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Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
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Agenda item 4

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

**Mr. Alfonso Martínez, Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Eide, Mr. Fan,
Mr. Gomez-Robledo Verduzco, Mr. Goonesekere, Mr. Guissé,
Mr. van Hoof, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Kartashkin, Ms. Koufa, Ms. Motoc,
Mr. Oloka-Onyango, Mr. Pinheiro, Mr. Rodriguez-Cuadros,
Mr. Sik Yuen, Mr. Yokota and Ms. Zerrougui: draft resolution**

**2001/... Implementation of existing human rights norms and standards
in the context of the fight against extreme poverty**

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

Recalling that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights recognize that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his or her economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his or her civil and political rights,

Recalling in particular that article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of him/herself and of his/her family, including food, clothing, housing and medical

care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his/her control,

Reaffirming the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, reaffirmed during the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the World Summit, held in Geneva in June 2000, which provide the substantive framework for eradicating poverty by setting specific targets, drawing up plans and implementing programmes,

Recalling also Commission resolution 2001/31 on human rights and extreme poverty, in which the Commission expressed its deep concern that 53 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, extreme poverty continued to spread in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and manifestations, such as hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness were particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the achievements made in many parts of the world,

Mindful that in its resolution 2001/31 the Commission also requested the Sub-Commission to consider the need to develop, on the basis of the various relevant international instruments, the ongoing work in other forums, the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Seminar on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty organized in accordance with Commission resolution 2000/12 and any other relevant inputs, in particular those received from Governments, guiding principles on the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session,

Recalling its own resolutions 1999/15 on women and the right to development and 1996/23 on human rights and extreme poverty, as well as resolution 1996/22 and decision 1998/105 on the right to development and the follow-up thereto contained in resolution 1999/9,

Expressing its appreciation once more for the final report and addendum on the relationship between the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and income distribution (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/9 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/8) prepared by Mr. José Bengoa,

Taking note of the report of the Expert Seminar on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty (E/CN.4/2001/54/Add.1 and Corr.1), organized by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/12, and its conclusions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/14 and Add.1) on promoting the right to development in the context of the United Nations Decade for the Elimination of Poverty (1997-2006), submitted in accordance with Sub-Commission resolution 1999/9,

Noting that a global study on poverty must consider regional specificities and approach the issues from a juridical, legal, institutional and socio-economic perspective, and using a human rights framework,

Taking into account the importance of international programmes against poverty, the “new poverty agenda” indicated by the International Monetary Fund and other international agencies, the projects and policies of the World Bank and other international financial bodies, and other relevant declarations and international programmes,

Taking into account also that the fight against poverty is one of the agreed international development goals and the importance of placing this issue at the centre of discussions in the forthcoming new Sub-Commission body, the Social Forum,

Aware of the need to explore possibilities for the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty,

Welcoming the request of the Commission expressed in its resolution 2001/31 in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, and that its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community;

2. *Re-emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society organizations and the organs and agencies of the United Nations system, including international trade and financial institutions, and in this context reaffirms that political commitment is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty;

3. *Requests* Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Mr. Yozo Yokota, Mr. El-Hadji Guissé and Mr. José Bengoa to prepare a joint working paper, without financial implications, on the need to develop, on the basis of the various relevant international instruments, the ongoing work in other

forums, the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Seminar on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty and any other relevant inputs, in particular those received from Governments, guiding principles on the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty, to be submitted to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-fourth session so that it may be considered and thereafter forwarded to the Commission for consideration at its fifty-ninth session;

4. *Also requests* that the authors specifically consider the situations of poverty in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the light of international jurisprudence, treaties, covenants and other relevant instruments, in order to alleviate the situation of poverty, and that the authors also consider the policies of the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and other international bodies in order to fight poverty;

5. *Further requests* further that the authors present conclusions and recommendations in order to contribute to work on a draft declaration on extreme poverty and human rights and other international and regional initiatives;

6. *Invites* the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of the study;

7. *Asks* Governments to provide data, including statistical information and information pertaining to the legal, economic or other measures they have taken to address the issue of poverty;

8. *Requests* regional specialized bodies from Asia, Africa and Latin America and international agencies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and others to collaborate and provide information for the study.
