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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft report of the Commission

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* Documents E/CN.4/2000/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council will be contained in documents E/CN.4/2000/L.11 and addenda.

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A. Resolutions

2000/6. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Guided also by the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the provisions of Additional Protocol I thereto, and the Hague Convention IV of 1907,

Recalling the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights related to the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories,

Recalling also the General Assembly resolutions on Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, occupied since 1967,

Recalling further the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993 (A/CONF.157/23),

Taking note of the report (E/CN.4/2000/25) of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, regarding his mission undertaken in accordance with Commission resolution 1993/2 A of 19 February 1993,

Taking note also of the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories submitted to the General Assembly since 1968, including the latest (A/54/325 of 8 September 1999, A/54/73/Add.1 of 7 September 1999 and A/54/73 of 13 April 1999),

Noting with great concern the continued Israeli refusal to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights calling upon Israel to put an end to the violations of human rights, and affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Gravely concerned at the stagnation of the peace process because of the contempt of the Government of Israel for the principles on which that process was based, and its refusal to carry out its commitments in line with the agreements it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization, on the basis of land for peace, in Washington, Cairo, Hebron, Wye River and Sharm El-Sheik,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the subject, including the latest, resolution 1999/5 of 23 April 1999,

1. Condemns the continued violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular the continuation of acts of wounding and killing perpetrated by Israeli soldiers and settlers against Palestinians, in addition to the detention of thousands of Palestinians without trial, the continuation of the confiscation of Palestinian lands, the extension and the establishment of Israeli settlements thereon, the confiscation of Palestinian property and expropriation of their land, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the uprooting of fruit trees, and calls upon Israel to cease immediately these acts, which constitute grave violations of human rights and of the principles of international law and also constitute a major obstacle in the way of the peace process;

2. Also condemns the expropriation of Palestinian homes in Jerusalem, the revocation of identity cards of the citizens of the Palestinian city of Jerusalem, the imposition of fabricated and exorbitant taxes with the aim of forcing the Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem, who cannot afford to pay these high taxes, out of their homes and out of their city, preparing in this way the path for the Judaization of Jerusalem, and calls upon the Government of Israel to put an end immediately to these practices;

3. Further condemns the use of torture against Palestinians during interrogation, as it constitutes a grave breach of the principles of international humanitarian law and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and calls upon the Government of Israel to put an end immediately to the use of such practices;

4. Reaffirms that all the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, are illegal, constitute a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and of the principles of international law, and should be dismantled in order to achieve a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the region of the Middle East;

5. Also reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable to the Palestinian territory and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and considers any change in the geographical and demographic status of the city of East Jerusalem from its situation prior to the June 1967 war to be illegal and void;

6. Calls upon Israel to cease immediately its policy of enforcing collective punishments, such as demolition of houses and closure of the Palestinian territory, measures which constitute flagrant violations of international law and international humanitarian law, endanger the lives of Palestinians and also constitute a major obstacle in the way of peace;

7. Calls once more upon Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from all forms of violation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories, and to respect the bases of international law, the principles of international humanitarian law, its international commitments and the agreements it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization in relation to the peace process;

8. Also calls upon Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied since 1967, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights, as a basic condition for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and all other Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale and to report on its implementation by the Government of Israel to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission on Human Rights with all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that deal with the conditions in which the citizens of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories are living under the Israeli occupation;

11. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-seventh session under the same agenda item, as a matter of high priority.

52nd meeting

17 April 2000

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 31 votes, to 1,
with 19 absentions. See chap. VIII]

2000/7. Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Commission on Human Rights,

Deeply concerned at the suffering of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the violation of their fundamental and human rights since the Israeli military occupation of 1967,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including the latest, resolution 54/80 of 6 December 1999, in which the Assembly, inter alia, called upon Israel to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981), to put an end to its practices violating the rights of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and to put an end to its occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming the principle of non-acquisition of territory by force in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Taking note with deep concern of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/54/325) and, in this connection, deploring the Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories and regretting Israel's constant refusal to cooperate with and to receive the Special Committee,

Guided by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations , international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the relevant provisions of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Reaffirming the importance of the peace process which started in Madrid on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace, which aims at the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Expressing its concern about the stoppage of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and hoping that the commitments and guarantees reached during the previous talks will be respected in order that the talks may resume as soon as possible on both tracks,

Reaffirming its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent being resolution 1999/6 of 23 April 1999,

1. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, particularly resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel should rescind forthwith its decision;

2. Also calls upon Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and emphasizes that the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan must be allowed to return to their homes and to recover their properties;

3. Further calls upon Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and to desist from its repressive measures against them, and from all other practices mentioned in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

4. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and have no legal effect;

5. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, as a matter of high priority, the item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine".

52nd meeting

17 April 2000

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 31 votes, to 1,
with 19 absentions. See chap. VIII]

2000/8. Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories

The Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

Mindful that Israel is a party to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to Palestinian and all Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling its previous resolutions, most recently resolution 1999/7 of 23 April 1999, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories,

1. Welcomes:

(a) The Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum of 4 September 1999, while noting with concern the delays in its implementation, and calls for the full implementation of the Memorandum, as well as of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 28 September 1995 and other related agreements;

(b) The report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (E/CN.4/2000/25) and hopes that the Government of Israel will cooperate with the Special Rapporteur to allow him fully to discharge his mandate;

2. Expresses its grave concern:

(a) At the continuing Israeli settlement activities, in spite of the Government's moratorium on new construction permits, including the expansion of the settlements, the installation of settlers in the occupied territories, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation of property, the expulsion of local residents and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, since all these actions are illegal, constitute a violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and are a major obstacle to peace;

(b) At and strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, whilst calling upon all parties not to allow any acts of terrorism to affect the ongoing peace process negatively;

3. Urges the Government of Israel:

(a) To comply fully with the previous Commission resolutions on the subject, most recently resolution 1999/7 of 23 April 1999;

(b) To match its stated commitment to the peace process with concrete actions to fulfil its obligations and cease completely its policy of expanding the settlements and related activities in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem;

(c) To forgo and prevent any new installation of settlers in the occupied territories;

4. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-seventh session.

52nd meeting
17 April 2000

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 50 votes, to 1,
with 1 absention. See chap. VIII]

- 2000/9. Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles relating to economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including resolution 1998/33 of 17 April 1998, in which it decided, inter alia as part of its efforts to impart a higher visibility to economic, social and cultural rights, to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate would focus on the right to education,

Taking note with interest of ongoing new approaches to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and considering that to ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the removal of obstacles thereto at all levels, additional approaches should be examined,

I.

1. Notes with interest:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1999/25 of 26 April 1999 (E/CN.4/2000/47), the report submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993 (E/1999/96), the report of the High Commissioner on the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/CN.4/2000/49), as well as all other relevant reports of the High Commissioner on economic, social and cultural rights and activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in that regard;

(b) The unanimous adoption by the International Labour Conference, in July 1999, of Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour;

(c) The work carried out by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the assistance given to States parties in the fulfilment of their obligations through its general comments No. 11 on plans of action for primary education, No. 12 on the right to adequate food, and No. 13 on the right to education;

(d) The work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of children;

(e) The convening in March 1999 by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of an expert group meeting on practical aspects of the human right to adequate housing, which recommended, inter alia, the appointment of a special rapporteur on housing rights;

(f) Efforts of the High Commissioner for Human Rights within the United Nations Development Group to promote economic, social and cultural rights;

(g) The elaboration of training programmes in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop in-house expertise in incorporating economic, social and cultural rights in technical cooperation projects, and the inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights aspects in the Office's manuals and methodological materials for technical cooperation programmes and field activities;

2. Welcomes ongoing efforts by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly towards a coordinated follow-up to relevant United Nations world conferences and summits, notably the World Food Summit held in Rome in 1996, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Istanbul in 1996, the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994 and the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, which should provide a framework for setting goals, outlining new approaches and developing supportive partnerships for the promotion and protection of all human rights, notably economic, social and cultural rights;

3. Reaffirms:

(a) That, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his or her economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his or her civil and political rights;

(b) The inextricable link between full respect for the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the process of development, the central purpose of which is the realization of the potentialities of the human person with the effective participation of all members of society in relevant decision-making processes as agents and beneficiaries of development, as well as with a fair distribution of its benefits;

(c) That all persons in all countries are entitled to the realization of their economic, social and cultural rights, which are indispensable to their dignity and the free development of their personality;

(d) The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and that promoting and protecting one category of rights should therefore never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of other rights;

(e) The importance of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights;

(f) That the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and particularly economic, social and cultural rights, is a dynamic process and that, as is evident in today's world, a great deal remains to be accomplished;

4. Calls upon all States:

(a) To give full effect to economic, social and cultural rights;

(b) To consider signing and ratifying, and the States parties to implement, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) To consider ratifying, as soon as possible, and the States parties to fully implement the Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization;

(d) To guarantee that economic, social and cultural rights will be exercised without discrimination of any kind;

(e) To secure progressively, through national development policies and with international assistance and cooperation, full realization of economic, social and cultural rights, giving particular attention to the individuals, most often women and children, especially girls, and communities living in extreme poverty and therefore most vulnerable and disadvantaged;

(f) To consider in this context, as appropriate, the desirability of drawing up national action plans identifying steps to improve the situation of human rights in general with specific benchmarks designed to give effect to minimum essential levels of enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;

(g) To help alleviate the unsustainable external debt burden of countries that meet the criteria of the highly indebted poor countries initiative, which should further strengthen the efforts of the Governments of these countries to realize economic, social and cultural rights, inter alia through the development and implementation of programmes such as the “Bolsa Escola” programme in Brazil, as well as the prevention of the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa and the reconstruction of countries affected by natural disasters;

(h) To promote the effective and wide participation of representatives of civil society in decision-making processes related to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights;

5. Calls upon States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

(a) To submit their reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in a regular and timely manner;

(b) To promote a concerted national effort to ensure the participation of representatives of all sectors of civil society in the process of preparation of their periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) To withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Covenant and to consider reviewing other reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

6. Recalls that international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social and cultural character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is one of the purposes of the United Nations and affirms that wider international cooperation would contribute to lasting progress in implementing economic, social and cultural rights;

7. Decides:

(a) To encourage the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to continue its efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights at the national and international levels and the full realization of specific rights, notably through the drafting of

further general comments, thus making the experience gained so far through the examination of States parties' reports available for the benefit of all States parties in order to assist and promote their further implementation of the Covenant;

(b) To request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to invite all States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations which have not yet done so to submit their comments on the report by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on a draft optional protocol for the consideration of communications in relation to the Covenant (E/CN.4/1997/105, annex), as well as to invite all States to submit their comments on the options relating to the proposal for a draft optional protocol, contained in her report on the draft optional protocol (E/CN.4/2000/49), or to propose any other option that would be conducive to a substantive dialogue, giving due regard to the respective roles of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

(c) To appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate will focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as reflected in article 25, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 11, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and article 27, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and on the right to non-discrimination as reflected in article 14 (h) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and article 5 (e) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(d) To request the Special Rapporteur, in the fulfilment of her/his mandate:

(i) To report on the status, throughout the world, of the realization of the rights that are relevant to the mandate, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant instrument, and on developments relating to these rights, including on laws, policies and good practices most beneficial to their enjoyment and difficulties and obstacles encountered domestically and internationally, taking into account information received from Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations;

- (ii) To promote, as appropriate, cooperation among and assistance to Governments in their efforts to secure these rights;
 - (iii) To apply a gender perspective in her/his work;
 - (iv) To develop a regular dialogue and discuss possible areas of collaboration with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international organizations in the field of housing rights, inter alia the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, and to make recommendations on the realization of the rights relevant to the mandate;
 - (v) To identify possible types and sources of financing for relevant advisory services and technical cooperation;
 - (vi) To facilitate, where appropriate, the inclusion of issues relating to the mandate in relevant United Nations missions, field presences and national offices;
 - (vii) To submit to the Commission on Human Rights an annual report covering the activities relating to the mandate;
- (e) To request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;
- (f) To encourage the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the research and analytical capacities of her Office in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, and to share her expertise, inter alia through the holding of expert meetings;
- (g) To encourage the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to ensure better support for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular under the programme of action to strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1997/22-E/C.12/1996/6, annex VII) adopted by the Committee at its fifteenth session;
- (h) To encourage the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide or to facilitate practical support aimed at building capacities for the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights;
- (i) To support the efforts carried out by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement the proposed programme of action designed to enhance the ability of the Committee

on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to assist interested Governments in their reporting obligations and its capacity to process and follow up the examination of States parties' reports and, accordingly, to request States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to make voluntary financial contributions to ensure the adequate implementation of that programme of action;

II.

8. Notes with interest:

(a) The report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (E/CN.4/ 2000/6 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr.1);

(b) The work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the promotion of the right to education;

(c) The established cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

(d) The established dialogue with the World Bank to promote the right to education in its strategies;

9. Welcomes:

(a) The focus given by the Special Rapporteur to the identification of obstacles to the realization of the right to education at the domestic and international levels, to the mainstreaming of gender and to the legal enforcement of the right to education;

(b) The convening of the World Education Forum (in Dakar from 26 to 28 April 2000, which constitutes the follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All), which should provide a framework for setting goals, outlining new approaches and developing supportive partnerships and reaffirm the need for primary education to be universal, compulsory and free of charge;

10. Invites the Special Rapporteur to continue to work in accordance with her mandate and notably to intensify her efforts to identify ways and means to overcome obstacles and difficulties in the realization of the right to education, notably through international cooperation;

11. Calls upon all States:

(a) To give full effect to the right to education;

(b) To guarantee that the right to education will be exercised without discrimination of any kind;

(c) To cooperate with the Special Rapporteur;

12. Decides:

(a) To request the Special Rapporteur on the right to education to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session;

(b) To reiterate its request to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize in 2001, the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a workshop to identify progressive developmental benchmarks and indicators related to the right to education, as set out in paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 1999/25 to 26 April 1999;

(c) To reiterate its invitation to the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to develop a regular dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and to submit to the Commission on Human Rights information pertaining to their activities in promoting primary education, with specific reference to women and children, particularly girls,

13. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur on the right to education with all the assistance necessary for the execution of the mandate.

III.

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

15. Recommends the following draft decision to the Economic and Social Council for adoption:

“The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/... of ... April 2000, endorses the Commission's decision to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate will focus on aspects related to the right to adequate housing contained in the right to an adequate standard of living as reflected, inter alia in article 25, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, article 11, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 14 (h) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, article 27, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights

of the Child and article 5 (e) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, including the questions of secure tenure and forced evictions (housing rights). The Council also endorses the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur."

52nd meeting
17 April 2000

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. X.]

2000/10. The right to food

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her/his health and well-being, including food,

Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Recalling further the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

Recalling all its previous resolutions in this regard, in particular resolution 1999/24 of 26 April 1999,

Recognizing that the problem of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions and that they are likely to persist and even to increase dramatically in some regions, unless urgent, determined and concerted action is taken, given the anticipated increase in the world's population and the stress on natural resources,

Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, both at a national and an international level, is the essential foundation which will enable States to give adequate priority to food security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as did the Rome Declaration, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international

cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations which endanger food security,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies, where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Stressing the importance of reversing the continuing decline of official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

1. Reaffirms that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and, therefore, requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;
2. Also reaffirms the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger so as to be able fully to develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities;
3. Considers intolerable that 825 million people, most of them women and children, throughout the world and particularly in developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs, which infringes their fundamental human rights and at the same time can generate additional pressures upon the environment in ecologically fragile areas;
4. Stresses the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;
5. Encourages all States to take steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and as soon as possible enjoy fully the right to food;

6. Takes note with interest of the updated study on the right to adequate food and to be free from hunger submitted by Mr. Asbjørn Eide to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in accordance with Sub-Commission decision 1998/106 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/12);

7. Also takes note with interest of the report submitted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to food, in accordance with Commission resolution 1999/24 (E/CN.4/2000/48 and Add. 1);

8. Welcomes the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 of 11 May 1999 relating to article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the international Bill of Human Rights and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

9. Recommends that the High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a third expert consultation on the right to food, following those held in 1997 and 1998, this time with a focus on implementation mechanisms at country level, inviting experts from all regions to share their experience;

10. Decides, in order to respond fully to the necessity for an integrated and coordinated approach in the promotion and protection of the right to food, to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur, whose mandate will focus on the right to food;

11. Requests the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, in the fulfilment of her/his mandate, to accomplish the following main activities:

(a) To seek, receive and respond to information on all aspects of the realization of the right to food, including the urgent necessity of eradicating hunger;

(b) To establish cooperation with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations on the promotion and effective implementation of the right to food, and to make appropriate recommendations on the realization thereof, taking into consideration the work already done in this field throughout the United Nations system;

- (c) To identify emerging issues related to the right to food worldwide;
12. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all necessary human and financial resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food;
13. Requests the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session;
14. Requests Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of her/his mandate, inter alia through the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food.

52nd meeting
17 April 2000

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 49 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.
See chap. X.]

2000/11. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32, which declares that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Recalling its resolution 1999/21 of 23 April 1999 and noting General Assembly resolution 54/172 of 17 December 1999,

Taking note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (E/CN.4/2000/46 and Add.1),

Recognizing and reiterating the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights and, in this regard, reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Expressing its concern about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures in the field of international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights called upon States to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights,

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this issue by the General Assembly and United Nations conferences and contrary to general international law and the Charter of the United Nations, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented with all their negative implications for the social-humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

1. Urges all States to refrain from adopting or implementing unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. Invites all States to consider adopting administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, when necessary, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

3. Rejects the application of such measures as tools for political or economic pressure against any country, particularly against developing countries, because of their negative effects on the realization of all human rights of vast sectors of their populations, inter alia children, women, the elderly, disabled and ill people;

4. Calls upon Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the declarations of the

United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by revoking such measures at the earliest possible time;

5. Reaffirms, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

6. Also reaffirms that essential goods such as food and medicines should not be used as tools for political coercion, and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of substance and development;

7. Underlines that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and, in this regard, calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws which run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries, as recognized by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Right to Development in its last report;

8. Invites the new open-ended working group on the right to development, which will meet after the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, to give due consideration to the question of human rights and the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures;

9. Invites all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Commission in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

10. Decides to give due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

11. Requests:

(a) The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions in relation to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development, to pay due attention and give urgent consideration to the present resolution;

(b) The Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and to seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations, and to submit a report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session;

12. Decides to examine this question, on a priority basis, at its fifty-seventh session under the same agenda item.

52nd meeting
17 April 2000

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 36 votes to 9,
with 7 abstentions. See chap. X.]

2000/12. Human rights and extreme poverty

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights recognize that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his or her economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his or her civil and political rights,

Recalling in particular that article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control,

Recalling also that the eradication of widespread poverty, including its most persistent forms, and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights remain interrelated goals,

Deeply concerned that, 52 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, extreme poverty continues to spread in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and manifestations, such as hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness are particularly severe in developing countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23),

Recalling in particular that the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that least developed countries committed to the process of democratization and economic reforms, many of which are in Africa, should be supported by the international community in order to succeed in their transition to democracy and economic development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995, in which the Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first Decade (A/54/316),

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 53/146 of 9 December 1998, on human rights and extreme poverty, in which the Assembly recalls that the mandate of the independent expert shall include to continue to take into account the efforts of the poorest people themselves and the conditions in which they can convey their experiences,

Welcoming the Declaration of the Microcredit Summit, held in Washington, D.C., in 1997, which launched a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially women, with credit for self-employment by the year 2005,

Stressing that, in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, Governments committed themselves to endeavouring to ensure that all men and women, especially those living in poverty, could exercise the rights, utilize the resources and share the responsibilities that would enable them to lead satisfying lives and to contribute to the well-being of their families, their communities and humankind and committed themselves to the goal of eradicating poverty throughout the world through national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on women's real enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to the elimination of poverty, economic development and economic resources (E/CN.4/1998/22-E/CN.6/1998/11),

Noting with satisfaction the progress report submitted by the independent expert in accordance with Commission resolution 1999/26 (E/CN.4/2000/52) and the recommendations contained therein,

1. Reaffirms:

(a) That extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

(b) That the right to life includes within its existence in human dignity with the minimum necessities of life;

(c) That it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the societies in which they live, in the realization of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty and for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups to be empowered to organize themselves and to participate in all aspects of political, economic and social life, particularly the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development;

(d) That the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

(e) That, for peace and stability to endure, national action and international action and cooperation are required to promote a better life for all in larger freedom, a critical element of which is the eradication of poverty;

(f) That, according to the observations contained in the reports submitted by the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty (E/CN.4/1999/48 and E/CN.4/2000/52), the lack of political commitment, not financial resources, is the real obstacle to the eradication of poverty;

(g) That special attention must be given to the plight of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of extreme poverty;

2. Recalls:

(a) That the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development provide the substantive framework for eradicating poverty by setting specific targets, drawing up plans and implementing programmes;

(b) That, to ensure the protection of the rights of all individuals, non-discrimination towards the poorest and the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, a better understanding is needed of what is endured by people living in poverty, including women and children, and that thought must be given to the subject, drawing on the experience and ideas of the poorest themselves and of those committed to working alongside them;

(c) That, in its resolution 1997/11 of 3 April 1997, it requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give high priority to the question of human rights and extreme poverty, to ensure better cooperation between the institutions and bodies involved, regularly to inform the General Assembly of the evolution of the question and to submit specific information on this question at events such as the special session of the General Assembly devoted to conclusions of the World Summit for Social Development, scheduled for 2000, and the evaluation, at the halfway point in 2000 and the end-point in 2007, of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

(d) That, in her report of 11 September 1998 to the General Assembly on the mid-term evaluation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/53/372, annex), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights proposes that the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly should work jointly to implement the right to development by focusing on the elimination of poverty, with particular emphasis placed on basic security, which is necessary to enable individuals and families to enjoy fundamental rights and assume basic responsibilities;

3. Welcomes the increasing number of events associated with the celebration, on 17 October of each year, of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the opportunity which these events provide to people and populations living in extreme poverty to make their voices heard;

4. Expresses its appreciation:

(a) That an integrated approach is being followed by the United Nations system in addressing the question of extreme poverty;

(b) That the international financial institutions have developed new policies strengthening the human and social dimension of their action;

(c) For the initiatives taken in many countries by national education authorities to raise awareness among all children and young people of the existence of extreme poverty and the urgent need for united action to enable the poorest people to regain their rights;

5. Calls upon:

(a) The General Assembly, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations to take into account the contradiction between the existence of situations of extreme poverty and exclusion from society, which must be overcome, and the duty to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights;

(b) States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to take into account, in the activities to be undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the links between human rights and extreme poverty, as well as efforts to empower people living in poverty to participate in decision-making processes on policies that affect them;

(c) The United Nations to strengthen poverty eradication as a priority throughout the United Nations system;

6. Invites:

(a) The treaty bodies monitoring the application of human rights instruments, especially the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to take into account, when considering the reports of States parties, the question of extreme poverty and human rights;

(b) States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit to the Secretary-General, by the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, their views and comments on the recommendations contained in the report of the independent expert;

(c) The Working Group on the Right to Development, in its deliberations, to take into account the report of the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty;

7. Decides to renew, for a period of two years, the mandate of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty:

(a) To evaluate the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and the eradication of extreme poverty, including through the identification of national and international good practices;

(b) To hold consultations, including during her visits, with the poorest people and the communities in which they live, on means of developing their capacity to express their views and to organize themselves and to involve national human rights bodies in this exercise;

(c) To consider strategies to overcome extreme poverty and the social impact of those strategies;

(d) To continue her cooperation with the international financial institutions, with a view to identifying the best programmes for combating extreme poverty;

(e) To contribute to the mid-term evaluation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, scheduled for 2002;

(f) To report on her activities to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions and to make those reports available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, for their sessions during the same years;

8. Requests:

(a) The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize, before the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, a seminar to consider the need to develop a draft declaration on extreme poverty and, if appropriate, to identify its specific points. In view of the need to take into account work undertaken elsewhere, an invitation to this seminar should be extended to government representatives and experts of the United Nations specialized agencies, the United Nations funds and programmes, the relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the regional economic commissions, the international financial institutions, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and interested non-governmental organizations;

(b) The Secretary-General to support this initiative;

9. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-seventh session under the same agenda item;

10. Recommends the following draft decision to the Economic and Social Council:

“The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/... of ... April 2000, endorses the Commission’s decision to renew, for a period of two years, the mandate of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty:

“(a) To evaluate the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and the eradication of extreme poverty, including through the identification of national and international good practices;

“(b) To hold consultations, including during her visits, with the poorest people and the communities in which they live, on means of developing their capacity to express their views and to organize themselves and to involve national human rights institutions in this exercise;

“(c) To consider strategies to overcome extreme poverty and the social impact of those strategies;

“(d) To continue her cooperation with the international financial institutions, with the view to identifying the best programmes for combating extreme poverty;

“(e) To contribute to the mid-term evaluation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, scheduled for 2002;

“(f) To report on her activities to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions and to make those reports available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, for their sessions during the same years.”

52nd meeting
17 April 2000

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. X.]

2000/13. Women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Habitat Agenda of the World Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Reaffirming the human right to be free from discrimination and the equal right of women and men to the enjoyment of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as stipulated, inter alia, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling resolution 42/1 of the Commission on the Status of Women of 13 March 1998,

Recalling also resolutions 1999/15 of 25 August 1999, 1998/15 of 20 August 1998 and 1997/19 of 27 August 1997 of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,¹

Recognizing that laws, policies, customs and traditions that restrict women's equal access to credit and loans also prevent women from owning and inheriting land, property and housing and exclude women from participating fully in development processes, are discriminatory and may contribute to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of life is essential for the full and complete development of a country,

Stressing that the impact of gender-based discrimination and violence against women on women's equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing is acute, particularly during complex emergency situations, reconstruction and rehabilitation,

Convinced that international, regional and local trade, finance and investment policies should be designed in such a way that they do not increase gender inequality in terms of ownership of, and access to, and control over land and the rights to own property and to adequate housing and other productive resources and undermine women's capacity to acquire and retain these resources,

Mindful of the fact that elimination of discrimination against women requires consideration of women's specific socio-economic context,

1. Affirms that discrimination in law against women with respect to acquiring and securing land, property and housing, as well as financing for land, property and housing, constitutes a violation of women's human right to protection against discrimination;
2. Reaffirms women's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
3. Also reaffirms the obligations of States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;

¹ Formerly known as "the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities".

4. Urges Governments to comply fully with their international and regional obligations and commitments concerning land tenure and the equal rights of women to own property and to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing;

5. Reaffirms Commission on the Status of Women resolution 42/1 which, inter alia, urges States to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, and the right to adequate housing, including through the right to inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, access to markets and information;

6. Encourages Governments to support the transformation of customs and traditions that discriminate against women and deny women security of tenure and equal ownership of, access to and control over land and equal rights to own property and to adequate housing and to ensure the right of women to equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes and in ownership of property and in adequate housing and to take other measures to increase land and housing availability to women living in poverty, particularly female heads of households;

7. Also encourages Governments, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, international agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide judges, lawyers, political and other public officials, community leaders and other concerned persons, as appropriate, with information and human rights education concerning women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing;

8. Recommends that Governments encourage financial lending institutions to ensure that their policies and practices do not discriminate against women;

9. Also recommends that international financial institutions, regional, national and local housing financing institutions and other credit facilities promote the participation of women and take into account their views to remove discriminatory policies and practices, giving special consideration to single women and households headed by women, and that these institutions evaluate and measure progress to this end;

10. Invites the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to encourage all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to undertake further initiatives that promote women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing, and allocate further resources for studying and documenting the impact of complex emergency situations, particularly with respect to women's equal rights to own land, property and adequate housing;

11. Invites the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant international organizations to address discrimination against women with respect to land, property and adequate housing in their technical cooperation programmes and field activities;

12. Encourages all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights regularly and systematically to take a gender perspective into account in the implementation of their mandates, including taking into account the present resolution;

13. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take into account the contents of the present resolution in the development of the mandate of the United Nations housing rights programme;

14. Decides to consider the issue of women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing at its fifty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Economic, social and cultural rights".

52nd meeting
17 April 2000

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. X.]
