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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
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**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Costa Rica: draft resolution

2002/... Human rights, the environment and sustainable development

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 43/196 of 20 December 1988, 44/172 A and B of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989, 45/211 of 21 December 1990, 46/126 of 17 December 1991, 46/168 of 19 December 1991 and 47/190 of 22 December 1992,

Conscious of General Assembly resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 on the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling its resolutions 1994/65 of 9 March 1994, 1995/14 of 24 February 1995, 1995/81 of 8 March 1995, 1996/13 of 11 April 1996, 2001/35 of 23 April 2001 and its decisions 1993/114 of 10 March 1993, 1997/102 of 3 April 1997 and 2001/111 of 25 April 2001,

Recalling also the reports submitted to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities) by its Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/7 and Add.1, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/7 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9 and Corr.1),

Recalling further Sub-Commission resolutions 1994/27 and 1994/37, both of 26 August 1994,

Bearing in mind the Millenium Declaration and the United Nations overarching agenda for poverty eradication, human rights, sustainable development and peace building,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/26, vol. I) and Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/26, vol. II), adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on 14 June 1992,

Recalling chapter 33 of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/26, vol. II) on the provision of new and additional financial resources to developing countries to achieve sustainable development,

Conscious of the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the implementation of Agenda 21 and of the important work undertaken on environment and development issues by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant forums,

Recognizing that environmental damage has potentially negative effects on human rights and on the enjoyment of life, health and a satisfactory standard of living,

Considering that the promotion of an environmentally healthy world contributes to the protection of the human rights to life and health of everyone,

Recalling that everyone should enjoy the benefit of scientific progress and its application and calling for international cooperation to ensure that human rights and dignity are fully respected in this area of universal concern,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the expert seminar on human rights and the environment convened jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Environment Programme, pursuant to Commission decision 2000/111 on 16 January 2002 in Geneva;

2. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the preparatory meeting of experts (E/CN.4/2002/WP.7, annex II) held on 14 and 15 January 2002 and of the opinions expressed during the seminar, review and assess the progress achieved since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. *Recognizes* that human rights, the environment and sustainable development are interdependent and interrelated;

4. *Reaffirms* that no persons promoting the protection of the environment should be penalized, persecuted or harassed for their activities and that effective mechanisms to prevent and redress any such harm caused to them, must be established, including remedies for victims;

5. *Expresses the need* for environmental justice to combat all forms of environmental discrimination, as reflected in the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

6. *Welcomes* the actions taken by States to promote greater awareness of the importance of the interrelationship between human rights, the environment and sustainable development;

7. *Invites* all concerned international institutions and agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account their respective mandates and approved work programmes, to exchange information and share expertise on issues of common concern relating to this interrelationship, especially on poverty eradication and capacity-building.

8. *Invites* the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in its ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to examine the progress achieved since the Conference in promoting and protecting human rights in relation to environmental questions and sustainable development;

9. *Also invites* the World Summit on Sustainable Development to examine the question of the protection of all human rights as a contribution to a balanced and integrated approach encompassing all three pillars - economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session a report containing the relevant outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as other international legal developments relating to the interrelationship between the protection of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development;

11. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-ninth session under the same agenda sub-item.
