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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
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Agenda item 6 (c)

OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES: OTHER ISSUES

**Mr. Eide, Mr. Guissé, Ms. Hampson, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Ogurtsov, Mr. Oloka-Onyango,
Mr. Pinheiro, Mr. Rodríguez-Cuadros, Mr. Sik Yuen, Ms. Warzazi, Mr. Yokota and
Ms. Zerrougui: draft decision**

2001/... Humanitarian situation of the Iraqi population

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, recalling its resolution 2000/1 of 11 August 2000 and its decision 2000/112 of 18 August 2000; wishing to reaffirm that measures such as embargoes should be limited in time, should in no way affect innocent civilian populations and, for obvious humanitarian reasons, should be lifted even if the legitimate objectives of the measures have not yet been attained; reaffirming the need to respect the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols thereto which prohibit the starving of civilian populations and the destruction of what is indispensable to their survival; noting with grave concern the intense suffering endured by the Iraqi people; noting that in his statement to the Security Council on 24 March 2000 the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the humanitarian situation in Iraq confronted the United Nations with a serious moral dilemma; expressing its concern at the deterioration in

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the situation of the civilian population, particularly the children whose suffering led in many cases to untimely death; noting with concern the delays reported by the Secretary-General in the implementation of the “oil-for-food” programme and the statement by the head of the programme that the stocks of vaccines against a number of diseases were at very low levels, thus exposing the civilian population to serious illness; recalling all the information supplied by several United Nations agencies demonstrating the cumulative effect of the destruction associated with the war and the restrictions imposed on Iraq’s economy and trade, which had drastically impaired the country’s capacity to ensure the well-being of the population; appealing to the World Health Organization to devote special attention to the serious health problems affecting the civilian population; noting once again with concern that the “oil-for-food” programme was meeting only part of the vital needs of the population, that the standards of living, nutrition, education and health of the population were continuing to deteriorate and that all economic activities were seriously affected, particularly in the areas of drinking water supply, electricity and agriculture; again considering any embargo that condemns an innocent people to hunger, disease, ignorance and even death to be a flagrant violation of the economic, social and cultural rights and the right to life of the people concerned and of international law, decided to appeal again to the international community, and to the Security Council in particular, for the embargo provisions affecting the humanitarian situation of the population of Iraq to be lifted. It also decided to urge the international community and all Governments, including that of Iraq, to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi population, in particular by facilitating the delivery of food, medical supplies and the wherewithal to meet their basic needs.
