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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 14 (b)

**SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:
MINORITIES**

**Afghanistan*, Albania*, Australia*, Austria*, Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*,
Cameroon, Canada, Chile*, Costa Rica, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic,
Denmark*, Estonia*, Ethiopia*, Finland*, Guatemala, Hungary*, Iceland*,
Ireland*, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania*, Luxembourg*, Malta*,
Netherlands*, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino*, Slovakia*,
Slovenia*, Sri Lanka*, Sweden*, Switzerland*, Thailand: draft resolution**

**2001/... Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic,
religious and linguistic minorities**

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, as well as subsequent resolutions of the Assembly on the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, Commission resolution 1995/24 of 3 March 1995 and Economic and Social Council decision 1998/246 of 30 July 1998,

Considering that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural heritage of society as a whole,

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

Affirming that effective measures and the creation of favourable conditions for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, ensuring effective non-discrimination and equality for all, as well as full and effective participation in matters affecting them, contribute to the prevention and peaceful solution of human rights problems and situations involving minorities,

Acknowledging that national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to the diversity of societies and that minority rights promote tolerance within societies, and recognizing that promoting a culture of tolerance through human rights education shall be advanced by all States,

Concerned at the growing frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts regarding minorities in many countries, and their often tragic consequences, and that persons belonging to minorities are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, *inter alia*, population transfers, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Concerned also at instances of victimization or marginalization of persons belonging to minorities in situations of political or economic instability,

Taking note of resolution 2000/16 of 17 August 2000 on the rights of minorities and decision 2000/109 of 17 August 2000 of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an increasingly important role to play regarding the protection of minorities by, *inter alia*, taking due account of and giving effect to the Declaration,

Noting with satisfaction the emphasis by the Working Group on Minorities on the participation of minority representatives in its work,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (E/CN.4/2001/81) and of the report of the Working Group on Minorities on its sixth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/27 and Corr.1), in particular the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

3. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, including through adequate education and the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of the country, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so;

4. *Calls upon* States to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of children, girls as well as boys, belonging to minorities;

5. *Urges* States to take, as appropriate, all the necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the Declaration;

6. *Recommends* that the human rights treaty bodies, when considering reports submitted by States parties, give particular attention to the implementation of articles relating to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

7. *Calls upon* special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations involving minorities;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities and to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on concrete projects and activities in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to promote, within her mandate, the implementation of the Declaration and to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose;

10. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation of United Nations programmes and agencies active in the field of the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and invites the United Nations programmes and agencies to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations of minorities;

11. *Notes* the holding of the first regional seminar of the Working Group on Minorities on multiculturalism in Africa, in Arusha from 13 to 15 May 2000, and the follow-up meeting in Kidal, Mali;

12. *Encourages* the Working Group, as requested by the Sub-Commission, within its mandate, to take due account of activities undertaken and reports prepared by intergovernmental regional organizations on human rights problems and situations involving minorities;

13. *Welcomes* the work of the Office of the High Commissioner on a manual containing an overview of relevant procedures and mechanisms of regional and international organizations;

14. *Requests* the Working Group to contribute to and participate in the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, focusing for this purpose on the relationship between the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Working Group, from within existing resources, with all the necessary services and facilities to fulfil its mandate;

16. *Calls upon* States to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and persons belonging to minorities in the work of the Working Group, and invites the High Commissioner to seek voluntary contributions in this regard;

17. *Calls upon* States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the work of the Working Group, including through written contributions;

18. *Requests* the High Commissioner to invite Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to submit their views on how best to protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-eighth session under the same agenda item.
