



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/2003/L.82
17 April 2003

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 18

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Australia, Bangladesh*, Bhutan*, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia*, Iran* (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan*, Kuwait*, Lebanon*, Nepal*, New Zealand*, Oman*, Pakistan, Philippines*, Qatar*, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Thailand: draft resolution

2003/... Regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific Region

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 2002/82 of 26 April 2002,

Reiterating that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Stressing that regional cooperation can play an important role in promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the importance of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical and building-block approach towards enhancing regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the pace and priorities to be set by the Governments of the Asian and Pacific region by consensus,

Recognizing also that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing further the importance of human rights education in both formal and non-formal contexts in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recognizing the valuable contribution that independent national institutions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations can make in the field of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region,

Welcoming the convening of the eleventh Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific Region, held in Islamabad from 25 to 27 February 2003,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2003/109) and the progress achieved in the implementation of Commission resolution 2002/82 of 26 April 2002;
2. *Stresses* the importance of the linkages and mutually reinforcing aspects of all four areas of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in the Asian and Pacific Region (E/CN.4/1998/50, annex II) adopted at the sixth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific Region, held in Tehran from 28 February to 2 March 1998, namely human rights education, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, national plans of action for the

promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national human rights capacities, and strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights, and in this context notes the developments in connection with the programme of action for 2002-2004 adopted in Beirut at the tenth Workshop;

3. *Also stresses* that developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with national conditions provides the strongest foundation for effective and enduring regional cooperation in the field of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region;

4. *Commends* the contribution of the Government of Pakistan, as the host of the eleventh Workshop, to the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region;

5. *Endorses* the conclusions of the eleventh Workshop on the next steps to be taken to facilitate the process of regional cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region;

6. *Welcomes* the in-depth discussions held during the eleventh Workshop reviewing developments in the Asian and Pacific region over the past year in the four priority areas under the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in the Asian and Pacific Region;

7. *Also welcomes* the greater and valuable sharing of concrete national experiences at the eleventh Workshop on the implementation of all four areas of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in the Asian and Pacific Region;

8. *Takes note* of the contribution of independent national institutions, intergovernmental organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations to the eleventh Workshop and the initiative by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to hold a consultation of non-governmental actors one day prior to the official opening of the eleventh Workshop;

9. *Also takes note* of the diversity of views expressed at the eleventh Workshop on possible regional or subregional modalities of cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region as part of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical and building-block approach, as well as of the evaluation undertaken on the implementation of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in the Asian and Pacific Region;

10. *Reaffirms* the desirability of developing national human rights plans of action through a process which ensures the participation of a wide range of relevant national, provincial

and local government ministries and agencies, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other sectors of civil society and of evaluating these plans in order to benefit from lessons learned;

11. *Takes note with appreciation* of the establishment of independent national institutions in countries of the Asian and Pacific region and their important contribution to the process of regional cooperation;

12. *Encourages* Governments to promote the development of national strategies for human rights education which are comprehensive, participatory, effective and sustainable, and to accelerate the pace of implementation of such plans and strategies within the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004 so as to realize significant achievements by the end of the Decade;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of good governance at the national and international levels to ensure that all human rights are protected and that development resources are properly and effectively utilized to implement the right to development;

14. *Takes note* of the discussions at the eleventh workshops on, inter alia, all the obstacles to the effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development and the need for international cooperation to support the efforts of countries to overcome them;

15. *Encourages* all States in the region to take concrete steps at the national level in connection with the implementation of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in the Asian and Pacific Region and to ensure that regional workshops undertaken within the Framework are accompanied by concrete and sustainable subregional and national activities, as well as training and awareness programmes for government officials and key professional groups concerned such as the police, prison officials, educators, judges, lawyers and parliamentarians, as appropriate;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner in developing partnerships for the implementation of its activities under the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in the Asian and Pacific Region to enhance national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

17. *Encourages* all Governments in the Asian and Pacific region to consider, as appropriate, making use of the facilities offered by the United Nations under the programme of

advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights to further strengthen national human rights capacities and in this regard calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to give adequate attention to the programme;

18. *Welcomes* contributions made to the Office of the High Commissioner by States of the Asian and Pacific region and invites all States of the region to consider contributing for the first time or increasing their contributions, particularly with respect to activities in the area of technical cooperation and the strengthening of national capacities and infrastructures in the field of human rights as outlined in the *Annual Appeal 2003*;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixtieth session a report containing the conclusions of the twelfth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific Region and information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixtieth session under the same agenda item.
