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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 Martínez, Mr. Bengoa, Ms. Betten, Mr. Chen, Mr. Decaux,  
Mr. Dos Santos Alves, Mr. Eide, Ms. Frey, Ms. Hampson, Mr. Kartashkin,  
Ms. Koufa, Ms. Mbonu, Ms. Motoc, Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Ogurtsov,  
Mr. Park, Ms. Rakotoarisoa, Mr. Sattar, Mr. Sorabjee, Ms. Warzazi,  
Mr. Yimer, Mr. Yokota and Ms. Zerrougui: draft resolution**

**2002/... Traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 2001/13 of 15 August 2001,

*Affirming once again* that female genital mutilation is a cultural practice which profoundly affects the physical and mental health of the girl child and of the women who are its victims,

*Stressing* that other practices equally harmful to the health of women and the girl child exist and are being perpetuated,

*Recalling* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in its article 5, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in its article 7, proclaim that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Emphasizing* the centrality of the Plan of Action adopted by the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/10/Add.1 and Corr.1) to the elimination of harmful traditional practices and the relevance of the conclusions reached at the regional seminars held in Burkina Faso (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/48) and Sri Lanka (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/10/Add.1 and Corr.1),

*Deeply regretting* that the Special Rapporteur is still encountering serious difficulties in performing her important task because of the absence of replies from numerous Governments concerned by harmful traditional practices on measures taken to implement the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices,

*Noting with satisfaction* General Assembly resolution 56/128 of 19 December 2001 on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, and in particular its paragraph 3 (n),

*Noting* the consideration given by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children to the issue of harmful traditional and customary practices,

*Encouraging* enhanced cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to assist the Special Rapporteur in fulfilling her mandate,

*Strongly encouraging* the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization, to continue to devote particular attention to the question of harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls, particularly in the context of their regional and national programmes,

*Expressing its satisfaction* to national and international non-governmental organizations for the numerous activities they are undertaking in the field to develop the awareness of the populations concerned with a view to the eradication of harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation,

*Considering* that efforts to combat harmful traditional practices should be continued through, inter alia, further development of the awareness of Governments and all national protagonists concerned by these practices,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the sixth report on the situation regarding the elimination of traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/32) submitted by the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi, and shares her concern about the perpetuation of certain harmful traditional practices, in particular dowry-related violence and crimes of honour;
2. *Appeals* to all States concerned to intensify efforts to develop awareness of, and mobilize national public opinion concerning, the harmful effects of all forms of harmful traditional practices, in particular through education, information and training, in order to achieve the total eradication of these practices;
3. *Requests* all non-governmental organizations dealing with women's issues to continue to devote part of their activities to the study of the various harmful traditional practices and ways and means of eradicating them, and to inform the Special Rapporteur of any situation which merits the attention of the international community;
4. *Welcomes* the progress made in combating harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, through the impetus of non-governmental organizations, in particular the Inter-African Committee, which should be given maximum encouragement;
5. *Appeals* to the international community to provide material, technical and financial support to the non-governmental organizations and groups working with dedication to achieve the total elimination of these cultural practices which are harmful to girl children and women;
6. *Calls upon* all Governments to give their full attention to the implementation of the Plan of Action and requests the Secretary-General to invite them to submit information regularly to the Sub-Commission on the situation regarding harmful traditional practices in their country;
7. *Considers* that one of the most effective means of developing the awareness of the Governments concerned regarding the problems of harmful traditional practices and appropriate solutions would be to organize regional seminars on the question;
8. *Reiterates* its proposal that three seminars be held in Africa, Asia and Europe in order to review progress achieved since 1985, and ways and means of overcoming the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices, and appeals for funding for these activities;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to assist the mandate by raising funds for the organization of the seminars, especially the organization of a first seminar to be held in Europe;

10. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an updated report to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-fifth session;

11. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its fifty-fifth session, under the same agenda item.

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