperson of the Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, to participate if needed in the activities of the working group;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to extend all necessary facilities to the working group for its meeting prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission;

6. Encourages the Chairman-Rapporteur of the working group to conduct informal inter-sessional consultations with all interested parties in order to facilitate the completion of a consolidated text;

7. Decides to examine the report of the working group at its fifty-seventh session under the same sub-item;

8. Recommends the following draft decision to the Economic and Social Council for adoption:

“The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/... of April 2000:

(a) Authorizes the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of two weeks, prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in order to continue or conclude the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

(b) Encourages the Chairman-Rapporteur of the working group to conduct informal inter-sessional consultations with all interested parties in order to facilitate the completion of a consolidated text.”
