UNITED NATIONS



# **Economic and Social Council**

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**ENGLISH** 

#### COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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

Fiftieth session

## SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st to 36<sup>th</sup>/Add.1 MEETINGS

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 3 August to 28 August 1998

### Corrigendum

The present document contains the corrections received from participants and the Secretariat applying to the English text of the summary records of the meetings of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fiftieth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/SR.1-36/Add.1).

With the issuance of the present corrigendum, the summary records of the meetings held by the Sub-Commission at its fiftieth session are to be considered final.

### 19th meeting

Paragraph 75

*Replace* text by the following:

75. Mr. LEMINE (Observer for Mauritania) recalled that the Sub-Commission had examined the so-called question of slavery in Mauritania 20 years ago, and that it had decided, following an in-depth study, to end its consideration of the matter. It was, then, ironic that the question had been raised again by a former Minister and taken up by the spokesman for the first Head of State of Mauritania. It was worth asking why these persons had not denounced and fought this phenomenon when they were in power. The truth is that this was not specific to Mauritania and that it had not avoided the impact of economic and social progress any more than

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elsewhere. The persistence of certain backward ways of thinking could only be fought by the consolidation of the rule of law and by economic and social development. Mauritania had set out on this path for the long term, as shown by the creation of a high commission for human rights and the fight against poverty. Instead of using this anachronistic theme as a hobbyhorse, with all the emotional baggage it entails, the political circles that exploited it would be better served by promoting the rule of law and a pluralist democracy.

23rd meeting

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The date of the meeting *should read*:

on Tuesday, 18 August 1998, at 3 p. m.

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