



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/HRC/Sub.1/58/L.15
18 August 2006

Original: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 4

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

**Mr. Alfonso Martínez, Mr. Alfredsson, Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Bíró, Mr. Chen Shiqiu,
Mr. Cherif, Ms. Chung, Mr. Decaux, Mr. Guissé, Ms. Hampson, Mr. Kartashkin,
Ms. Koufa, Ms. Mbonu, Ms. Motoc, Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Sattar, Mr. Tuñon Veilles
and Ms. Warzazi: draft resolution**

2006/... The Social Forum

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelated nature of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights, and the Proclamation of Teheran of the International Conference on Human Rights held in 1968 which states that full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is impossible,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights decision 2001/103 of 25 April 2001 authorizing the Sub-Commission to hold the Social Forum and decision 2003/107 of 22 April 2003 recommending to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the

Sub-Commission to convene in Geneva an annual intersessional forum on economic, social and cultural rights, to be known as the “Social Forum”, and Economic and Social Council decision 2003/264 of 23 July 2003,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and in particular its paragraph 6, as well as Human Rights Council decision 2006/102 of 30 June 2006 extending the mandate of the Sub-Commission,

Bearing in mind that the reduction of poverty and the elimination of extreme poverty remain an ethical and moral imperative of humankind, based on respect for human dignity, and noting the report of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the fourth Social Forum, held on 3 and 4 August 2006, which focused on “The fight against poverty and the rights to participation: the role of women”,

Taking note of the record of the past four Social Forums, which focused on questions related to the eradication of poverty in the context of human rights that were rarely tackled by other mechanisms,

Bearing in mind the pending decision of the Human Rights Council on its future expert advice mechanism,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the holding of the fourth Social Forum on 3 and 4 August 2006 and welcomes the report of its Chairman-Rapporteur (A/HRC/Sub.1/58/15);
2. *Draws special attention* to the significant contribution made to the debate by individuals with experience related to the feminization of poverty and individuals who live and work alongside the poor on a daily basis;
3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2006 Social Forum and of the innovative nature of many of them, and calls upon States, international organizations - in particular those with a mandate for poverty eradication - non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and other relevant actors, to take them into account when designing and implementing poverty-eradication programmes and strategies;

4. *Calls upon* the General Assembly to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the 2006 Social Forum within the framework of the review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

5. *Reaffirms* the unique nature within the United Nations of the Social Forum, which makes possible a dialogue and an exchange between the representatives of people living in poverty, Member States, civil society and intergovernmental organizations, and stresses that the current reform of the United Nations should take into account the contribution of the Social Forum as a space for dialogue that can be found nowhere else in the United Nations human rights system;

6. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council preserve the Social Forum, as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights system and various stakeholders, especially the poor and most vulnerable people, which plays a special and indispensable role in the United Nations human rights system;

7. *Reaffirms*, without prejudice to General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council decision 2006/102, its decision that the Social Forum shall meet every year, with the mandate laid down in previous Sub-Commission resolutions, requests that the next meeting of the Social Forum be held during 2007 in Geneva on dates suitable for the participation of the broadest possible range of other stakeholders, and decides that at its next meeting the Social Forum should focus on:

- (a) Questions relating to the eradication of poverty in the context of human rights;
- (b) Capturing best practices in the fight against poverty in the light of grass-roots presentations to the Social Forum;
- (c) Sharing and discussing the relevant guidelines and reports prepared by the Sub-Commission (or its successor), or other human rights bodies, with civil society;

8. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council extend the meeting of the Social Forum to five days, as is the practice with certain working groups of the Sub-Commission, in order that it may devote two days of thematic discussions on poverty and human rights, in line with the current format of the Social Forum; devote two days of discussion to the work of the

international human rights mechanisms in the field of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development in relation to poverty, in order to receive feedback from civil society to provide to different mechanisms; and devote one day to an interactive debate with mandate holders on issues related to the topic of the Social Forum and to formulating conclusions and recommendations to be presented to relevant bodies;

9. *Reiterates* its invitation to participate in and contribute to the Social Forum to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations outside Geneva, and in particular newly emerging actors, such as small groups and rural and urban associations from the North and the South, anti-poverty groups, peasants' and farmers' organizations and their national and international associations, voluntary organizations, youth associations, community organizations, trade unions and associations of workers, representatives of the private sector, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions, intergovernmental organizations - in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization - regional banks, financial institutions and international development agencies;

10. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to seek effective means of ensuring consultation and the broadest possible participation in the Social Forum, including by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations;

11. *Invites* the Social Forum to submit to the future expert advice mechanism of the Human Rights Council a separate report containing a comprehensive and detailed summary of the discussions, including recommendations and draft resolutions;

12. *Requests*, subject to the decision of the Human Rights Council on its future expert advice mechanism, that the Secretary-General adopt the appropriate measures to disseminate information about the Social Forum, invite the relevant individuals and organizations to the Social Forum and take all practical measures required for the success of this initiative.
