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THIRD COMMITTEE
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ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION
AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Australia, Finland, India, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines,
Poland, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

National institutions for the protection and promotion
of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions concerning national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, notably its resolution 41/129 of 4 December 1986 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1987/40 of 10 March 1987, 1/ 1988/72 of 10 March 1988 2/ and 1989/52 of 7 March 1989, 3/

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 5 and corrigenda (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., 1988, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 2 (A/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 4/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 5/ and other international instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Affirming that priority should be accorded to the development of appropriate arrangements at the national level to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards,

Conscious of the significant role that institutions at the national level can play in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Recognizing that the United Nations can play a catalytic role in assisting the development of national institutions by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information and experience,

Mindful in this regard of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46 of 14 December 1978,

Noting the diverse approaches adopted throughout the world for the protection and promotion of human rights at the national level and recognizing the value of such approaches,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 6/
2. Reaffirms the importance of developing, in accordance with national legislation, effective national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights and of maintaining their independence and integrity;
3. Encourages Member States to establish or, where they already exist, to strengthen national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights and to incorporate these elements in national development plans;
4. Welcomes the increase in the number of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights in various countries around the world;
5. Encourages initiatives on the part of Governments, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations intended to strengthen existing national institutions and to establish such institutions where they do not exist;

4/ Resolution 217 A (III).

5/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

6/ A/44/525; see also E/CN.4/1989/47 and Add.1.

6. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to co-operate with regional and national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights;
7. Encourages all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and operation of such national institutions;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of experts if necessary and including materials submitted by Governments, a report containing conceptual models of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, to be submitted to the Commission for Human Rights at its forty-seventh session;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to respond favourably to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national institutions as part of the Programme for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights;
10. Invites the Secretary-General to include in his updated report all the information provided by Governments and any additional information Governments may wish to provide, with particular emphasis on the functioning of various models of national institutions in implementing international standards on human rights, as well as a list of existing national institutions with contact points and a bibliography of relevant materials;
11. Affirms the role of national institutions as agencies for the dissemination of human rights materials and other public information activities under the auspices of the United Nations;
12. Recognizes the constructive role that non-governmental organizations can play in relation to national institutions;
13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.
