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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-seventh session  
Agenda item 11

**CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

**Algeria, Angola\*, Cameroon, China, Congo\*, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea\*, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea\*, Eritrea\*, Ghana\*, Haiti\*, Iraq\*, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan\*, Madagascar, Mauritania\*, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo\*, Uganda\*, United Republic of Tanzania\*, Viet Nam: draft resolution**

**2001/... Strengthening of popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination as essential foundations of democracy**

*The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law,

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

*Stressing* that all peoples have the right of self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

*Recognizing* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

*Recalling* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Reaffirming* the commitment made by Member States to strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all,

*Considering* the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

*Welcoming* the commitment of all Member States, expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to work collectively for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries,

*Welcoming also* the pledge of the international community at the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in 1993, to support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world,

*Recognizing* that development can only be sustainable on a long-term basis if development policies are responsive to people's needs and ensure people's participation both in their design and implementation, while stressing the fact that meeting the basic human needs essential for survival is a sine qua non condition for an effective democracy,

*Emphasizing* that the persistence of extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and the participation of all citizens in the democratic processes in every society, and that the full participation of everyone in democratic societies fosters and enhances the struggle against poverty,

*Recalling* that accountable and transparent governance at the national and international levels is critical for the creation of an environment that facilitates the development of democratic, prosperous and peaceful societies,

*Stressing* the variety of forms, modalities and experiences of democratic societies, taking into account national and regional particularities, the various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, and the diversity of economic, political, cultural and legal systems,

*Recognizing* that while all democracies share common features, differences between democratic societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity,

*Aware* of the importance of fostering a diversity of social contributions in strengthening people's participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination, including the enhancement of non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, voluntary social organizations, trade unions, the private sector and other actors of civil society,

*Recalling* the commitment undertaken by States within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations to work for the promotion of democracy and the rule of law,

1. *Affirms* that popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination are essential foundations of democracy;
2. *Reaffirms* that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and that in order to achieve this, full popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination should be strengthened;
3. *Also reaffirms* that while all democracies share common features, there is no one universal model of democracy;
4. *Affirms* that the consolidation of democracy requires the promotion and protection of all human rights for everyone, both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development;

5. *Further reaffirms* that democracy, development and respect for human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

6. *Stresses* that the consolidation of democracy requires that sustained economic growth and sustainable development of countries and communities foster the promotion and consolidation of democracies;

7. *Declares* that full popular participation is only feasible if societies have democratic political and electoral systems which guarantee to all their citizens the possibility both to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to have equal access to public service, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

8. *Reaffirms* that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government and that this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures;

9. *Urges* all States to foster a democracy that, inspired by the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, promotes people's welfare, rejecting all forms of discrimination and exclusion, facilitates development with equity and justice, and encourages the most comprehensive and full participation of their citizens in the decision-making process and in the debate over diverse issues affecting society;

10. *Requests* all States and the international community further to endeavour to promote effective measures to eradicate poverty and promote just, equitable and inclusive societies;

11. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to build upon the issue of the role of popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination as the foundations of democracy, and to take into account the present resolution when convening any seminar, workshop or any other activity relating to the issue of democracy;

12. *Invites* all mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the human rights treaty bodies to continue taking into account, in the discharge of their respective mandates, the question of strengthening popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination as the foundations of democracy;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, the relevant United Nations organs and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

14. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this issue at its fifty-eighth session, under the same agenda item.

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