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SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Fortieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 16 August 1988, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BHANDARE

CONTENTS

Human rights and disability (continued)

Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories: Report of the Sub-Commission established under Commission on Human Rights resolution 8 (XXIII)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISABILITY (agenda item 7) (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/11 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1985/32)

1. Ms. FATIO (Baha'i International Community) said that until recently disabled persons, unlike other groups which were victims of discrimination, did not comprise a self-contained, close-knit social community but were to be found in every social, ethnic and religious group. At every level, society had tended to avoid them as unpleasant reminders of the fragility of existence. That situation was, however, changing and Mr. Despouy's report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/11) demonstrated the seriousness with which the international community was finally addressing the question of disabled persons.
2. Mr. Despouy planned to emphasize three major topics in his final report, namely: the causes of disability; prejudice and discrimination directed towards disabled persons; and measures to ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights by disabled persons. Disability could be caused by the gamut of inhuman acts perpetrated by human beings against one another. All human rights violations could result in permanent mental or physical disability and she fully agreed with the Special Rapporteur's observation that any act contrary to international law and in violation of mental or physical integrity should be proscribed.
3. The prejudice and discrimination that disabled people suffered were the products of the more general human tendency to label as inferior those who were somehow different. The ostracism that disabled persons often experienced could, however, be even more intense for it was founded on fear on the part of the ostracizer that he too might some day become the victim of disability. The only way to eradicate that fear was to educate every member of society to see disability for what it really was, namely, a mental or physical condition that might make everyday life more challenging but could not affect the disabled person's soul, spirit, creativity, imagination or determination.
4. As her organization had pointed out at the previous session, the reformation of social stereotypes and prejudices against disabled persons required education aimed at helping individuals to see the disabled as real people and to share in their triumphs. Baha'is were working to implement such education in their schools and homes. They were pleased to learn from the Special Rapporteur's report that a number of Governments were pursuing educational programmes with the same goal. She hoped that the Special Rapporteur would elaborate on parts III and V of his final report and make specific recommendations on the form and content of educational programmes designed to combat prejudice against disabled persons.
5. The Special Rapporteur had rightly pointed out that the elimination of traditional stereotypes and prejudices against disabled persons was a sine qua non for their full enjoyment of fundamental human rights, and that all sectors of society must work to integrate disabled persons into the life of society and give them equal opportunities in schools, workplaces and the community at large. The Baha'is would suggest that the Special Rapporteur should emphasize the ideal of rehabilitation in the family as well as in the community. Efforts should be made to train family members to help provide the

support and encouragement that a disabled person required in order to surmount his impairment. The right to freedom of religion should be added to the list of those rights which were particularly important for the disabled person, who must be free to partake of the inspiration which religious beliefs could provide.

6. In conclusion, Baha'is welcomed discussions on the possibility of drafting a convention which would set standards for the rights of disabled persons. The problem of finding the proper method for developing and entrenching such standards required careful study, and Baha'is therefore approved the Secretary-General's suggestion that the General Assembly should consider forming a working group to examine the possibility and practical aspects of drawing up a convention.

7. Mr. JOINET expressed his agreement with paragraph 10 of the Special Rapporteur's report, which emphasized the importance of underdevelopment as a factor in the incidence and intensification of disability. Another factor which would be of increasing importance in the years to come was the potential impact of the escalating number of road accidents, toxic wastes and nuclear accidents.

8. In connection with paragraph 13, he agreed with Mrs. Warzazi on the question of female circumcision, on which it would, in his view, be important for the Special Rapporteur to comment and make proposals. He also agreed with the finding in paragraph 23 that the scope and complexity of suffering caused by famine, environmental disasters and armed conflicts called for intensified international co-operation.

9. On the issue of definitions in paragraph 6, the French word invalidité referred to chronic sickness and had legal connotations while handicapé described a state of physical or mental impairment. As to other aspects of definition, he supported the suggestion made by Mrs. Ksentini. It would be sufficient for the paragraph on definitions to say that there was no urgency on the issue.

10. It was important that the Special Rapporteur should define the scope of his study clearly; that was particularly desirable in the light of a possible convention. There should be a clear outline of what the scope of such a convention should be before work on it was started.

11. The report referred to the detention of disabled persons but was imprecise as to the distribution between mentally and physically disabled persons. The question of the institutionalization of the mentally disabled should be dealt with by the sessional working group on mentally disabled persons. In general, it was important that the Special Rapporteur should define specific situations before deciding which to retain and which to reject. Such a course would be more pragmatic than concentration on the difficult question of definition.

12. Mr. DIACONU said that Mr. Despouy's report would be an important contribution by the Sub-Commission to the work being done in connection with the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. He welcomed the emphasis placed on underdevelopment as a factor producing disability. The right to development was an important element in the struggle against disability. The

developing countries should be helped through technology, data transfer and the provision of vaccines, all of which would contribute to overcoming underdevelopment. The Special Rapporteur had categorized the types of violations of human rights which could lead to disability. Crime, terrorism and drug trafficking should be added to that list.

13. An important aspect of the problem was to find ways for providing disabled persons with the opportunity for rehabilitation. Several approaches, at both the national and international levels, could be followed. Discrimination against disabled persons must be combated both in terms of legislation and in practice; the integration of the disabled into both family and community must be ensured; and, institutionalization should be only a last resort. Only full integration into society could guarantee disabled persons a normal life with a minimum of discrimination.

14. The problem of education for disabled persons was important. The cost of such education was high and should be covered by the State, as it would be difficult for individuals to meet the considerable cost of private schools. Vocational training must be guaranteed, bearing in mind the need to relate training to what the disabled person was capable of doing physically and mentally. Efforts must be made to ensure the re-entry of the disabled into the job market and into a system of social security. Discrimination normally occurred in the context of social life and that was the area in which efforts to assist disabled persons must be concentrated.

15. The question arose whether definitions were really needed. If it was possible to produce such definitions, that should be done. The emphasis should, however, be placed on measures and solutions to help disabled persons, leaving definitions to the end of the process.

16. A further question was which United Nations body should deal with an instrument relating to disabled persons. In his view, the most appropriate body would be the Commission on Social Development. The question of drafting a convention should, in his view, be left open for the time being. If enough legal elements existed over and above those contained in other international instruments, then there would be a case for trying to draft a convention. If, however, only social aspects, such as education, were involved, guidelines, but not a convention, would be needed.

17. Mrs. BAUTISTA said that armed conflict was not only the cause of many disabilities, but it wasted enormous resources which could otherwise be used to reduce the incidence of disability. In addition, many people were mentally or physically disabled as a result of torture or other barbaric treatment. As many States as possible should accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and incorporate its provisions into their own legislation. Poverty and malnutrition, exacerbated by the burden of foreign debt, were also major causes of disability. The developed countries must accept that they had an obligation to contribute to the acceleration of the development process. They were, moreover, often responsible for the transfer of toxic substances, such as industrial and nuclear waste or pesticides, to the third world.

18. The Sub-Commission should seek authorization to conduct a study on ways of changing the world's financial and trade policies, which led to poverty,

starvation and environmental pollution, in order to help the existing disabled population and prevent more disabilities from occurring. As Ms. Ksentini and Mrs. Warzazi had said, the Sub-Commission must draw up detailed proposals for action by the United Nations and Governments in the fields of rehabilitation, training and social integration. She also agreed with Mr. Carey that it was essential to address the AIDS problem decisively.

19. Mr. BARSH (Four Directions Council) said that Mr. Despouy's report had drawn attention to the relationship between the incidence of disability and the failure to realize economic rights, such as the right to food and health care. The problem was particularly acute for marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples, leading to a vicious circle of discrimination, economic deprivation and a higher incidence of disability which, in turn, resulted in further discrimination.

20. Although congenital disabilities attracted the greatest public attention, by far the largest cause of disability in most parts of the world was disease before birth or in early childhood resulting from malnutrition. Children eating poor food and drinking bad water developed chronic diarrhoea which, if the child survived at all, would lead to chronic iron-deficiency anaemia, which contributed to general ill health and was a factor in learning disorders. Almost all the known causes of childhood anaemia were linked with the early stages of urbanization and industrialization in traditional mixed farming, hunting or fishing economies. The main victims had been farmers in tropical regions and hunters in both rain forests and the Arctic, who had been relocated to centralized settlements with poor sanitation and inadequate food, most of which had to be imported. In fact, such communities were the victims of incomplete and often misguided development activities, and the resulting illness and disability prolonged the victims' isolation, marginalization and powerlessness.

21. Action to combat discrimination against disabled persons should be clearly distinguished from measures to reduce the incidence of preventable disability. Disabilities could be prevented by means of development and the realization of economic rights. In its resolution 1988/22, the Commission on Human Rights had invited the Sub-Commission to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights; his organization considered that such a study should also be regarded as a tool in the fight against preventable disability.

22. Ms. DUNBAR ORTIZ (Indigenous World Association) said that Mr. Despouy's report reflected his expertise and deep concern about the issue of disability. He had actively sought the expert advice of non-governmental organizations.

23. Her organization wished to make a number of comments, based on its observation of the armed conflict in Central America and its effects on the indigenous population. Mr. Despouy's study had made some reference to violations of human rights and humanitarian law resulting from armed conflict. However, it was important to establish what constituted humanitarian aid in that context. The so-called humanitarian aid granted by the United States Congress to the armed groups which opposed the Nicaraguan Government was, in fact, a means of prolonging the war. Thousands of civilians from the indigenous population had been maimed or killed, and

thousands of Miskito Indian children had been orphaned. The armed opposition had killed or maimed thousands of civilians, including some foreigners, in an attempt to intimidate the population.

24. In June 1988, disabled United States war veterans had been prevented from leaving the country to transport medicine, food and clothing to war victims in Nicaragua. In September 1987, a demonstrator had lost both legs when he had been hit by a train while demonstrating against the shipment of arms to the Nicaraguan opposition. The Governments of El Salvador and Guatemala had also prevented aid shipments from entering the country, and the Salvadorian Government had acted on numerous occasions to prevent the evacuation of combatants wounded in the civil war. It was essential that Mr. Despouy should have the widest possible mandate for his work as far as armed conflict was concerned.

25. Ms. DEGENER (Human Rights Advocates) welcomed Mr. Despouy's report and the emphasis he had placed on the views of disabled persons themselves. It was particularly important that disabled persons should be guaranteed access to domestic courts when their rights were violated. Those countries which had granted disabled persons their rights at a constitutional level should provide information on the use of judicial or other machinery in such cases.

26. In the field of industrial and agricultural safety, there had been considerable concern about the use of pesticides and of animal feed containing hormones, antibiotics or other additives. The export of such products to developing countries sometimes continued even after they had been banned in their country of origin because of their harmful effects. Her organization was also concerned about cutbacks in existing health standards. The State of California in the United States had reduced its work safety standards to the minimum federal level, with the result that the incidence of work-related disability had risen dramatically. Her organization called upon Mr. Despouy to seek relevant information on the problem from ILO and trade union associations.

27. In his final report, Mr. Despouy should pay all due attention to the problem of discrimination against HIV-positive persons and AIDS sufferers. Discrimination and hostile attitudes led AIDS victims to conceal their illness, thereby increasing the potential for infecting others.

28. Her organization called upon all States which had not already done so to ratify the ILO Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (No. 159) of 1983. It was also concerned about double discrimination against disabled women. They were often poorly educated and had few prospects either of obtaining work or of founding a family. Often, disabled women were sterilized for eugenic reasons or for the practical reason that disabled women were often the victims of rape. Indeed, sterilization was sometimes a prerequisite for entry into an institution. Special efforts should be made to integrate disabled women into society.

29. Ms. RASWORK (International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples) said that the many interesting areas covered in the report deserved further in-depth study, especially with a view to formulating acceptable definitions.

30. Paragraph 13 of the report referred to practices which violated international law. Her organization was particularly concerned about female circumcision, often referred to as a traditional practice affecting the health of women and children. It had been dealing with that issue for many years, had studied the health, cultural and social implications, and had drawn attention to the practice as a serious violation of human rights at various conferences and meetings, including those of the Sub-Commission.

31. The establishment of a special working group on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children pursuant to Sub-Commission resolution 1983/1 and Commission resolution 1984/48 had been a positive step in the handling of the issue. That working group, which was composed of experts from the Sub-Commission, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO, had approached the issue from various angles. Its final report (E/CN.4/1986/42), which had been adopted by the Commission at its forty-second session, contained much important information. At its most recent session the Commission, in resolution 1988/57, had requested the Sub-Commission to consider measures to be taken at the national and international levels to eliminate practices affecting the health of women and children. Her organization appealed to the Sub-Commission to follow up the matter and propose ways and means of eradicating those practices.

32. Because of its deep roots in custom and tradition, the issue needed careful definition and very cautious handling. The practice was physically and mentally disabling, but in many societies it was an initiation rite. To avoid misunderstandings, the Sub-Commission should work out a clear definition of physical and mental disability.

33. Ms. MARKHUS (Observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) reminded the Sub-Commission that it had been her country which had initiated General Assembly resolution 31/123 proclaiming 1981 as the International Year for Disabled Persons. Her country had also been instrumental in the preparation of the Programme of Action for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. Many measures could be taken to prevent disability, such as raising the standard of living in the poorer countries. Until that came about, the 500 million disabled people throughout the world should have equality of opportunity to enjoy economic, social, civil and political rights.

34. Among the many causes of disability were poverty, epidemics, low social development, lack of hygiene, malnutrition and armed conflict. In her country, many people, especially children, were disabled by mines laid during wartime by the occupying forces. She called on the international community to co-operate in obliging the countries responsible to provide compensation.

35. Paragraph 31 of the progress report referred to the definitions of disability and handicap drawn up by WHO. The Arabic language did not use those words because they appeared to imply inability to carry out any normal activities, but used the word "unable", which implied ability to perform some but not all activities.

36. With regard to paragraph 23, she welcomed the fact that, since the end of the 1970s, the international community had recognized the problem of disability especially that resulting from national or international armed conflicts, and had organized more than five international meetings on the subject.

37. As to legislation (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/11, paras. 34, 52 and 53), Act. No. 3/81 of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that disabled persons had the same rights as those of the rest of the population. Other countries should adopt similar legislation. Her country also participated in the voluntary fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, referred to in paragraph 38 of the report, and considered that it should be used for projects for disabled people in developing countries. The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1982, contained several recommendations which would help disabled people to lead a normal life.

38. She urged the United Nations to increase its efforts to employ disabled people and the specialized agencies to strengthen their technical co-operation with the developing countries, particularly with respect to prevention of disability and the rehabilitation and integration of disabled persons.

39. Mr. GALLEGOS (Observer for El Salvador), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Disabled People's International, at the preceding meeting, and the representative of the Indigenous World Association, at the current meeting, had both alleged that the Government of El Salvador refused to allow the evacuation of war wounded. That was incorrect because his Government, in an attempt to humanize the conflict and out of respect for the human rights of its opponents, had permitted the evacuation of wounded members of the FNLM on several occasions, the latest being on 5 May 1988, when 29 war wounded had left El Salvador airport for Mexico City under the protection of the Catholic Church and the International Committee of the Red Cross. That action by his Government also represented a response to the conversations held with the guerrillas on 26 January 1987 in Panama.

40. His statement could serve as a reply to any similar allegations made in connection with other agenda items.

41. Mr. DESPOUY (Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Disability) said he would endeavour to reply to all questions and comments concerning the progress report.

42. He wished to inform Mrs. Warzazi that he was aware of the existence of the comprehensive document on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and would refer to it in his final report. He promised to take cultural and religious aspects into account, a matter also referred to by Mrs. Ksentini.

43. He agreed that it was too facile a solution to blame underdevelopment for all types of disability, thus avoiding the need to study measures which were used at all levels of development. That opinion had also been expressed by Mr. Khalifa and many other speakers. The former had also referred to the situation created by the international economic order and to the North-South dialogue. He took due note of Mr. Khalifa's remarks and would incorporate them in his report.

44. The question of trafficking in children's organs raised two important points: the need for the immediate adoption by the international community of

a position concerning the resolution to be drafted by the Sub-Commission, and the need for extensive scientific research which lay outside the scope of his study.

45. Even though opinions were divided on the need for an international convention, he would try to take into account all positive elements relating to the adoption of a resolution or directives of a legal nature to improve the situation of disabled persons. He took note of the comments on the need to appeal to various United Nations bodies to carry out studies on how to encourage co-operation in that area.

46. Mr. Tian Jin had said that China's 1982 Constitution contained specific provisions concerning disabled persons. That was admirable, since very few, and only the most recent constitutions did so. He was also grateful for the very complete data Mr. Tian Jin had provided on China's national legislation and for suggestions concerning the appendix, which he would incorporate in the report. Those suggestions related to the selection of legislation which could serve as guidance or directives or result in a convention.

47. In his statement, Mr. Hatano had supported the tentative definition contained in the preliminary report and had suggested that anything appearing in the media which might be taken as detrimental to disabled persons should be condemned. That should apply to all documents and publications, as well as national legislation and practices. Another very pertinent comment was that not only should measures be taken to prevent discrimination against disabled persons, but positive discrimination should be encouraged.

48. He would take account of all the comments made in the detailed statement by Mr. Khalifa, especially those concerning the need for definitions. He considered that, in a formula which incorporated clinical as well as socio-cultural aspects, the clinical factors should predominate. No definition should lose sight of the fundamental objectives of the study. Mr. Khalifa had also made some very interesting comments on the economic, social and cultural rights of disabled persons and some topical remarks on AIDS.

49. Mr. Flinterman had expressed general agreement with the method used in preparing the report, in which legal considerations were the central theme.

50. On the question of children disabled in the mother's womb, he had not yet reached any satisfactory conclusions. He had spoken to a number of disabled people and their reaction to the delicate question of termination of pregnancy had been negative. The question should perhaps be dealt with in a separate study by an expert on the subject.

51. Regarding the drafting of a convention on the human rights of disabled persons, he felt that Governments should consider the proposals made by the Global Meeting of Experts in Stockholm. It was important to give clear directives for such a convention and to provide for monitoring of its implementation by Governments. In that connection, he welcomed the suggestion that legislation in China might be used as a model by other countries. He greatly appreciated Mr. Carey's comments on AIDS and would take them into account, together with the comments and appeals by non-governmental organizations. He did not propose to deal with the subject specifically in

his report; it might be better for the Sub-Commission to ask for a separate study on it. He agreed that it would be desirable to conduct a detailed investigation of traffic in children in order to obtain all possible information.

52. He had noted Mr. Eide's advice to concentrate on the main theme of his report and not disperse his efforts over too many subjects, although the theme itself was very complex. On the question of definitions, it was important to bear in mind the human-rights aspect, which meant that it was not always necessary to find a precise definition. In that connection he agreed with the views expressed by Mr. Joinet.

53. Regarding causes of disability, he agreed with Mr. Eide that underdevelopment should not be used as an excuse for ignoring the problem. He noted the need for disabled persons to have a say in decisions on matters affecting them. He also noted the suggestion concerning a new international social order based on solidarity as a condition for overcoming the causes of disability. He would take into account Mrs. Ksentini's wise advice, especially on definitions and the need to distinguish between aspects and causes of disability. He had also noted Mrs. Ksentini's and Mrs. Warzazi's comments on traditional practices, and noted the importance of statistics. He endorsed what Mrs. Ksentini had said about international co-operation and the possibility of a free zone for the exchange, import and export of technology for disabled persons. He thanked Miss Attah for her remarks, in particular concerning definitions, the importance of clinical causes of disability, and double discrimination.

54. Regarding the numerous comments by Disabled People's International, which participated regularly in the work of the Sub-Commission and other bodies, he would certainly make use of the comprehensive information contained in its written report and statement.

55. He had also noted for his report the references made to: the effects of international and non-international armed conflict; the prohibition of sophisticated weapons hazardous to disabled persons; the war wounded in El Salvador; South Africa and apartheid; North-South transfer; participation of disabled persons in decision-making; and the particular case documented by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. He appreciated the detailed statement on prejudice by the Baha'i International Community and had noted Mr. Joinet's references to direct consequences of underdevelopment, such as nuclear pollution and the marketing of toxic products.

56. He thanked Mr. Diaconu for his remarks on the right to development, which implied the need to overcome crime, drug trafficking and drug dependence, and the need to educate not only disabled persons but the population as a whole. He also thanked Mrs. Bautista for her valuable ideas on causes of disability, such as armed conflict, torture and poverty, and especially on the responsibility of the international financial organizations vis-à-vis economic conditions.

57. He expressed appreciation to: the Four Directions Council for its constructive remarks on the relationship between sanitary conditions and disability; the World Council of Indigenous Peoples for its important point about disability resulting from armed conflict, especially in Central America;

Human Rights Advocates for valuable advice on AIDS and double discrimination against women; and the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples for raising the problem of the traditional practice of female circumcision. He thanked the observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for her comments on war as a cause of disability, especially in her country, and asked for clarification of Arabic terms for disability. He welcomed the information on the evacuation of war wounded in El Salvador. He would like to contact the Salvadorian authorities to see if they could give constructive help on the subject of disability and armed conflict.

58. Lastly, he would sum up by saying that discrimination was not only a violation of human rights but an aggravation of disability which forced disabled persons outside the mainstream of society and thus split society into two, often antagonistic, parts.

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII) (agenda item 6) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/8, 9, 10, 37 and 38)

59. Mr. MARTENSON (Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights), introducing the item, said that its increasing importance over the years was undoubtedly due to the fact that the peoples of the United Nations, in whose name the Organization had been established, saw it as the embodiment of their hopes, namely, a public discussion, at the world level, of serious violations of human rights. With the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights in 1966, the United Nations human rights organs had together undertaken the difficult and delicate task of ascertaining how far those universally recognized international standards were in force throughout the world.

60. As indicated in paragraph 59 of the annotated agenda (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/1/Add.1), on 16 March 1967 the Commission on Human Rights had adopted resolution 8 (XXIII), the title of which, and in particular paragraphs 2 and 6, were set forth in that paragraph. As indicated in paragraph 60 of the annotated agenda, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967, had authorized the Commission and the Sub-Commission to examine information relevant to gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, contained in the communications listed by the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959, and had further authorized the Commission to make a thorough study of situations which revealed a consistent pattern of violations of human rights.

61. A great deal had happened since those first difficult attempts by the United Nations to examine allegations of violations of human rights and establish a fruitful dialogue with Governments on the subject. The situations and violations calling for examination had grown in number and now concerned all parts of the world and all types of violation. In that connection one noted the Commission's determination that United Nations bodies should give due attention to violations of economic, social and cultural, as well as civil and political, rights. Under the instruments in force, machinery for dealing

with those violations had been set up under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture. In addition, the Commission had provided information on numerous situations or forms of violation, such as recourse to mercenaries, torture, disappearances and arbitrary or summary executions, by setting up working groups or appointing special rapporteurs. Developments had also taken place under the confidential 1503 procedure. Many of the steps forward in that whole area had taken place as a result of efforts and suggestions debated and developed in the Sub-Commission, which could be justly proud of its contribution.

62. In the light of developments in the United Nations system regarding the discussion of violations since the initiation of the present Sub-Commission procedure in 1967, it was perhaps appropriate to consider how the discussions of violations in the Sub-Commission - with its newly-elected members - could best contribute to the Organization's overall objective of promoting respect for human rights throughout the world.

63. At its present session the Sub-Commission had the following documents before it: a list of reports, studies, statistics and other documents relating to Palestine and other Arab territories (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/8); a note by the Secretary-General concerning the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/37); a note by the Secretary-General concerning the situation of human rights in El Salvador (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/9); and a note by the Secretary-General concerning the situation of human rights in Chile (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/10).

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.