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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 12 August 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. KARTASHKIN

CONTENTS

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

- (a) DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
- (b) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (agenda item 7)

(a) DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.1)

1. Mr. DECAUX said that, in view of the growing number of new priorities, it would be sensible to create a separate agenda item for terrorism and counter-terrorism. He therefore proposed that draft agenda item 6 (c) should be retitled "Terrorism and counter-terrorism" and that a new item 6 (d), entitled "New priorities", should be added to cover the issues from existing item 6 (c) that did not relate to terrorism.

2. The CHAIRPERSON pointed out that the draft provisional agenda was for reference only, since it would be up to the members at the Sub-Commission's fifty-eighth session to adopt their own agenda.

3. Ms. WARZAZI said that, at the current session, the proposal to change the position of agenda item 6 had been rejected because the provisional agenda had already been adopted. She therefore proposed that the items listed in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.1 should be rearranged to appear in the following order: agenda items 1, 2, 4, 6, 5, 3 and 7. It would be open to the Sub-Commission to modify that order in any given year.

4. Mr. ALFONSO MARTÍNEZ said that there was no reason why the Sub-Commission should not recommend an order of agenda items, on the understanding that it was for the members at the fifty-eighth session to decide on the final content and sequence of the agenda.

5. Ms. HAMPSON said that, although the current members' recommendations were not binding, it was right to send a clear signal of their views. Moreover, it was important for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to know the order of items so as to be able to time their attendance accordingly. She supported Ms. Warzazi's proposal regarding the rearrangement of agenda items.

6. The CHAIRPERSON said he took it that the Sub-Commission wished to adopt the proposals made by Mr. Decaux and Ms. Warzazi to recommend amendments to the draft provisional agenda.

7. It was so decided.

8. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the Sub-Commission should thus take note of the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.1).

9. It was so decided.

(b) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.10 and Add.1-5 and L.11 and Add.1-3)

10. Mr. YOKOTA (Rapporteur) said that the draft report consisted of two parts: a compilation of the 32 resolutions and 14 decisions adopted during the current session, contained

in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.11 and Add.1 and 2, and proceedings under the various agenda items, contained in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.10 and Add.1-5. Members should submit any corrections to those documents to the Secretariat in writing within three weeks. The proceedings reflected in the draft report were of a technical, not a substantive, nature. For the content of the discussions, including statements made during the voting on draft resolutions and decisions, the summary records of the session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/SR.1-21) should be consulted.

11. Mr. ALFONSO MARTÍNEZ requested that the deadline for corrections should be extended by a week. The report would, after all, be a document of the Commission, which would meet only in March 2006.

12. Mr. YOKOTA (Rapporteur) said that the request was reasonable. The Secretariat had agreed that the deadline could be extended by one week.

13. The draft report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-seventh session was adopted ad referendum.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

14. After an exchange of courtesies in which the representatives of the various regional groups participated, Ms. MBONU thanked two NGOs, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and Geneva for Human Rights - Global Training, for the informal summary of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the fifty-seventh session which they had circulated among members.

15. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Sub-Commission had adopted 46 resolutions and decisions at the current session. The Chairperson of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights and members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had attended some meetings. The Bureau had held many informal meetings with NGOs and had given press conferences and radio interviews.

16. The discussion of the working papers and studies prepared by members demonstrated the Sub-Commission's irreplaceable value within the United Nations human rights system. It would have to revise its working methods and draw up a detailed plan of its future priorities, but he was convinced that a body similar in size and composition to the Sub-Commission, and probably involving many of the same experts, would continue to be needed. The decision on the role of an independent expert body within the reform of the United Nations human rights machinery, adopted by the Sub-Commission the previous day, had already been transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the High Commissioner.

17. The fifty-eighth session was scheduled to be held from 7 to 25 August 2006. He thanked all participants and the staff of the Secretariat for their hard work, and declared closed the fifty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.