COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Third session

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PREAMBLE

The Committee on the Preamble, composed of the officers of the Commission on Human Rights, proposes the following text:

WHEREAS recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, and

WHEREAS ignorance and contempt for human rights resulted, before and during the Second World War, in barbarous acts which outraged the conscience of mankind and made it apparent to all that the fundamental freedoms were the supreme issue of the conflict, and

WHEREAS it is essential, if mankind is not to be compelled as a last resort to rebel against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by a regime of law, and

WHEREAS the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, and

WHEREAS the Members of the United Nations are pledged to achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all (without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion), and

WHEREAS this pledge can be fulfilled only through a common understanding of the nature of these rights and freedoms,

NOW THEREFORE the General Assembly

RECOGNIZES in the following solemn Declaration the rights and freedoms which, being essential for the dignity and worth of the human person, should form a common standard of achievement for all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, national and international, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance.

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