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**REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON  
THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

**Draft report of the Commission**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Branko SOCANAC**

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- (a) Treaty bodies;**
  - (b) National institutions and regional arrangements;**
  - (c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights**

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\* Documents E/CN.4/2003/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/2003/L.11 and addenda.

## **XVIII. Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms:**

**(a) Treaty bodies;**

**(b) National institutions and regional arrangements;**

**(c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights**

1. The Commission considered agenda item 18, concurrently with items 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 (see chaps. XIV, XVI, XVII, XIX and XX), at its 47th meeting, on 17 April, at its 48th and 49th meetings, on 15 April, at its 53rd meeting, on 17 April, at its 55th meeting, on 22 April, and at its 62nd meetings, on 25 April 2003.

2. At the 62nd meeting, on 25 April 2003, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Bertrand G. Ramcharan, made a statement.

3. For the documents issued under agenda item 18, see annex VI to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairperson's statements, by agenda item, see annex V.

4. In the general debate on agenda item 18, statements were made by members of the Commission, observers and representatives of national institutions and of non-governmental organizations. For a detailed list of speakers, see annex III to the present report.

### **Regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region**

5. At the 62nd meeting, on 25 April 2003, the observer for Pakistan introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2003/L.82, sponsored by Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Afghanistan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Norway, Thailand and Viet Nam subsequently joined the sponsors.

6. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2003/73.

### **Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2003/L.83, sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan,

Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Afghanistan, Cambodia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Yemen subsequently joined the sponsors.

8. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the European Union that are members of the Commission - Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the associated country that is a member of the Commission - Poland - aligned itself with the statement) and of the Russian Federation.

9. At the request of the representative of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 32 votes to 14, with 7 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, India, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

*Against:* Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:* Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru.

10. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2003/74.

#### **Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights**

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Belgium introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2003/L.88, sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark,

the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela. Canada, Chile, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Panama, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland, Thailand and Ukraine subsequently joined the sponsors.

12. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

13. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2003/75.

#### **National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights**

14. At the same meeting, the observer for Australia introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/2003/L.89, sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela. Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, France, Haiti, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Kenya, Paraguay, Peru, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden and Ukraine subsequently joined the sponsors.

15. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

16. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 2003/76.

**Enhancement of the functioning of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in regard to the operation of the mechanism of the Commission on Human Rights**

17. At the same meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia introduced draft decision E/CN.4/2003/L.96, sponsored by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe subsequently joined the sponsors.

18. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada, Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the European Union that are members of the Commission - Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the associated country that is a member of the Commission - Poland - aligned itself with the statement) and the Russian Federation.

19. At the request of the representative of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 28 votes to 24, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, India, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

*Against:* Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

*Abstaining:* Armenia.

20. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 2003/113.

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