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WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor
in development and in the full realization of all human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/40/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/24 of 22 November 1983. In that resolution the General Assembly, recognizing that popular participation constituted an important factor of socio-economic development, as well as of respect for human rights and the dignity of the human person, requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue to consider the question of popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in the full realization of all human rights. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fortieth session in order to review the progress made in that field, taking into account, inter alia, consideration of the question by the Commission on Human Rights at its fortieth and forty-first sessions.

II. PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

2. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fortieth and forty-first sessions, considered the question of popular participation under item 8 of its agenda concerning the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Commission's discussion of sub-item 8 (c) is summarized in the summary records of its fortieth session. 1/

3. At its forty-first session, 2/ the Commission had before it, inter alia, a preliminary report by the Secretary-General on the right to popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in the full realization of all human rights (E/CN.4/1984/12 and Add.1), prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/31 of 27 May 1983.

4. In its resolution 1984/15 of 6 March 1984, the Commission took note with appreciation of the preliminary report by the Secretary-General and requested him, in preparing the final study, to take into account the views expressed in the discussion of that item at the fortieth session of the Commission. It invited those Governments, United Nations organs and specialized agencies that had not yet done so to transmit their comments and views to the Secretary-General, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/31. Further, the Commission decided to continue the consideration of the question at its forty-first session.

5. By its decision 1984/131 of 24 May 1984, the Economic and Social Council, noting Commission resolution 1984/15, endorsed the Commission's request to the Secretary-General and the Commission's invitation to those Governments, United Nations organs and specialized agencies that had not yet done so to transmit their comments and views to the Secretary-General, as called for in Council resolution 1983/31.

6. Consequently, the Commission had before it at its forty-first session the final study by the Secretary-General on the right to popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in the full realization of all human rights (E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add.1 and 2). 3/

7. The Commission, at its forty-first session, adopted resolution 1985/44 of 14 March 1985. In this resolution the Commission took note with appreciation of the final study by the Secretary-General and requested him, pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 38/24, to submit the above-mentioned study to the Assembly at its fortieth session in the context of the item relating to the world social situation, under the sub-item entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights". The Commission further requested the Secretary-General to circulate the study to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations, United Nations organs and specialized agencies and to non-governmental organizations for comments, and to submit a report containing those comments for consideration by the Commission at its forty-second session. The Commission decided to continue the consideration of the question at its forty-second session.

8. In accordance with the request of the Commission, the final study on popular participation (E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add.1 and 2) will be before the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

Notes

1/ For the relevant summary records, see E/CN.4/1984/SR.15 to SR.19, SR.41/Add.1 and SR.42.

2/ For the relevant summary records see E/CN.4/1985/SR.42 to 44/Add.1 and SR.56.

3/ For the relevant summary records see E/CN.4/1985/SR.42-44/Add.1 and SR.56.
