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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 5

PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION

**Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Eide, Mr. Kartashkin, Mr. Sik Yuen and
Mr. Sorabjee: draft resolution**

2001/... The rights of minorities

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/55 of 24 April 2001 on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on Minorities on its seventh session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/22) and in particular the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Disturbed at the continued widespread occurrence of violent conflicts in many parts of the world where ethnic or religious hostility is engendered and exploited by one or more of the parties to the conflict,

Reiterating the need for States, minorities and majorities to search for peaceful and constructive solutions to problems affecting minorities,

GE.01-15050 (E)

Emphasizing the need for system-wide cooperation within the United Nations to facilitate peaceful solutions to situations involving minorities,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group on Minorities at its seventh session as contained in its report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/22);
2. *Welcomes* the Working Group's practice of requesting its members, and of encouraging the Working Group's partners, to prepare, without financial implications, papers on thematic issues;
3. *Welcomes* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to publishing a United Nations guide for minorities containing an overview of relevant procedures and mechanisms of regional and international organizations, as well as the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and the final text of the commentary to the Declaration, prepared by the Chairperson of the Working Group on Minorities;
4. *Notes with satisfaction* the work undertaken by the Chairperson of the Working Group to prepare a statement for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance focusing on the relationship between the elimination of racial discrimination and the protection of minorities;
5. *Notes* that 2002 will be the year of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and in this regard recommends that consideration be given to: an international year for the world's minorities; the possible appointment of a special rapporteur on minority issues; and the possible establishment of a voluntary trust fund to facilitate the participation in the Working Group of minority representatives and experts from developing countries and for the organization of other activities relating to the protection of minorities;
6. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the second African workshop on multiculturalism in Africa, held in Kidal, Mali from 8 to 13 January 2001 and the intention of the Working Group to hold other regional seminars, and recommends that the participation in such meetings of minority experts from developing countries be facilitated;
7. *Recommends* that the High Commissioner for Human Rights, when inviting *inter alia*, Governments to submit their views on how best to protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities, also request them: to provide their views on the possible drafting of a convention on the rights of minorities, including regional standard setting, as well as on the

possibility of establishing regional institutions for conflict prevention and resolution, such as that of the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to consider providing the names of experts with a view to facilitating their participation in regional and international meetings and in advisory services, and to consider providing information about recent cases relating to minority rights considered in the highest courts of the country;

8. *Takes note* of the future thematic discussions planned in the Working Group on autonomy and integrative measures for the better protection of the rights of minorities and for the mainstreaming of the human rights of persons belonging to minorities in national development plans and international development cooperation, and requests the Secretary-General to invite United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund, as well as the World Bank and the regional development banks, to provide information on their policies concerning the protection of minority rights and on the incorporation of such concerns in their country programmes;

9. *Requests* Mr. Asbjørn Eide to update, without financial implications, his study on peaceful and constructive approaches to situations involving minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/34), and to submit a progress report on the update to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-fourth session and the final report at its fifty-fifth session;

10. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and scholars to continue to participate actively in the work of the Working Group;

11. *Recommends* that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights be further strengthened to provide additional regional expertise and services to the Working Group for the undertaking of relevant studies, evaluation and action.
