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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 4

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

**Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Bossuyt, Ms. Chung, Ms. Mbonu, Ms. Motoc,
Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Sattar: draft resolution**

2005/... The Social Forum

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

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelated nature of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights,

Recalling also the reports and studies on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights submitted by several special rapporteurs to the Sub-Commission and the Commission on Human Rights, in particular those submitted by Mr. Danilo Türk, Mr. Asbjørn Eide, Mr. Mustapha Mehedi, Mr. Leandro Despouy, Mr. El-Hadji Guissé, Mr. Joseph Oloka-Onyango, Ms. Deepika Udagama, Mr. David Weissbrodt and Mr. José Bengoa,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights decision 2001/103 of 25 April 2001 authorizing the Sub-Commission to hold the Social Forum and decision 2003/107 of 22 April 2003 recommending to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the Sub-Commission to convene in Geneva an annual intersessional forum on economic, social and cultural rights, to be known as the “Social Forum”, and Economic and Social Council decision 2003/264 of 23 July 2003,

Aware of the increasing feminization of poverty and the fact that women are the main actors in organizations combating poverty and social exclusion,

Bearing in mind that the reduction of poverty and the elimination of extreme poverty remain an ethical and moral imperative of humankind, based on respect for human dignity, and noting the report of the Chairman-Rapporteur of the third Social Forum, held on 21 and 22 July 2005, which focused on “Poverty and economic growth: challenges to human rights”,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the holding of the third Social Forum on 21 and 22 July 2005 and welcomes the report of its Chairman-Rapporteur (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/21);

2. *Draws special attention* to the significant contribution made to the debate by individuals with experience of extreme poverty and individuals who live and work alongside them on a daily basis;

3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2005 Social Forum and of the innovative nature of many of them, and calls upon States, international organizations - in particular those with a mandate for poverty eradication - non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and other relevant actors, to take them into account when designing and implementing poverty-eradication programmes and strategies;

4. *Reaffirms* the unique nature within the United Nations of the Social Forum, which makes possible a dialogue and an exchange between the representatives of people living in poverty, States Members, civil society and intergovernmental organizations, and stresses that

the current reform of the United Nations should take into account the contribution of the Social Forum as a space for dialogue that can be found nowhere else in the United Nations human rights system;

5. *Reaffirms also* its decision that the Social Forum shall meet every year, with the mandate laid down in previous Sub-Commission resolutions, and decides that the next meeting of the Social Forum will be held during 2006 in Geneva on dates suitable for the participation of Sub-Commission members and of the broadest possible range of other stakeholders, and decides that the theme for the Social Forum in 2006 will be “The fight against poverty and the right to participation: the role of women” and that it will be addressed within the context of the preparation of the review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

6. *Reiterates* its invitation to participate in and contribute to the Social Forum to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations outside Geneva, and in particular newly emerging actors, such as small groups and rural and urban associations from the North and the South, anti-poverty groups, peasants’ and farmers’ organizations and their national and international associations, voluntary organizations, youth associations, community organizations, trade unions and associations of workers, representatives of the private sector, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions, intergovernmental organizations - in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization - regional banks, financial institutions and international development agencies;

7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to seek effective means of ensuring consultation and the broadest possible participation in the Social Forum, including by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations;

8. *Requests* Ms. Chin-sung Chung to prepare a working paper on “The challenges of women’s participation in policies and strategies to combat poverty and extreme poverty”, and to submit it for consideration at the 2006 Social Forum;

9. *Invites* the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to take part in the next session of the Social Forum and make a presentation on the theme chosen for the 2006 session;

10. *Invites* the Social Forum to submit to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-eighth session a separate report containing a comprehensive and detailed summary of the discussions, including recommendations and draft resolutions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to adopt the appropriate measures to disseminate information about the Social Forum, invite the relevant individuals and organizations to the Social Forum and take all practical measures required for the success of this initiative.
