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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 6

**RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND
ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION**

**Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization
of the Islamic Conference): draft resolution**

**2001/... Combating defamation of religions as a means to promote
human rights, social harmony and religious and
cultural diversity**

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling also its resolutions 1999/82 of 30 April 1999 and 2000/84 of 26 April 2000,

Welcoming the designation by the General Assembly of the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2000,

Considering the outcome of the four regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa in September 2001,

Noting with concern that defamation of religions is among the causes of social disharmony and leads to violations of the human rights of their adherents,

Alarmed at the serious instances of intolerance, discrimination and acts of violence based on religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious extremism, occurring in many parts of the world and threatening the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Underlining the importance of creating conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance within and among societies and conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of and respect for religion and belief,

Emphasizing that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance,

1. *Expresses deep concern* at negative stereotyping of religions;
2. *Also expresses deep concern* that Islam is frequently and wrongly associated with human rights violations and with terrorism;
3. *Welcomes* the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to take measures to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies, and looks forward to its effective implementation at all levels;
4. *Emphasizes* that the realization of the Dialogue among Civilizations requires continuous and concerted efforts to promote a culture of tolerance based on respect for all human rights and respect for religious diversity, through cooperation and mutual enrichment in various fields of human endeavour and achievement;
5. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote and include human rights aspects in the Dialogue among Civilizations, *inter alia* through:
 - (a) Integrating them into topical seminars and special debates on the positive contributions of cultures, as well as religious and cultural diversity;

(b) Collaboration by her office with other international organizations in holding joint conferences, designed to encourage this dialogue and promote understanding of the universality of human rights and their implementation in all regions;

6. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to consider this matter at its fifty-eighth session, under the same agenda item.
