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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 6 (a)

SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES:

WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mr. Alfonso Martínez, Mr. Alfredsson, Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Bíró,
Mr. Bossuyt, Mr. Casey, Mr. Chen Shiqiu, Mr. Cherif, Ms. Chung,
Mr. Decaux, Mr. Dos Santos, Ms. Koufa, Ms. Mbonu, Ms. Motoc,
Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Rakotoarisoa, Mr. Salama, Mr. Sattar and
Mr. Yokota: draft resolution**

**2005/... Harmful 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 2004/25 of 12 August 2004 and Commission on Human Rights
decision 2004/111 of 20 April 2004,

Emphasizing the importance of the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful
Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/10/Add.1
and Corr.1) adopted by the Sub-Commission,

Noting the consideration given by the General Assembly to the issue of harmful traditional and customary practices,

Emphasizing that all harmful traditional practices affect women and girls first and foremost,

Noting that such practices are not exclusively based on specific traditions or cultures, but are also an expression of violence against women and girls,

1. *Welcomes* the ninth report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/36) of the Special Rapporteur, Halima Embarek Warzazi, and shares her concern at the damaging effects of harmful traditional practices and the need to put an end to them;
2. *Takes note with deep regret* of the decision of the Special Rapporteur that the report submitted at its present session will be her final report on the subject;
3. *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 on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, which should be given maximum encouragement;
4. *Regrets*, however, the continuation and further development of existing and new forms of harmful practice;
5. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to request its Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to continue to consider and examine, in a more systematic way, the effects of harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls as an integral part of her mandate;
6. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to cooperate closely with non-governmental organizations working on harmful traditional practices, especially the Inter-African Committee;

7. *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 practice, in particular through education, information and training, in order to achieve the total eradication of these practices;

8. *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 practices and ways and means of eradicating them;

9. *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 practices that are harmful to girl children and women;

10. *Calls upon* all Governments to give their full attention to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children;

11. *Reiterates* its proposal that three seminars be held in Africa, Asia and Europe in order to review progress achieved since 1985 and to explore ways and means of overcoming the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Plan of Action, and appeals for funding for these activities;

12. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist the issue by raising funds for the organization of the seminars, especially the organization of a first seminar to be held in Europe, in light of disturbing information on the increase of harmful practices in that region;

13. *Welcomes* the adoption by the African Union of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and urges Governments to ratify this instrument and incorporate it into their domestic legislation;

14. *Also welcomes* the many activities carried out in Africa by Governments and non-governmental organizations, particularly in the context of the International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation (6 February);

15. *Further welcomes* the commitment of many States to efforts to combat all harmful traditional practices, and encourages them to intensify their efforts;

16. *Decides* to continue to give consideration to this issue at its fifty-eighth session under the relevant agenda item.
