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

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1998/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.4/1998/L.11 and addenda.

XVI. RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR
ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

1. The Commission considered agenda item 16 concurrently with items 11 and 18 (see chaps. XI and XVIII) at its 21st to 24th meetings, from 27 March to 31 March, and at its 38th to 40th meetings, on 9 April 1998. 1/
2. For the documents issued under agenda item 16, see annex IV to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.
3. In the general debate on agenda item 16, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Austria (24th), Bangladesh (24th), China (24th), India (22nd), Pakistan (24th), Poland (22nd), Republic of Korea (22nd), Russian Federation (22nd), Sri Lanka (22nd), Sudan (24th), Ukraine (23rd).
4. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Cameroon (24th), Ethiopia (23rd), Finland (22nd), Hungary (22nd), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (24th), Latvia (24th), Lithuania (24th), Norway (22nd), Romania (23rd), Slovakia (23rd). The observer for Switzerland also made a statement (22nd).
5. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (23rd), African Association of Education for Development (24th), Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (24th), Aliran Kesedaran Negara-National Consciousness Movement (21st), American Association of Jurists (21st), European Union of Public Relations (23rd), Franciscans International (23rd), Fraternité Notre-Dame (22nd), Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation (22nd), International Educational Development (21st), International Federation of Free Journalists (24th), International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (joint statement with World Society of Victimology) (24th), International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies (23rd), International Peace Bureau (23rd), International Progress Organization (24th), Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees (24th), Minority Rights Group (22nd), Pax Romana (21st), Society for Threatened Peoples (23rd), Transnational Radical Party (23rd), World Muslim Congress (24th).

6. Statements in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent were made by the representative of Pakistan (24th) and the observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (24th).

Situation of human rights in Latvia

7. At the 38th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the representative of the Russian Federation withdrew draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.32.

8. At the 40th meeting, a statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of Poland.

Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

9. At the 38th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.33, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Afghanistan, Andorra, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Sweden and Uruguay subsequently joined the sponsors.

10. Operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution were orally revised by the representative of Austria.

11. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of Bangladesh.

12. At the request of the representatives of Austria and Bangladesh, consideration of the draft resolution was postponed.

13. At its 39th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the Commission resumed consideration of draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.33.

14. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Austria and Bangladesh.

15. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implication 3/ of the draft resolution.

16. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/19.

17. In view of the adoption of resolution 1998/19, the Commission took no action on draft decision 4 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

Tolerance and pluralism as indivisible elements in the promotion and protection of human rights

18. At the 38th meeting, on 9 April, the Commission decided to postpone consideration of draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.25.

19. At the 39th meeting, on 9 April, the representative of India introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.25, sponsored by Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Algeria, Armenia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Malaysia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Ukraine subsequently joined the sponsors.

20. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan introduced proposed amendments to draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.25 (E/CN.4/1998/L.38).

21. A statement in connection with the proposed amendments (E/CN.4/1998/L.38) was made by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

22. At the request of the representatives of Brazil, Malaysia and Mexico, consideration of the draft resolution was postponed.

23. At the 40th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the Commission resumed consideration of draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.25 and the proposed amendments thereto (E/CN.4/1998/L.38).

24. The first and fourth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraph 2 (b) of the draft resolution were orally revised by the representative of India.

25. Following the revisions made by the representative of India, the proposed amendments (E/CN.4/1998/L.38) were withdrawn by the representative of Pakistan.

26. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/21.
