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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

**Albania*, Australia, Austria*, Bulgaria*, Canada, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia*,
Cyprus*, Denmark*, Germany, Greece*, Honduras, Ireland, Israel*, Italy,
Japan, Latvia*, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*, Malta*, Nigeria, Peru, Poland*,
Portugal*, Republic of Moldova*, Romania, San Marino*, Slovenia*, Spain*,
Switzerland*, Thailand*, Timor-Leste*, Venezuela*: draft resolution**

**2005/... The development of public information activities in the field
of human rights, including the World Public Information
Campaign on Human Rights**

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 2003/62 of 24 April 2003,

Reaffirming that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights are essential to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the United Nations set out in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, education and information are essential to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955, in which the Assembly established the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights with a view to supporting, inter alia, national capacities for human rights education and public information,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, by which the Assembly launched the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, and other Assembly resolutions and its own resolutions on this subject,

Noting General Assembly resolution 59/113 of 10 December 2004, in which the Assembly proclaimed the World Programme for Human Rights Education, structured in consecutive phases, to begin on 1 January 2005, in order to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors,

Mindful of the fact that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with her mandate as established by General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, is responsible, inter alia, for the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation at the request of States, as well as for the coordination of United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights,

Recognizing the significant effect of United Nations initiatives on public information activities in the field of human rights, in particular those undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, particularly its field offices, and by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, and recognizing also the key role that United Nations country teams can play in this regard,

Welcoming the increased efforts undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner to disseminate human rights information through its web site (<http://www.ohchr.org>), its publications and its external relations programmes, and welcoming also the efforts of the Department of Public Information with respect to the provision of computer-accessible information on human rights,

Noting the valuable role that non-governmental organizations can play in this endeavour,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2005/92);
2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on progress made towards the implementation of Commission resolution 2004/71 on the follow-up to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), including the proclamation of the World Programme on Human Rights Education (E/CN.4/2005/98);
3. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within existing overall United Nations resources, through its programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, and other international and regional intergovernmental organizations to develop targeted training manuals for professional audiences, as well as training programmes and handbooks for human rights field officers and for human rights field monitors, and to continue to support, inter alia, national capacities for human rights education and public information, with specific attention to women's human rights;
4. *Urges* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, to continue, within existing overall United Nations resources, to utilize fully and effectively the United Nations information centres, including the United Nations regional information centres, and United Nations field presences, particularly those of the Office of the High Commissioner, for the purpose of disseminating, within their designated areas of activity, basic information and reference materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms in the official languages of the United Nations and in the relevant national and local languages;
5. *Stresses* the importance of an effective and comprehensive international strategy to increase public awareness of human rights through the media and, in particular, to improve effective media strategies;

6. *Welcomes* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society with the aim of better promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

7. *Calls upon* Governments, in accordance with their national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination in their relevant national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, as well as reports of States parties under the human rights treaties, and to provide training, education and information in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures may be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments;

8. *Invites* all Governments to consider the revised draft plan of action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/59/525/Rev.1) with a view to its prompt adoption by the General Assembly and subsequent dissemination and implementation, inter alia through public information activities, in consultation with national human rights institutions and relevant non-governmental organizations, as well as with the assistance of relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and other international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

9. *Encourages* Governments to contribute to the further development of the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in particular with respect to the dissemination of human rights education and training materials and tools, and to continue to favour the expansion, within existing overall United Nations resources, of public information activities of the Office;

10. *Also encourages* Governments, regional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to explore the potential support and contribution to human rights education and public information by all relevant partners, including the private sector, development, trade and financial institutions and the media, and to seek their cooperation in the development of human rights education and public information strategies;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available adequate resources from within the regular budget of the United Nations in order to allow the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information to implement fully their respective programmes;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit, from within existing overall United Nations resources, to the Commission at its sixty-third session a report on public information activities in the field of human rights, including those undertaken by relevant United Nations field presences, particularly those of the Office of the High Commissioner;

13. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixty-third session under the same agenda item, in connection with the World Programme for Human Rights Education.
