



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/L.7  
7 August 2002

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

---

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of Human Rights  
Fifty-fourth session  
Agenda item 6

**SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

**Mr. Alfonso Martinez, Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Decaux, Mr. Eide, Ms. Motoc,  
Mr. Ogurtsov, Mr. Park, Mr. Sattar, Mr. Sorabjee, Ms. Warzazi,  
Mr. Yimer, Mr. Yokota: draft decision**

**2002/... Humanitarian situation of the Iraqi population**

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, referring to its decision 2001/115 of 16 August 2001; recalling the disastrous situation of the Iraqi population caused by the embargo imposed for 12 years; 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 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; underlining that such situations confront the United Nations with a serious moral dilemma; expressing once

again its concern at the suffering endured daily by the civilian population, particularly the children who are exposed to different diseases and to untimely death; believing that the World Health Organization must devote special attention to the serious health problems affecting the Iraqi population; bearing in mind the vital needs and the conditions seriously affecting the standards of living, nutrition, education and access to health facilities of the population; 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, without a vote, 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. The Sub-Commission 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.

-----