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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-fifth session  
Agenda item 16

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Argentina, Australia\*, Austria, Brazil\*, Bulgaria\*, Canada, Denmark\*,  
Dominican Republic\*, El Salvador, Estonia\*, Finland\*, Germany, Greece\*,  
Hungary\*, Ireland, Japan\*, Lithuania\*, Netherlands\*, New Zealand\*,  
Poland, Portugal\*, Romania, Slovenia\*, Slovakia\*, Spain\*, Ukraine\*,  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay:  
draft resolution

1999/... Work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination  
and Protection of Minorities

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular 1998/28 of  
17 April 1998, as well as the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission on  
Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities as set out in the  
relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and  
Social Council and the General Assembly,

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\* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of  
procedures of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Taking note of

(a) The report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its fiftieth session (E/CN.4/1999/4-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/45);

(b) The attention given by the Sub-Commission to Commission resolution 1998/28;

(c) The revised working paper on the methods of work of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/3);

(d) Sub-Commission decisions 1994/117 and 1998/108;

(e) The fact that the work of the Sub-Commission is currently under consideration in the context of the ongoing process of the "review of mechanisms";

1. Reaffirms that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities can best assist the Commission on Human Rights by providing it with:

(a) Independent expert studies carried out by its members and under its auspices;

(b) Recommendations based on, and after full consideration of, these studies;

(c) Studies, research and expert advice at the request of the Commission;

2. Welcomes the steps undertaken by the Sub-Commission to reform and improve its methods of work, including by the adoption of a restructured agenda at its fiftieth session and, in particular:

(a) The efforts made to implement its decision 1996/114 to achieve a compilation of the existing rules of procedure and procedural questions to be resolved;

(b) The decision to limit the initiation of new studies and the adoption of criteria for new studies;

(c) The decision to establish during its fifty-first session a sessional working group on the methods of work of the Sub-Commission;

(d) The efforts made to enhance its cooperation with all relevant bodies;

3. Invites the Sub-Commission to enhance its efforts to improve on its methods of work, inter alia by:

(a) Setting up a work plan for its fifty-first session, containing priorities for future work;

(b) Setting a time-frame for consideration of its methods of work, as well as a target date of not later than the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights for reporting to the Commission on its method of work;

(c) Proposing measures to enhance further the independence and expertise of its membership;

4. Requests the Sub-Commission to continue its efforts to avoid duplication with the work of the Commission on Human Rights;

5. Requests the Sub-Commission further to improve on its methods of work by:

(a) Focusing on its primary role as an advisory body to the Commission on Human Rights;

(b) Giving particular attention to the selection of studies, focusing its attention on how and where the implementation of existing standards can be improved;

(c) Respecting strictly the principles of independence, impartiality and expertise;

(d) In view of the budgetary situation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, doing its utmost to limit requests for the creation of new working groups;

(e) Facilitating efficient and effective participation of non-governmental organizations;

(f) Considering fully studies and working papers by special rapporteurs and its members before sending them to the Commission;

(g) Focusing strictly on questions relating to human rights in accordance with its mandate;

6. Reaffirms its requests to States:

(a) To nominate as members and alternate members of the Sub-Commission independent experts of recognized competence in the field of human rights, as well as to respect fully the independence of members and alternates;

(b) When nominating candidates for the Sub-Commission, to submit nominations sufficiently early so as to enable the members of the Commission to thoroughly assess the qualifications and the independence of the nominees;

7. Invites the Secretary-General to give support to the Sub-Commission, inter alia, by making available documentation in good time before each session in the official languages of the United Nations and, in responding to requests from the Sub-Commission to solicit information from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to agree to such requests only after they have been approved by the Commission on Human Rights;

8. Requests the Sub-Commission to devote sufficient time at its fifty-first session to discussion of its working methods;

9. Authorizes the Sub-Commission to organize its fifty-first (four-week) session so that it shall not hold more than 30 public meetings and decides that the Sub-Commission shall meet in closed session to consider the implementation of the present resolution and other appropriate issues;

10. Requests the Sub-Commission to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on the results of its consideration of its methods of work;

11. Invites the Chairperson of the Commission to address the Sub-Commission at the opening meeting of the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission on the debate that took place in the Commission under this item;

12. Requests the Chairperson of the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

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