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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE
FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft report of the Commission

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* Documents E/CN.4/2000/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/2000/L.11 and addenda.

Chapter XVII

Promotion and protection of human rights: (a) Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights; (b) Human rights defenders; (c) Information and education; (d) Science and environment

1. The Commission considered agenda item 17 at its 50th and 51st meetings, on 14 April, at its 52nd and 53rd meetings, on 17 April, and at its 65th and 66th meetings, on 26 April 2000.
2. For the documents issued under agenda item 17, see annex VI to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairperson's statements, by agenda item, see annex V.
3. In the general debate on agenda item 17, statements were made by members of the Commission, observers and representatives of non-governmental organizations. For a detailed list of speakers, see annex III.

Human rights defenders

4. At the 65th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Morocco introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.37, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burundi, Cyprus, Haiti, Liberia, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, San Marino, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela subsequently joined the sponsors.
5. Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution were orally revised by the representative of Morocco.
6. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Czech Republic (also on behalf of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Norway and Pakistan.

7. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

8. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba, Morocco and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union).

9. The representative of Cuba requested a vote on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. At the request of the representative of Morocco, a roll-call vote was taken on that paragraph. The Commission decided, by 44 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions, to retain the paragraph. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: Cuba.

Abstaining: Bhutan, China, Congo, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sudan.

10. The representative of Cuba requested a vote on the draft resolution as a whole. At the request of the representative of Morocco, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, as orally revised, which was adopted by 50 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: China, Cuba, Rwanda.

11. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of China and India.

12. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/61.

Reservations to human rights treaties

13. At the 65th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft decision E/CN.4/2000/L.75, sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. Statements in connection with the draft decision were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cuba, Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela.

15. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

16. At the request of the representatives of Cuba and Pakistan, the Chairperson subsequently postponed consideration of the draft decision.

17. At its 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the Commission resumed consideration of draft decision E/CN.4/2000/L.75.

18. The draft decision was orally revised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

19. A statement in connection with the draft decision was made by the representative of Peru.

20. The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 2000/108.

21. In view of the adoption of decision 2000/108, the Commission took no action on draft decision 8 recommended by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. I).

Promotion of the right to a democratic and equitable international order

22. At the 65th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.76/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria, Angola, China, Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico,

Pakistan, Rwanda, the Sudan, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia. Botswana subsequently joined the sponsors.

23. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada, Cuba, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

24. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of Chile.

25. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Cuba, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 30 votes to 17, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Guatemala, Morocco, Peru, Senegal, Swaziland.

26. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/62.

Human rights and human responsibilities

27. At the 65th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.78, sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore. Bhutan, Congo, Indonesia, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Turkey and Yemen subsequently joined the sponsors.

28. Operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution was orally revised by the representative of Pakistan.

29. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan and the United States of America.

30. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of Portugal (on behalf of the European Union).

31. The representative of Canada requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Pakistan, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 22 votes to 21, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, China, Congo, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Zambia.

Against: Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, China, El Salvador, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal.

32. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/63.

The role of good governance in the promotion of human rights

33. At the 65th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Chile introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.80, sponsored by Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and the United States of America. Azerbaijan, Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia subsequently joined the sponsors.

34. The fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 1 and 2 were orally revised by the representative of Chile. A new operative paragraph was inserted between operative paragraphs 1 and 2, and the remaining operative paragraphs renumbered accordingly.

35. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the Commission continued consideration of draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.80.

36. The representative of Cuba introduced proposed amendments (E/CN.4/2000/L.103) to draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.80, which read as follows:

- “1. Throughout the draft resolution, for good governance read governance.
- “2. Add the following new paragraph as the third preambular paragraph
- Emphasizing that measures should be taken to ensure that human rights are not exploited as a means of conditionality for loans, aid or trade, which then unduly results in the imposition of particular policies on recipient countries, thereby negatively affecting the full enjoyment of the right to development by the peoples of such countries,
- “3. Add the following new paragraph as operative paragraph 2
2. Affirms that the participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process needs to be broadened and strengthened through its democratization;
- “4. Renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.”

37. The above proposed amendments to draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.80 contained in document E/CN.4/2000/L.103 were subsequently withdrawn by the representative of Cuba.

38. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Chile, China, India, Pakistan and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union).

39. The representative of Cuba requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Chile, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 50 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: China, Cuba.

40. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/64.

Question of the death penalty

41. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Portugal (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.81, sponsored by Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela. Bolivia, Haiti, Mauritius, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation subsequently joined the sponsors.

42. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of India, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

43. At the request of the representative of India, a roll-call vote was taken on paragraphs 3 (f), 4 (b) and 5, together. The Commission decided, by 26 votes to 15, with 11 abstentions, to retain these paragraphs. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

Against: Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Burundi, Guatemala, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Zambia.

44. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote on the draft resolution as a whole. At the request of the representative of Portugal, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 27 votes to 13, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

- In favour: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.
- Against: Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, United States of America.
- Abstaining: Bhutan, Burundi, Cuba, Guatemala, India, Madagascar, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Zambia.

45. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Botswana, Indonesia (also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Oman, the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe) and Tunisia.

46. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/65.

Towards a culture of peace

47. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of El Salvador introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.83, sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela. Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Cyprus, India, Madagascar, Nepal, Togo and Zambia subsequently joined the sponsors.

48. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

49. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/66.

Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights

50. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the observer for Finland introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.84, sponsored by Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa and Spain. Albania, Australia, Austria, Cyprus, New Zealand, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Sweden, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela subsequently joined the sponsors.

51. The observer for Finland orally revised the draft resolution by deleting operative paragraph 8.

52. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/67.

Impunity

53. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Canada introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.85/Rev.1, sponsored by Albania, Angola, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland. Austria, Denmark, Ethiopia, Greece, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and the United States of America subsequently joined the sponsors.

54. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Cuba and France.

55. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

56. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/68.

Fundamental standards of humanity

57. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the representative of Norway introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.86, sponsored by Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. Argentina, Ecuador, Hungary, Ireland, Slovakia and Uruguay subsequently joined the sponsors.

58. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/69.

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

59. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the observer for South Africa introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.87, sponsored by China and South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

60. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/70.

United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education

61. At the 66th meeting, on 26 April 2000, the observer for Costa Rica introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.95, sponsored by Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine and Venezuela. Angola, Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Israel, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Uruguay subsequently joined the sponsors.

62. Operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution was orally revised by the observer for Costa Rica.

63. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2000/71.

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