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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of Human Rights  
Fifty-fourth session  
Agenda item 5

**PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION**

**Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Eide, Mr. Kartashkin, Mr. Sorabjee and Ms. Zerrougui:  
draft resolution**

**2002/... The rights of minorities**

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

*Noting* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/57 of 25 April 2002 on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Having considered* the report of the Working Group on Minorities on its eighth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/19 and Corr.1) and in particular the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

*Disturbed* at the continued widespread occurrence of violent conflicts in many parts of the world where ethnic or religious hostility is engendered and exploited by one or more of the parties to the conflict,

*Reiterating* the need for States, minorities and majorities to search for peaceful and constructive solutions to problems affecting minorities,

*Emphasizing* the need for system-wide cooperation within the United Nations to facilitate peaceful solutions to situations involving minorities,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group on Minorities at its eighth session as contained in its report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/19);
2. *Welcomes* the Working Group's practice of requesting its members, and of encouraging the Working Group's partners, to prepare papers on thematic issues;
3. *Welcomes* the holding of the International Seminar on Cooperation for the Better Protection of the Rights of Minorities in Durban, South Africa, on 1, 2 and 5 September 2001 and its report (E/CN.4/2002/92), and the launching in Durban of the *United Nations Guide for Minorities*;
4. *Notes* that 2002 marks the tenth anniversary year of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and in this regard recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights be requested to ask for additional pamphlets to be prepared for inclusion in the *United Nations Guide for Minorities*, in particular on the work of national human rights institutions regarding the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities; that support be given to the call for the translation into minority languages of the Declaration and the *Guide* for the purposes of future training activities; and that consideration be given to holding an international year for the world's minorities and to the possible establishment of a voluntary trust fund to facilitate the participation in the Working Group of minority representatives and experts from developing countries and for the organization of other activities relating to the protection of minorities;
5. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the third African workshop on multiculturalism in Africa, held in Gaborone from 18 to 22 February 2002 and the intention of the Working Group to hold seminars in other regions, and recommends that the participation in such meetings of minority experts from developing countries be facilitated;
6. *Notes* the holding of the first Seminar on Afro-descendants issues in the Americas, held in La Ceiba, Honduras, from 21 to 24 March 2002, and recommends that follow-up meetings be organized in 2003 or 2004;
7. *Recommends* that the High Commissioner for Human Rights, when inviting, among others, Governments to submit their views on how best to protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities, also request them: to consider providing the names of experts with a

view to facilitating their participation in regional and international meetings and in advisory services, and to consider providing information about recent cases relating to minority rights considered in the highest courts of the country;

8. *Notes* that the Working Group plans to hold future thematic discussions on, firstly, the preparation of a code of conduct on the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and, secondly, on the mainstreaming of the human rights of persons belonging to minorities in national development plans and international development cooperation, and requests the Secretary-General to invite United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund, as well as the World Bank and the regional development banks, to provide information on their policies concerning the protection of minority rights and on the incorporation of such concerns in their country programmes;

9. *Requests* Mr. Asbjørn Eide to update, without financial implications, his study on peaceful and constructive approaches to situations involving minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/34) and to submit a progress report on the update to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-fifth session and the final report at its fifty-sixth session;

10. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and scholars to continue to participate actively in the work of the Working Group;

11. *Recommends* that the Commission on Human Rights consider the establishment of a special procedure on minority issues.

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