



لتظلّ الشعلة وهاجّة - 保持火焰永不熄灭

Entretenons la flamme - Keep the flame alive - Не дать огню погаснуть

Que no se apague la llama

21st plenary meeting, 25th of June 1993

World Conference on Human Rights

Vienna, 14-25 June 1993

21st plenary meeting, 24th of June 1993

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The term “indigenous peoples” is used throughout these records of the plenary meetings of Conference.

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Agenda Item 9. General debate on the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on the identification of obstacles to further the progress in this area and ways in which they can be overcome.

Agenda Item 10. Consideration of the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of all human rights, keeping in view the interrelationship and indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

Agenda Item 11. Consideration of contemporary trends and new challenges to the full realization of all human rights of women and men, including those of persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

Agenda Item 12. Recommendations for: (a) Strengthening international cooperation in the field of human rights in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with international human rights instruments; (b) Ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues; (c) Enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations activities and mechanisms; (d) Securing the necessary financial and other resources for United Nations activities in the area of human rights.

MOCK, Alois (President):

I am reopening the 21st meeting of the UN World Conference on Human Rights. The 21st meeting of the plenary, means this morning's meeting of the Conference, will continue and conclude its general debate. In view of the very long list of non-governmental organizations scheduled to address the Conference as reflected in today's journal, I strongly urge all speakers to be as brief as possible in order to allow as many NGOs as possible to make their statements before the Conference. I draw attention to the note in today's journal and appeal to all concerned to apply not only brevity but also consideration for those listed who have not had yet the opportunity to address the Conference.

I have been asked by the World Society of Victimology, Zvonimir Separovic, to bring to the attention of the Conference an urgent appeal by the Croatians from the Croatian Krajina and East and West Slavonia who have been driven from their homes. The appeal has been distributed to all delegations.

I should also like to inform the Conference that a group of Croatian artists presented to me as President of the World Conference sculptures of Emperor Ashoka and Austrian Peace Nobel laureate Bertha von Stuttner. I thank the artists for promoting human rights through their artistic work and assured them that I would bring their generous gifts to the attention of the Conference.

I now give the floor to the first speaker, the representative of Bahai International Community. You have the floor.

ALA'I, Diane (Bahai International Community):

Keywords: RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE - EDUCATION - RELIGIOUS FREEDOM - TREATIES

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This statement is made on behalf of fifteen non-governmental organizations.

Religious intolerance has led and continues to lead to some of the most degrading violations of human rights. These violations aggravate historic mistrust and severely threaten regional and international security.

Recognizing the divisive effect of religious intolerance, the United Nations has sought to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief address these concerns. The World Conference on Human Rights provides a unique opportunity to review our progress and evaluate the effectiveness of United Nations human rights instruments in ensuring freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief around the world.

It is significant that the World Conference on Human Rights is being held in 1993. This year marks not only the 25th anniversary of the 1968 Conference on Human Rights held in Teheran but also the 100th anniversary of the World's Parliament of Religions, which was held in Chicago in 1893 and marked the beginning of an era of greater cooperation among religious leaders. It is also worth noting that religious non-governmental organizations are working with the United Nations Economic and Social Council to prepare for the celebration in 1995 of the International Year of Tolerance.

Those of us associated with the Non-governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief and participating in the World Conference on Human Rights firmly believe that religion need not be a source of division in the world. On the contrary, we believe that religion is the principal means by which religious intolerance can be permanently eliminated.

The principles underlying any solution to religious intolerance may be found in the teachings of all religions and in all spiritual traditions in the world. We are, therefore, convinced that religious communities have a special responsibility because of their own teachings to work toward dissolving divisions, ending conflicts and establishing security so that fear can be gradually replaced by trust.

The scriptures and spiritual traditions of each religion attest both to a common human heritage and to the responsibility of each individual to pursue his/her own spiritual course. The universality of the need for religious expression is itself a sign of the transcendent character of humanity and a proof of oneness. That this desire for transcendence finds expression in all languages, nations and cultures demonstrates the principle of unity in diversity. Affirmation of both the oneness and the particularity of humankind is critical to peace and cooperation in our global society. All religions teach love, and all religions are intended to promote the wellbeing of the human family. Intolerance runs counter to the law of love and hinders the common good.

If tolerance is rooted in love, intolerance is often rooted in the cultural and historical antagonisms associated with religious traditions. Because antagonisms are often born of ignorance and limited understanding, education can reveal the common spiritual values underlying various beliefs and practices and can, thereby, foster religious tolerance.

The role of the individual in promoting tolerance is of paramount importance. Legal mechanisms alone will not end religious intolerance as long as people believe that differences in religious beliefs and practices are legitimate grounds for discrimination. Therefore, education programmes must be

aimed not only at providing accurate information and correcting misconceptions but at identifying those principles and values that will open both minds and hearts.

It is proposed, therefore, that education seeks to foster not just tolerance of religious diversity but genuine appreciation of various beliefs. Curriculum must include not only study of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief but the comparative study of various scriptures and spiritual traditions. Such an exploration if undertaken with an open mind will doubtless reveal remarkable similarities among religious teachings on ethical matters. The discovery of a common thread of shared values will help to instill in individuals an appreciation for the Declaration and demonstrate its necessity.

Nation-states also have a responsibility to promote religious tolerance and cooperation. We urge those gathered at the World Conference on Human Rights to recognize the urgent need to address conflicts, discrimination, abuses and violence arising from religious intolerance and to make use of the resources available including the United Nations human rights instruments. In order to become truly effective these instruments require both the political will of governments and the resources, energy and good will of non-governmental organizations. Negative experiences of the past, which have roots in religious differences, should be recalled and acknowledged, but the cycle of retribution must be broken if there is ever to be peace. We must work diligently for reconciliation.

We, the co-sponsors of this statement, recognize the substantial progress which has been made by the Human Rights Committee in drafting the General Comment on Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We urge that serious attention be given to securing effective responses to this General Comment by all States Parties to the International Covenant.

We also recognize the valuable contributions made by the Special Rapporteur on Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief appointed by United Nations Commission on Human Rights. We urge the continuation and strengthening of this work paying particular attention to his recommendation, repeated annually since 1986, that an International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief be drafted.

In conclusion, we commend all efforts by non-governmental organizations to publicize, alleviate and bring to an end the instances of intolerance and discrimination based on religions or belief. Through their cooperative efforts they demonstrate that people of different religious and spiritual traditions can work together for peace and justice in the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Change of President]

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

I thank the representative of Bahai International Community for her very thoughtful statement. May I now call upon the representative of Centre Luis Treire. The representative of Centre Luis Treire has the floor. We shall pass on to the next non-governmental organization. I call upon the representative of International Federation of Journalists. The representative of International Federation of Journalists has the floor. The representative of International Federation of Journalists is not here. I, therefore, call upon the representative of Korean Council for Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery. The representative of Korean Council for Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery. The next speaker is the representative of the Food First Action Network. The representative of FoodFirst Information and Action Network.

KOLTRINGER, Elisabeth (FoodFirst Information and Action Network):

I am here. Thank you for giving the floor to me. As our organization has a cross, I renounce to speak, but I would ask you to put me on the list against, if we see that any NGO speakers are absent. But first I would like to renounce to speak for the FoodFirst Information and Action Network to give place to others.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

Thank you very much. I would now call upon the representative of Habitat International Coalition. The representative of Habitat International Coalition.

KOLTRINGER, Elisabeth (Habitat International Coalition):

Keywords: FORCED EVICTIONS - ADEQUATE HOUSING - SPECIAL RAPORTEURS - ADVISORY SERVICES - STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT - INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Thank you for giving the floor to me.

Mr. President,

I want to introduce myself. My name is Elisabeth Koltringer. I speak for Habitat International Coalition. I will also try to be brief.

Unless the World Conference not only reaffirms UN commitments to economic, social and cultural rights but decides to greatly expand concrete activities concerning these rights, this Conference will, as so many other UN initiatives before it, end with little or no practical progress achieved.

The reality remains that NGOs working with the victims of abject violations of economic, social and cultural rights – the homeless, the poor, women, the disabled, those denied health care, the hungry, the dispossessed/displaced persons, refugees, the illiterate, landless laborers and so many others – have little or no faith that existing UN human rights mechanisms will protect these groups from further violations or prevent such infringements in the future.

How many governments really take their duties concerning economic, social and cultural rights seriously, to the extent that policy, law and practice uses such rights as a foundation for action? How many governments will acknowledge their failures to fulfil economic, social and cultural rights? And what of those governments which apply double-standards by making impassioned pleas for the right to development but which simultaneously violate the economic, social and cultural rights of their citizens with both impunity and total disregard to the people's needs and legal entitlements? The trend of States seeking the exclusive application of the right to development is most disturbing and should be rigorously questioned by the global community.

Habitat International Coalition would like to submit the following concrete and practical recommendations for further UN action and attention to economic, social and cultural rights, each of which we feel are realistic, feasible and fundamentally easy to achieve.

Concrete Recommendations**1. The Appointment of a Special Rapporteur on forced evictions.**

Resolution 1993/77 of the Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus at its 49th session unanimously reaffirmed that forced evictions constitute gross violations of human rights, in particular, the right to adequate housing. Given the growing prevalence of the phenomenon of forced evictions in

both the developing and the developed countries Habitat International Coalition has been calling for the appointment of a UN Special Rapporteur on forced evictions.

2. Serious consideration for the adoption of an international convention on housing rights.

One of the responsibilities of the UN Special Rapporteur on promoting the realization of the right to adequate housing, Mr. Rajindar Sachar, as outlined in the relevant resolutions, has been to examine the potential utility of adopting a new international instrument on housing rights.

3. Expanding the advisory services programme to more forcefully address economic, social and cultural rights.

The Advisory Services Programme has dedicated the vast majority of its efforts to activities exclusively concerning the protection of civil and political rights. In our view, the utility of this programme would be greatly increased were it to place more emphasis and devote a greater portion of its resources on activities concerning economic, social and cultural rights with a particular emphasis on assisting States in undertaking policy and legislative measures fully consistent with the law and which ensure the full realization of these rights.

4. Increasing staff of the Centre on Human Rights concerned with economic, social and cultural rights.

The current staffing levels within the Centre on Human Rights concerned with the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights is clearly inadequate for addressing the staggering level of non-fulfilment of these rights. The fact that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has effectively less than one full-time staff person is a case in point. Without a concerted attempt to increase staffing levels the Centre will continue to emphasize civil and political rights at the expense of economic, social and cultural rights.

5. Need for more Special Rapporteurs on economic, social and cultural rights.

One way in which the UN human rights programme can expand and concretize its work on economic, social and cultural rights is through the continued and expanded appointment of Special Rapporteurs on these rights. Following the lead of the Special Rapporteurs on the right to food and the right to adequate housing the appointment of more Rapporteurs especially at the level of the Sub-Commission should continue. The earlier work of Danilo Turk as Special Rapporteur on economic, social and cultural rights provides a solid foundation for future efforts along these lines.

6. The appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the human rights implications of income distribution.

The Sub-Commission has expanded its attention to the inherent relationship between enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the way in which the income is distributed both within and between States. A resolution adopted in 1992 indicates the Sub-Commission's will to seriously consider the appointment of a Special Rapporteur along these lines at its next session, something the World Conference should strongly endorse.

7. Guidelines on human rights and structural adjustment.

The abundance of material now available from across the world testifying to the adverse impact on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in countries that have adopted economic adjustment programmes is a cause for serious concern. The abject absence of human rights considerations both on the part of the World Bank and the IMF that have provided loans and insisted on conditionality for these programmes and respective governments makes it imperative that basic guidelines on the application of such programmes must be a matter of priority concern for the UN system. Various Sub-Commission and Commission on Human Rights resolutions have repeatedly requested the Centre on Human Rights to draft such guidelines, without result.

8. The last question – activities relating to the international financial institutions, World Bank and IMF.

World Bank and the IMF are both technically part of the UN family of institutions and are, therefore, be bound by the standards laid down by international instruments, though they routinely claim the contrary. These institutions have continued to ignore and consistently play down the human rights implications of their work. It is imperative that change be sought in this convenient attitude of these agencies.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

I thank the representative of the Habitat International Coalition for her statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the People's Union for Civil Liberties in India. The representative of the People's Union for Civil Liberties in India. You have the floor, Mr. Sachar.

SACHAR, Rajindar (People's Union for Civil Liberties in India):

Keywords: DEMOCRACY - POVERTY - INTERNATIONAL TRADE - MIGRATION -
STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT - CHILD LABOUR - ADEQUATE HOUSING

Thank you, Mr. President.

My name is Rajindar Sachar and I speak on behalf of the People's Union for Civil Liberties, a non-governmental organization, which had its birth in the baptism of fire. It was during 1976 emergency period aberration that PUCL was founded by late Shri Jaya Prakash Narain, one of the tallest Indians, a freedom fighter and a dedicated socialist.

In that short period of one year or so, the President of USA was able to boast that it was the largest democracy. But this boast was short lived, and India again became in 1977 and continues to be the largest democracy in the world. People in India are generous enough to concede that in this venture of restoring democracy the PUCL played a distinct role.

The proposed declaration will solemnly affirm that all UN covenants and standards apply to all people irrespective of social, cultural and religious traditions. In reality the dangerous growth of xenophobia and social discrimination is all set to envelop most of Europe and even to spread across. In that context the report by the Secretary General 1992/11 is most revealing.

In most parts of Europe the rise of neo-Nazi doctrine of social superiority is finding acceptance, coupled with the despicable acts of burning alive and destroying properties of the so-called foreigners, though they have been residing in that country for decades.

Immigration laws, which are being passed, will make immigrants already settled in the country as aliens. Law denying the most sacred of human rights and freedom of choice and privacy are being enacted by empowering the executive authorities to prevent or postpone marriages of consenting adults simply on the ground that either of them is a foreigner. One of the inhuman provision is the right to deny residency permits to the parents of a child born in that country, thus, destroying the well-entrenched law of domicile recognized by international law for centuries. The law is clearly aimed at keeping out Third World immigrants because this law will not apply to the citizens of other European communities.

Even judiciary is getting tainted. Thus, the apex court of a country has ruled that, notwithstanding the international treaty, that country has the right to stop refugees fleeing from persecution in international waters, repatriate them to their persecutors, thus, violating the human right of asylum of the victims.

It is a matter of some relief that government delegations have been able to agree that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and that they should be emphasized in an equal manner, all of them.

This formulation, however, necessarily means that all countries must assist in realization of not only political rights but also of economic rights in countries other than their own. This naturally casts a grave obligation on the richer section of the North to so formulate their economic, immigration policies so that three quarters of all humanity who live in South and are mostly weighed down by poverty and underdevelopment can secure a better life for their citizens. 1.1 Billion, one fifth of world's population, live in absolute poverty earning less than 420 US dollars a year.

Having formulated that democracy, development and respect for human rights are interdependent, the developed world is obligated to assist the Third World with concrete programmes and measures in order to bring immediate alleviation from the pangs of extreme poverty.

The developed world cannot – if it is genuine about its profession of indivisibility of human rights, most important of them being right of adequate housing and food – withhold aid on any supposed denial of human rights in any country by purporting to lay down what it's economic and social policies should be.

But that, unfortunately, Mr. President, is the position where developed world demands a free market economy and equates it as a human right of an individual. This is perverted logic, wrong economics and not too disguised an attempt at forcing a particular economic and social ideology favorable in the interest of the trade and business of the developed world. The euphemism of structural adjustment enforced by international lending institutions, which are dominated by the richer countries, has already led to the pauperization of the masses in the poor South. In past 30 years, the gap between the rich and the poor has doubled. Thus, 20 percent of the richest of world population receive 150 times the income of the poorest 20 percent. Markets are not friendly to the poor and vulnerable.

Unequal access to the world's financial trade cost the developing nations 500 billion US dollars annually. That is ten times what these countries receiving in aid. Ironically, 60 percent of the aid allegedly given to the poor is tied aid – to be spent in rich donor countries. This aid, in fact, supports the economy of the richer countries more than that of the poor.

Sometimes, lack of development in Third World is attributed to the militarization of these poor nations. Factually, it is partly true. Estimates show that in 1990, 80 percent of earth people in poor countries accounted for 14 percent of arms expenditure, while 20 percent of rich countries account for 86 percent of arms. Thus, it is the richer States who have contributed to the militarization of Third World, lack of development process in South and denial of human rights.

It is matter of shame that child labor continues to be practiced. The Conference must not allow a plea of gradualness. Child labor has to be abolished in one stroke – that can be the only response of a civilized state.

It is a further matter of regret that the right to adequate housing, which is now accepted as one of the most fundamental human rights, does not specifically find mention in the proposed world declaration, though I hope it would be there before we could come to the final one.

A very sad and disturbing situation, Mr. President. Let no State indulge in self-delusion that its record on human rights is clean. A quick round of the basement of this very building will show the enormity of the violations of the human rights by all the countries present here. Let this realization sober us.

It is only if we are able to face the harsh reality and look within us that we will make real progress in the fight for protection of human rights. There is no greater yardstick to measure a person's or a state's

credibility than being able to face the truth, because as Mahatma Gandhi, the biggest apostle of Non-violence in the 20th century, used to say "Truth is God."

I thank you, Mr. President.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

I thank Rajindar Sachar, representative of the People's Union for Civil Liberties in India, for his statement and for reminding us of Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. I now give the floor to the representative of Confédération mondiale du travail. The representative of Confédération mondiale du travail.

MARTIN, Rosalino R. (World Confederation of Labour):

Keywords: TREATIES - INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS - DEVELOPMENT - TRADE
UNIONS - WOMEN - CHILDREN - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, brothers and sisters and friends.

To all of you, warmest greetings from my organization. The World Confederation of Labour, an international organization of workers in 96 countries spread across the five continents of our globe. The promotion of human rights has always been at the forefront of our priorities. We have long looked forward to this Conference, and the hopes that we have cherished for its results have been high, hopes that we somehow still feel can have fulfillment despite the bleak realities of the human rights situation today and despite also, Mr. Chairman, of how sadly we perceive things have been turning since the start of this Conference.

Already, beginning with the UN Charter in 1945 and the Declaration of Human Rights three years later, there have been some seventy or so various international covenants, conventions and treaties that have been passed by the United Nations. We can add to these the various regional charters on human and people's rights. If for anything, all these indicate very strongly the profound awareness of the international community and the general acceptance of the imperatives of human rights.

And yet, what we see unfolding before our very own eyes in many parts of the globe are a mockery of our cherished human rights enshrined in the hallowed pages of these covenants and declarations. The gap is still ever so wide between promise and performance, between declaration and realization. As has been aptly stated in the Conference documents even during the dates and months of difficult negotiations to prepare for this World Conference continuing violations around the globe ironically provided the stark backdrop for its debates.

The World Confederation of Labour has always been strong and unflinching in its staunch advocacy of development, a development that is full and integral in all its senses – material, spiritual, economic, social, political, cultural, and technical – a development in which man is the centre. A development in which the man is the real true measure and central aim. This is one of the vigorous hallmarks of our fundamental principles. That is why we met with great delight the General Assembly's approval in 1986 of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which establishes that right as "an inalienable human right by virtue of which each person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."

Clearly, this declaration also underlines responsibilities. The responsibilities that all human beings have for development, and the responsibility for all States to create and bring about national and international conditions favorable to the realization of the right to development. This, more than ever, while it implies an implicit awareness of the differing situations in the various national realities

regarding human rights is also, and more so, an expressed commitment on the part of all to the task creating conditions to bring about the realization of human rights.

We cannot, therefore, agree to a dichotomization of these rights. All human beings have been endowed with the same human dignity that cannot and should not be reduced or relegated to second class because they have less in life. The full enjoyment of human rights cannot be an exclusive preserve of those who have. Neither can they be or should be compartmentalized according to the different social, cultural, historical and religious situations. The WCL endorses without reservations the principle that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. In a more profound sense, Mr. Chairman and my dear friends, one in which all religions of man are in convergence, these rights do not ensue from any government or from any national and international institution or organization of man, which are creations of man. Human rights are fundamental birthrights of man, of all men without distinction as to race, creed, color, sex or whatever. These rights are free and special divine endowments to man.

One of our highest preoccupations is trade union freedom and the protection of trade union rights. This was the subject of ILO Convention 87 which was adopted in 1948, the same year that the United Nations passed the Declaration of Human Rights. We are really very sad and oftentimes bitter, for this right, in our observation, is the most violated human right worldwide. In the past decades, so many have paid their commitment to this right with their lives. Every day, everywhere, there are occurrences of unjust imprisonments, harassments and all kinds of vexations and oppressions because of workers involvement in the trade union movement. Last year alone, close to 5,000 trade unionists have been arrested and imprisoned for their trade union activities in addition to almost one daily who got murdered for his commitment to the trade union movement.

In this connection, the WCL hopes that this Conference will pave the way to put an end to the deliberate practice of many governments to trample on trade union rights for reasons of state security. In this regard, we suggest better coordination between the UN Commission on Human Rights and the International Labour Organization.

We also hope that there will soon be an end to another form of apartheid – the apartheid of the sexes, we urge this Conference to give more flesh and bones to the UN structure in furthering the rights of all our women everywhere in the world, to provide better monitoring structures to prevent further discriminations against women.

We also propose to put more teeth into the UN action to prevent the cruelty and exploitation of our children and to undertake measures to improve and uplift their wellbeing. We can only recall here the report on child slavery that was placed during the meeting last March of the UN Human Rights Commission, which mentions cases of sales of children, prostitution and marrying of girls even under ten years of age.

It is also high time that we do something more for our young. We cannot long afford to lose them. The world of tomorrow will depend on what we do for them now. They are our future. Either we do something now or we lose by default.

We applaud the Conference for having invited into our midst the various minorities and indigenous groups all over the world. The presence of Rigoberta Menchú has also been a cause of much delight for us. We urge this Conference to pass a declaration on the rights of our indigenous peoples. This can only be the fitting culmination of declaring this year as the Year of the indigenous brothers and sisters.

The past years have brought before us the grave and serious risks that those who defend human rights are oftentimes placing themselves in. The human community owes much to these people, and something has to be immediately done to protect them from the clutches of the enemies of human rights. We call on all delegates to this Conference to now pass a declaration that embodies the rights of human rights defenders.

Lastly, we would like to express our solidarity and support to the proposal to set up within the UN an office of a Special Commissioner on Human Rights, which will be clothed with the corresponding authority and power to coordinate, streamline and strengthen all the human rights aspects of the UN programmes and mechanisms.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

May I remind the speaker of the appeal made by the President at the start of this session that the speeches will have to be brief so that everyone can be accommodated? I request the speaker.

MARTIN, Rosalino R.:

I am closing, Mr. Chairman.

The challenge before all of us is too great and immense and the future of our civilization and of humanity itself is at stake. We have the trust and the confidence that despite all difficulties we will not be wanting in the will and courage, and we are sure in the possibilities of bringing about meaningful advancements in human rights. We owe it to the future, to our children, and our children's children to do something. Now!

Thank you very, Mr. Chairman.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

I thank the representative of the Confédération mondiale du travail. I would now like to call upon the representative of the Confederation of International Civil Servants. The representative of the Confederation of International Civil Servants. The representative of the Confederation of International Civil Servants? We will pass on to the next speaker. I now give the floor to the representative of the International Institute for Human Rights. The representative of the International Institute for Human Rights. I, once again, call the representative of the International Institute for Human Rights. The representative of the International Institute for Human Rights is not present, therefore, I call upon the next speaker. The representative of Japan Federation of Bar Associations. The representative of Japan Federation of Bar Associations. You have the floor.

TOTSAKA, Etsuro (Japan Federation of Bar Associations ; Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery by Japan, the Task Force of the Filipino Victims of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, the Asian Women Human Rights Council and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation on Military Sexual Slavery):

Keywords: WOMEN IN ARMED CONFLICTS - ASIA - FORCED PROSTITUTION - WAR CRIMES - WORLD WAR (1939-1945) - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE - INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Japan Federation of Bar Association earlier swapped the position with the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery. Japan Federation of Bar Associations is going to relinquish its right to speak for the consideration of the recommendation by the Conference.

I would like to now speak on behalf of the four NGOs, which are the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery by Japan, the Task Force of the Filipino Victims of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, the Asian Women Human Rights Council and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation on Military Sexual Slavery.

Once the whole process of military sexual slavery during World War II is well analyzed, one may understand that against only one woman victim countless number of serious crimes were committed by numerous men who can be punished by the most serious penal provisions under any criminal law of any country.

We can easily find elements of slavery, torture and inhuman treatment, murder, genocide, trafficking in women and serious racial discrimination among others. Not only then responsible government but also the current government is required by international law to punish the culprits of those crimes, which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

To our regret the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, which had a part to punish anyone responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Far East, did not address any case of military sexual slavery issue.

No other military tribunal or domestic court of the relevant States punished any perpetrator of these crimes committed on 200,000 Asian women victims of military sexual slavery.

This makes a sharp contrast with the European practice. There was one exception as regards the punishment of culprit. It was made by a European military tribunal of responsible military officers who committed these war crimes on these 35 European victims of military sexual slavery in Asia.

In February 1993, the UN Security Council decided to set up the international tribunal that can punish war criminals including organized armed rapists in parts of Europe. Despite the fact that many Asian victims of the military sexual slavery during World War II are still surviving and crying for help in many parts of Asia and Pacific region, no international tribunal for punishment of such war crimes and crimes against humanity has been set up for Asian victims.

Mr. Chairman,

In early 1950s, the United Nations relevant bodies suggested that the ECOSOC appealed to certain competent authorities in Europe to consider to make the full responsible reparation for the injuries suffered under the Nazi regime by persons subjected to human experiments. The authorities fully cooperated with the investigations made by the United Nations and accepted the suggestions made by the United Nations.

For the Asian victims of the military sexual slavery no such formal recommendation for reparation was made by the United Nations, yet. Why was this difference made? We cannot help thinking that this was the result of the racial discrimination against the Asian women. The United Nations must be employing the double standards in human rights. In other words, the Asian women are treated as the second-class citizens by the international community.

Debates at the World Conference on Human Rights as regards the sexual slavery are very important. In relations to the above mentioned problem, we wish to welcome the decision made by the Drafting Committee of this World Conference last Monday responding to the request from many NGOs including us. The Drafting Committee decided to address all violations of human rights of women such as sexual slavery rather than to focus only on current violations. Although this word "current" was not bracketed, we understand that six governments proposed to delete it, and that the Drafting Committee adopted the Chairperson's proposal to substitute the word "current" with "all" in order to include the past violations. Please see CD/1/Add.1.

As a result, we believe it is clear that the United Nations need to address the issue of the military sexual slavery during World War II.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, first, we request the plenary of the World Conference support the amended text as regards the sexual slavery by the Drafting Committee; second, we further request that the World Conference propose the establishment of an effective mechanism to prosecute the crimes of the military sexual slavery, e.g. an international permanent criminal court.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

I thank the representative of Japan Federation of Bar Associations for his statement. May I now request the representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations to take the floor? You have the floor.

HAGMAJER, Marek (World Federation of United Nations Associations):

Keywords: HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - DEVELOPMENT - INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - WOMEN - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Marek Hagmajer, and I represent the World Federation of United Nations Associations, which is a key international non-governmental organization working to promote public understanding and to mobilize public support for United Nations activities. We have national membership in all regions of the world, two thirds of which is in the developing countries.

We understand, Mr. Chairman, that the agenda of this World Conference is of a dual character. The official one – progress, obstacles, implementation and effectiveness. The hidden one – deep differences in the apprehension of human rights and in the political objectives of the Conference. Nevertheless, we hope that a reasonable integration of these two agendas that a common desire to protect and safeguard human rights everywhere and for all will prevail over the philosophical, ideological or national rationales, which until now have made it impossible to arrive at a consensus document.

Consensus – but not at any price. The eyes of the world are watching you. The eyes of children, women and men. Even the eyes of those who are not aware that this Conference is taking place.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a conventional wisdom that there will be no implementation of human rights without proper education of citizens, at all levels of formal and informal education. However, all the new proposals concerning education for human rights seem to reinvent the wheel. We would like to recall that the UNESCO recommendation adopted in 1974 contains an integrated programme for teaching human rights as they relate to all aspects of societal life. As the education for human rights is widely linked with education for democracy, WFUNA requests that Member States implement the UNESCO recommendation on this matter adopted in Montreal in March this year.

We urge that the World Conference give a new momentum for human rights education and call for the implementation of the documents adopted so far.

One of the major tasks of this Conference is to develop and strengthen the instruments for enforcing human rights. This is a matter of urgency because of the worldwide scale of human rights violations

and the lack of means in many States to expose and punish human rights violators. It is, therefore, imperative that all human rights instruments be ratified by all United Nations Member States.

We are aware of the controversies concerning the question of the institutionalization of the UN-Watch in the protection of human rights. Our Federation has repeatedly spoken in favor of an office of a Special or High Commissioner for Human Rights. At the same time, we insist that the Treaty Bodies and all other mechanisms should be utilized in full and developed, for example, by an Optional Protocol on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. We also insist that proper recognition be given to the record of the Centre for Human Rights and appeal that the potential of the Centre be strengthened both by political and financial decisions.

We highly appreciate the recognition expressed by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the role of NGOs in the field of human rights. We request that any future new institutional structures provide for official access to and contributions from non-governmental organizations. We also request that the NGOs should enjoy, internationally and nationally, all freedom of action in their programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights.

In relation to recent challenges to the right to development, WFUNA wishes to reaffirm its support to the Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly of 1986. We remind that the international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, regional development banks and many United Nations institutions play an increasingly important role in establishing domestic and international parameters, which have impact on both the socio-economic and the democratic conditions of the recipients of assistance. We, therefore, urge that IFIs must become much more sensitive to the needs of the poor in the recipient countries when they negotiate arrangements with them. We also urge that a system of accountability of IFIs be introduced.

WFUNA wishes to emphasize the importance of United Nations operations aiming at the establishment of democracy and the safeguarding of human rights. The successful effort in Namibia, followed by operations of a similar nature in other countries, has renewed hopes in the United Nations as promotor and facilitator of the establishment of democratic institutions.

This field of United Nations activity associated now in many cases with peacekeeping operations – as forcefully expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his statement at the opening session of this Conference – has launched a new chapter in the history of the world.

We urge, Mr. Chairman, that official structural and operational links between the United Nations and NGOs be established to increase the effectiveness of present and future operations of this kind.

WFUNA would like to render its strong support to the plea of women who wish to have official recognition that their rights are human rights, along with a Special Rapporteur to deal specifically with gender specific violations.

Further, we would like to render our strong support to the legitimate concerns of indigenous peoples worldwide. In particular, we support their requests to proclaim the international decade of the world's indigenous peoples, adopt the universal declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and appoint a High Commissioner to monitor the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we cannot remain silent about the rising tide of racism and xenophobia in several European countries. Neither can we remain silent about the tragedy of peoples in the areas of armed conflict around the world, the closest one to the Austria Centre being the one in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We witness not only the breach of international law concerning armed conflicts but also massive and flagrant violation of all human rights. We appeal to all parties concerned to stop fighting and to agree on peace plans. We also strongly urge the United Nations to take all necessary measures to effectively enforce peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SINGHVI, L.M. (President):

I thank the representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Human Service International. The representative of Human Service International. If the representative of Human Service International is not present, I shall proceed to give the floor to the representative of Servicio Paz y Justicia & Liga Internacional de Pueblos. The representative of Servicio Paz y Justicia & Liga Internacional de Pueblos. I shall proceed to give the floor to the next speaker on the list, the representative of South Asian Human Rights Documentation Center. The representative of South Asian Human Rights Documentation Center. If the representative of South Asian Human Rights Documentation Center is absent, I shall proceed to give the floor to the representative of Network on International Human Rights. The representative of Network on International Human Rights. If the representative of Network on International Human Rights is absent, I would proceed to give the floor to the representative of Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia. The representative of Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia. You have the floor

RAJAMOORTHY, J. (Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia ; Third World Network):

Keywords: TREATIES - DEVELOPMENT - ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES -
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Thank you.

Mr. Chairman,

I speak on behalf of the Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia, which is an ASEAN-based human rights body with a consultative status with the UN, as well as on behalf of the Third World Network, which is a grouping of organizations and individuals concerned with development in the Third World and with human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

As Third World bodies concerned with human rights, we regarded as axiomatic that human rights are universal. If it is human rights that makes us truly human, then human rights are rights, which must inure to every human being. It follows from this that we are unable to accept, still less appreciate, arguments that attempt to jettison this universality by raising the plea of cultural specificity, economic constraints or national sovereignty.

Mr. Chairman,

The attempt to raise such pleas to cover up the whole gamut of human rights violations plaguing the Third World – such as summary executions, disappearances, detention without trial, torture, child prostitution, the exploitation and oppression of women and indigenous peoples is particularly reprehensible. No such plea can justify the refusal of countries to sign the major international human rights treaties such as International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights including the Optional Protocol, International Covenant Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of Forms of Discrimination against Women. The time has surely come for the international community to set a target date for completion of this unfinished task and ensure the universal adoption of these international instruments.

It is also axiomatic to us that human rights are indivisible and interdependent. There can be no hierarchy of rights. Attempts to trade off one set of rights against another must, therefore, be rejected.

However, recognition of the indivisibility and independence of human rights implies that equal concern should be shown towards economic and social rights as to political and civil rights. In this respect, the refusal hitherto of the North to recognize the right to development – that is development as the shared, common responsibility of both North and South – is particularly deplorable.

Mr. Chairman,

I have used the word “hitherto” because I was advised that at this Conference the countries of the North have, at last, come over to accepting the Declaration on the Right to Development. While this is, certainly, a welcomed development, it is our hope that the countries of the North will honor their commitments after the Conference is over. We trust there will be no repeat of what happened at the Rio Conference.

Equally deplorable is the refusal of the North to acknowledge the massive violations of the economic and social rights of the people of the Third World as result of the maintenance and perpetuation by the North of the present unjust international order. The scale of the consequent human rights devastation can be gauged from just one illustration. It has been estimated that at least six million children under five years have died each year since 1982 in Africa, Asia and Latin America as a result of the structural adjustment policies imposed by the IMF and the World Bank. While it is heartening to note that the UN Human Rights Commission has at last initiated inquiries into this aspect of the violation of human rights, in this respect the excellent report of Mr. Danilo Turk, the Special Rapporteur to the UN Commission on Human Rights on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, is particularly significant. This was presented at the 43rd session. The fact that holocaust on this scale have generally failed warrant consideration as human rights violations at international fora is surely testimony of the extent to which the human rights debate has become politicized.

Our plea, Mr. Chairperson, is that this Conference and hopefully future conferences will address and give equal attention to all aspects of human rights, that is political and civil, economic, social and cultural. And in the consideration of human rights violation this Conference and future conferences must not ignore the large-scale human rights violations of millions of people in the Third World as a result of the maintenance of an unjust and oppressive international system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Change of President]

JAWARA, Dawda Kairaba (President):

I thank the representative of the Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia. I now give the floor to the representative of the International Association against Torture. You have the floor.

WAREHAM, Roger (International Association against Torture):

Keywords: TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL TREATMENT - POLICE - RACIAL DISCRIMINATION - TREATMENT OF PRISONERS - NORTH AMERICA - LATIN AMERICA - TREATIES - IMPUNITY

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The International Association against Torture believes that progress has been slow in the implementation of human rights around the world because there has been a critical lack of even-handedness in the application of these rights. This can be seen in a brief examination of torture, racism and criminal justice.

Despite the existence of several instruments torture is still a regrettably widespread practice in the world today. The fight to eliminate torture suffers from some of the same problems as do other fields of human rights, that is a selective censure in general and some glaring instances of non-enforcement. One of the problems has been the perception that human rights violations are the exclusive province of the developing countries. The AICT believes that such a perception is a distortion of reality that must be corrected if we are to make progress. To demonstrate this point we will proffer some examples of violations in developed regions that exist but go unacknowledged and uncensored.

In certain countries of North America, there is a close connection between torture, racism and criminal justice. That this issue remains basically unaddressed by the UN is another reflection of the double standard that undermines effective enforcement of human rights around the world. For example, police brutality against people of African descent is a form of torture and illegal law enforcement activity that occurs on a daily basis across that country. When Rodney King, a Black man, was mercilessly beaten by a gang of police officers in 1991 the only unique aspect of that incident was that it was videotaped and shown on international TV.

The process of human rights violation in certain North American countries typically begins with an arbitrary stop on the basis of a "profile" which is a code for race. The stop often ends in an arrest, often accompanied by a beating, later leading to a trial or plea bargain. The result of this process is that Blacks and Latinos fill the jails of that country at rates five to six times their percentage of the population. Once inside these institutions they face treatment that violates the international minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners.

These abuses are seen at a heightened level for those more than 200 prisoners incarcerated in that country. Officially, they are classified as criminals, but, in fact, they are treated as political people when it comes to the nature of their arrest, conduct of trial, length of sentencing, security of prison facility assigned to and degree of mistreatment by the prison system.

Domestic legal remedies in this region have generally proven inadequate because of the close relationship between the prosecutor and the law enforcement agency against which he must bring criminal charges. In most instances, police officers charged with misconduct are never indicted on criminal charges. On the rare occasions when they go to trial, it almost always results in acquittal.

State-condoned terror can be increasingly seen in the so-called developed world. In Western Europe, certain countries have watched passively or taken reluctant and belated steps to address mob terrorism against foreigners. And as we cross the Atlantic once more, in a southern state with a long and proud history of lynching its Black residents, some 26 young Black men arrested on minor charges have been found mysteriously hung in their cells over the past year and a half. No steps have been taken on that state's part to investigate any possible wrongdoing by law enforcement personnel. On the contrary, it has classified all these deaths as suicides.

Even in the supposedly inviolate area of free speech, some so-called leading democracies engage in behavior that would have been brought to the floor of the Commission on Human Rights had it occurred in the former socialist bloc. By way of illustration, Black members of the North American section of this NGO returning from the fourth PrepCom for this World Conference at the end of April, were detained for several hours by the Customs agents of the country whose passport they carry. They were not allowed to make a phone call, nor contact a lawyer. The questions asked ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, such as "Are you smuggling in immigrants illegally?" or "Are you carrying weapons?" It was clear that this was nothing but state harassment of those who, in exercising their human rights of free speech, offended the government of the country of which they are allegedly citizens.

These examples are clear evidence that human rights standards are not being adhered to in countries, which project themselves as the standard-bearers of human rights, particularly civil and political

rights. Some of these same countries have yet to ratify the Convention against Torture, thus, escaping the rigorous scrutiny they insist that smaller others submit to.

In conclusion, the AICT additionally believes that in order to move forward and make human rights more effective in this area there are certain historical errors, which will have to be corrected. For example, the issue of impunity. Many of the former military dictatorships of certain Central and South American countries routinely used torture as a means to stay in power. During this period, their actions were implicitly sanctioned by their main funding agent, the world's so-called leading democracy. Many of these dictatorships reluctantly agreed to reconstitute themselves as democracies on the condition that they be excused for the murders and maiming they had committed while ruling. The AICT believes that as long as impunity is practiced and these criminals are allowed to go untried and unpunished, there will be no material basis for the current practitioners of torture to change their ways.

The AICT believes that one of the steps this Conference should take is to strongly recommend that all countries ratify the Convention on Torture, the proposed Optional Protocol thereto as well as the other instruments relating to the Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and Protection from Arbitrary Arrest or Detention. If this is accomplished accompanied by a real push to achieve non-selectivity of enforcement, a monumental step will have been taken towards the real fulfillment of human rights.

Thank you.

JAWARA, Dawda Kairaba (President):

I thank the representative of the International Association against Torture. I now give the floor to the representative of AGHS Legal Aid Cell. I give the floor now to the representative of AGHS Legal Aid Cell. You have the floor. I see that the representative of AGHS Legal Aid Cell is not present. I now give the floor to the representative of International Progress Organization. I repeat, I give the floor to the representative of International Progress Organization. It would appear that the representative of International Progress Organization is not present. I, therefore, give the floor to the next speaker on my list the representative of the Ligue Camerounaise des droits de l'homme. I repeat, I give the floor to the representative of the Ligue Camerounaise des droits de l'homme. If the representative of this organization is not present, I will give the next speaker the opportunity to take the floor and that is the representative of Lawyers Committee on Human Rights. I repeat, I give the floor to the representative of the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights. I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines Alliance of Advocates. I repeat, I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines Alliance of Advocates. The next speaker on my list is the representative of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines. I give them the floor. I repeat, the representative of Task Force Detainees of the Philippines. Not present. I now give the floor to the representative of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. You have the floor.

PATEL, Dorab (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan):

Keywords: DEVELOPMENT - CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS - EXTERNAL DEBT - INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – UN. High Commissioner for Human Rights - INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS - HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION - NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is Dorab Patel, former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman,

In the Human Rights Commission, we believe that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets out the minimum rights, which human beings must have in order to live in dignity. Therefore, national laws

must be subject to these rights. I am disturbed by a report that paragraph 26 of the draft declaration states that the protection of the media should be guaranteed within the framework of the national law. But dictators will always pass repressive laws. Therefore, in a situation in which the press needs protection, this draft paragraph will not furnish any protection.

Secondly, we also believe that the rights in the Universal Declaration should not be curtailed on the ground of religion or culture or any other reason. Coming as I do from South Asia, I am aware of the desperate need for economic development, but we believe that this would not justify the suspension of political rights. Many one-party States were set up in the hope that they would lead to rapid economic development. Only a few States in the Pacific region have realized this hope. It is not a coincidence that the peoples of these countries have remarkable work ethics and have been able to carry out land reforms and population control.

I would, therefore, say that the connection between political rights and development is complex, and the principal impediment to development in South Asia is the legacy of religious and social habits and practices inherited from our ancient past. These habits and practices are inconsistent with the assumptions of the concept of free competition, which is involved, and it will take a very long time to change them.

Another great impediment to development in the Third World is the very heavy burden of foreign debts. As other speakers have referred to this, I would only point out one problem. These are the debts incurred for the purchase of armaments. This was the result of the cold war, and if there is to be a genuine [not audible] dialogue, these debts should be written off.

The policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund since the 1980s have also been a disaster for us. Loans by these institutions are linked to the readjustment of our social structure, as it is called, in order to ensure free competition because free competition ensures the optimum distribution of resources. Free competition will ensure the optimal distribution of resources under conditions that do not exist in South Asia. The result of these unrealistic policies is that local industries are undermined, and the borrowing countries become captive markets for the products of the developed world. This is leading to an erosion both of political and economic rights.

Unfortunately, however, we also have to put our house in order and, as previous speakers have pointed out, violations of human rights is now on a far greater scale than in the days of the colonial empires. Violations have increased very greatly in the last two decades because of political, religious, racial and ethnic intolerance. We, therefore, welcome the proposal for the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights. It will place a very heavy burden on the United Nations, but it will be a source of comfort to people struggling for human rights almost all over the world.

I also welcome the proposal of the International Commission of Jurists, of which I am a member, for setting up an international penal court for the trial of transnational crimes, like drug trafficking, and for the trial of gross violations of human rights. This court would meet a long-felt need for violations in territories accepted by the United Nations as occupied and disputed territories. However honest be the judges of the courts in these territories, justice must be seen to be done and it will be seen to be done only if violations of human rights in these territories are tried by an international tribunal. Courts, however, cannot function in a vacuum, and they break down when there is no respect for the rights protected by law.

That is the unfortunate situation of human rights in the Third World. Because millions and millions are not aware of their rights, education in human rights has been proposed as a remedy. It is. But will despotic governments spread ideas that will undermine their authority? The task is being taken up by non-governmental organizations but we should not place excessive hopes on education. The dictators who order the torture of political prisoners and those who carry out those orders know they are committing a crime. We have, therefore, to build up a culture of human rights, which will be a long and difficult task once again for non-governmental organizations.

There has, however, been a development in the international field, which will help the struggle for human rights. This is the policy of some donor countries of linking aid to governments with the human rights record of those governments. This policy will be successful only if it is accepted by the international community and if it is applied even handedly. It has suffered because of the double standards adopted by some aid giving countries. It is not spreading in the international community because of the fear that it amounts to an interference with the sovereignty of a country. But the economic conditions imposed by international financial institutions have been accepted by dictators, though they amount to a drastic interference with the country's sovereignty.

Secondly, it is true that the curtailment of aid interferes in the internal affairs of a country by creating difficulties for that government, but so does the grant and continuance of the aid because it supports that government. In this situation, the policy to be followed by aid giving countries should be a policy consistent with the Declaration of Human Rights. It is for us in the Third World to work against this dangerous slogan that the conditionality of aid is an interference with our dignity. Human rights are only the political application of the moral norms evolved by society; and a concept of sovereignty, which accepts moral norms is, in our view, if a better concept than the concept of sovereignty of a state that cannot resist the pressures of powerful institutions and, therefore, exercises its sovereignty by trampling upon the human rights of its own people.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

JAWARA, Dawda Kairaba (President):

I thank the representative of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan for his statement. I now call on the representative of Diplomacy Training Programme. You have the floor.

SIMPSON, Tony (Diplomacy Training Programme):

Keywords: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT –
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Mr. President, thank you.

I bring greetings from a gathering in New York - the first substantive meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It is a pity that that meeting is being held at exactly the same time as this meeting making it difficult for the participants who want to cover them both. It meant that I had to leave there earlier and arrive here too late.

I speak to you on behalf of the richly textured mosaic of environmental, indigenous, women's and development organizations.

We urge you to recognize that environmental sustainability and the protection of human rights are intimately intertwined. In a very real sense, we are saying that the same mentality that leads people to exploit natural resources and abuse ecosystems also leads them to abuse and exploit their fellow human beings. In accordance with the forward-looking *Agenda 21* created at the United Nations heads-of-government Summit on Environment and Development in Rio, we unite environmental concerns with the struggle for equity both between and within our societies giving due respect for the dignity and rights of human beings including minority groups, indigenous peoples, women and all other affected groups.

We welcome the preliminary signs of such an integrated approach in Article 6 bis Part II of the outcome of the Conference but would have wished for further signs of an integrated approach to human rights problems.

We agree that human rights are universal, indivisible and inalienable. To achieve sustainable development for present and future generations it is essential to realize global respect for civil and political rights as well as social, economic and cultural rights.

There is no long-term solution to environmental or social conflicts without recognizing the fundamental human right to a decent quality of life for all on our common planet. The concepts of intra- and inter-generational equity are fundamental to both the protection of human rights and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The right to development is an important expression of economic, social and cultural rights. Development must be considered within a context of finite ecological limits. Unrestrained development based on the existing northern model is environmentally destructive and eventually not even economically viable. The principles of sustainability need to be integrated into the human rights concepts of development.

If the Commission on Human Rights does establish a working group on development, we suggest a visionary approach that will ensure that its work integrates human rights principles and sustainability principles, which arise out of the Rio process. The Human Rights Sub-Commission's study on human rights and environment needs increased resources and attention.

Given the United Nations Bill of Rights and the over-consumption, which causes environmental destruction, there is a need for equitable access to resources. We need to begin a peaceful transition of societies built on over-consumption to societies based on sustainability and equity. Such a transition will lead to a better quality of life for all people. At the same time, a global redistribution of resources could guarantee human rights to food, clothing, housing, medical and reproductive care, education and employment.

We regard a safe environment as an inalienable human right. We believe that [inaudible] to the country belong in the dust of the collapsed ideological debate. We urge you to integrate this right into all conventions and agreements. We, humans, are not only the political, economic and cultural beings, we are also part of nature. Implementing environmental rights is essential to assuring the right to life.

Mr. President,

We also know that the violation of political and civil rights are frequently linked to environmental devastation. The list could go on. For the sake of brevity, I will briefly mention the recent reports of threats to Greenpeace activists in certain countries in Latin America.

All in the South and the North have the right to work against threats of survival of their people. The protection of individual human rights both in the North and the South is a necessary precondition for attaining sustainability including the rights to information, participation and prevention of governments or corporations from destroying the environment of local peoples.

In the context of participation, I was surprised on arriving here today to find that the NGOs were not able to observe all aspects of the proceedings. The procedures adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development allow for NGOs to observe all levels of the proceedings. NGOs there are seen as partners and as part of the solution and not part of the problem. Sometimes we wonder whether it is the same governments who have representatives on these different bodies; and we look forward to the day when there is more coordinated approach in response.

We particularly call on governments to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples – and I stress “peoples” – to control their own ecological knowledge in the context of their political and territorial rights. Governments should also respect, recognize and even revere the inherent wisdom contained in the indigenous societies especially in relation to the environmental sustainability.

We also call for the recognition of the right to peace and protection of the vulnerable members of the society including women and children who bear the brunt of the conflict, armed or otherwise.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the challenge of global sustainability cannot afford outmoded models based on compartmentalized analysis. We are all concerned with equity and systemic integrated approach, and we will work for better cooperation among all those concerned with the indivisibility and the vitality of human rights thereby strengthening the struggle for global environmental protection, sustainability and human rights.

Thank you for your attention.

JAWARA, Dawda Kairaba (President):

I thank the representative of Diplomacy Training Programme for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Association Marocaine des droits des femmes. I repeat, I now give the floor to the representative of Association Marocaine des droits des femmes. I now give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the representative of Women's Rights, Human Rights and Fundamentalism. I repeat, I now give the floor to the representative of Women's Rights, Human Rights and Fundamentalism. The next speaker on my list is the representative of Solidarity International for Human Rights. I repeat, the next speaker on my list is the representative of Solidarity International for Human Rights. I give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the representative of Asian Student Association. You have the floor.

BHAJIARAI, Rajan (Asian Students Association):

Keywords: ASIA - EXTREME POVERTY - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - WOMEN - YOUTH - DEVELOPMENT - PEACE - DEMOCRACY

Mr. President, thank you.

I speak on behalf of students of Asia. Asia is the richest region in the world both in human and natural resources. Yet, untold millions wallow in hunger, despair, pain and misery. Asia is, indeed, a region where the most brutal, systematic and pervasive transgression of human rights prevails.

For every breath we take, a child in Asia stops breathing due to hunger and disease related causes. And for the millions who are fortunate enough to survive, many face life growing up in bondage, working in slave conditions – exploited by adults.

While ethnic strife rips apart the fabric of Asian societies, indigenous peoples of Asia are struggling against the encroachment and occupation of their land by people who espouse an alien and destructive culture. Theirs is a struggle against the decimation of their livelihood, environment, culture and race.

Women in many parts of the region are still regarded as nothing more than chattels. They are being discriminated against in every facet of our patriarchal society. Thousands are sold into prostitution in countries where sex tourism is widespread.

This inhuman situation is neither predestined, inevitable nor irreparable. It can be changed. The youth, who makes up 60 percent of the population in Asia, have always been in the forefront in the struggle for human rights and social change.

We are the first to respond to the crying voice of the oppressed people in Asia. We are the first to go on to the streets in droves to protest against repression.

For these, thousands of our compatriots have sacrificed their young lives. Many of us are massacred, murdered, tortured, arrested and detained for our actions in support of the poor, the exploited and the oppressed.

Nevertheless, the present oppressive system is beginning to undermine itself. It is creating its own contradictions – militarism against human rights, alienation against human dignity, growth against nature.

Yet, this is our hope that these contradictions have created many opportunities for youth intervention. And this should be our response.

The challenge of development. Asian governments have claimed that in order to be developed we must make sacrifices to our concept of human rights. But what is this development so cherished by our governments?

Development for the poor has meant less and less control over their own lives and resources.

Development for women has meant marginalization and subordination to male culture, male institutions, male knowledge, male science and male religions.

And development for indigenous peoples has meant the exploitation, confiscation and destruction of their land, their resources, their cultures.

All these and a dozen other vile violations of human rights compel us to ask: is there not something wrong with concept of development? Is there not something wrong with our concept of modernization? Is there not something wrong with our concept of progress?

Genuine development is one, which respects and upholds human rights, not violate it. The challenge of development is the empowerment of the poor and the oppressed, those who are increasingly being marginalized by it, especially children, women and indigenous peoples.

Only then, there can be genuine human rights.

The challenge of poverty. The Third World is living in a condition akin to apartheid. In South Africa, apartheid provides for 20 percent of its population to control over 80 percent of its resources. Likewise, globally, 15 percent of our population has control over 85 percent of world resources.

In the last 20 years, more wealth and resources have been extracted from the Third World than in the entire previous century.

This is the result of global apartheid, a structure that is by western governments, multinationals, international agencies like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the free trade regime promoted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Our societies today are being organized by multinational capital. These multinationals have in their hands 30 percent of global wealth. The power of these multinationals are enhanced further by our governments that act as their agents and mediators in increasing the exploitation and pauperization of the people.

Debt payments, profits, capital flights, royalties, economic sanctions, unequal trade are some of the mechanisms of imperialist exploitation and domination.

Economic liberalization imposed by the IMF-World Bank is one of the most vulgar and ugly forms of human rights abuse which causes the deaths of thousands of children in Asia.

The challenge of poverty is not that the rich who should give more but that they should take less. Given the rich world is consuming at least four times more than the poor world, they must reduce their consumption. They should live simply, so others can simply live.

Only then, there can be genuine human rights.

The challenge of democracy. Democracy today means letting the few elite in power to make political decisions for the people. Democracy today means letting the few big conglomerates and multinationals to make decisions for the people. This is definitely not democracy.

Democracy is a word that has been stolen from the people. We need to reclaim it so it can once again serve the people's struggle.

We must begin with the premise that the state and the institutions, which pretend to constitute democracy, cannot be relied upon to bring us human rights, peace and justice. Only the people's movements themselves, independent and autonomous, can do this.

Genuine democracy is the empowerment of the people. Therefore, it necessitates the decentralization of power, whereby every person and community can freely participate in making decisions affecting their lives and future. It includes everything: personal relationships, the family, the school, the workplace and the society.

In a democracy, the people, in particular the poor and the oppressed, have a natural right to criticize and to resist. It is the right of all people to cross all borders, national and social, to carry their struggle to the very sources of power that seeks to dominate them. Therefore, we must exercise our right to criticize, our right to change and overthrow repressive regimes.

Only then, there can be genuine human rights.

The challenge of youth. The above are not demands by the Asian youth to the governments of the world, which are meeting. The governments cannot give. They do not have the right to take in the first place.

They do not have a right to enact repressive laws restricting our right to organize ourselves freely, they do not have a right to massacre thousands of our compatriots in the streets, they do not have a right to wipe out popular youth and student organizations.

These are, in essence, our human rights, which we ourselves have to struggle for – locally, regionally and internationally.

This is not utopian. There are struggles actually going on all over Asia. They are struggles, which are being acted out right before our very eyes by millions of oppressed peoples in Asia. We witness the rise of people's movements marginalizing and overthrowing states and challenging the power of international capital, defying national boundaries, supporting one another.

We, the youth of Asia, are angry that there only a handful of youth and student representatives out of the thousands of delegates in Vienna. The youth and students have long been silenced by our governments, and we are, once again, silenced by them at this World Conference on Human Rights.

But this will not deter us. We believe that our main role as youth is to take into our own hands the actions necessary to bring about drastic changes if we are to realize genuine development of the people, the advancement of human rights and the preservation of the environment.

We, as youth, have the energy, the enthusiasm, the idealism, the militancy to turn hope into fact, dreams into realities, words into actions.

And here then is our pledge at the World Conference on Human Rights. We, as youth, shall ceaselessly continue in our struggle with the oppressed people to realize genuine human rights in Asia.

Thank you, Mr. President.

JAWARA, Dawda Kairaba (President):

I thank the representative of the Asian Students Association for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Human Rights Society of Pakistan. I repeat, I now give the floor to the representative of Human Rights Society of Pakistan. I give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the representative of the Union de l'action feminine. You have the floor. I repeat, I now give the floor to the Union de l'action feminine. I now give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the representative of Korean NGOs network for the UN World Conference on Human Rights. You have the floor.

Dae-Hoon Yi (Korean NGO's network for the UN World Conference on Human Rights (KONUCH):

Keywords: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS - HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - MILITARY POLICY

Thank you, Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of the KONUCH, which is the national forum of major human rights NGOs in Republic of Korea. I would like to also speak from the experiences of the peoples in Asia and the Pacific – a region battered with the severe violations of human rights from numerous wars, state emergency measures, internal security controls and developmental authoritarianism.

In Asia and the Pacific, among other regions, development in its economic sense only has been the goal of the society for decades giving little room for those minorities who disagreed. The value of human development was replaced with a merit of increased GNP, the degree of competition and efficiency of labor.

As material growth has become the ideal, the exploitation of natural and human resources was justified under the objective of “national development.” This objective has, in turn, justified concentration of power and unequal distribution of wealth and, thus, various social injustice. For the sake of a rapid development, shrewd nationalism was mobilized and then joined to it the existing discriminatory values linked with sex, age, race, family and other social status. It was a process of forming a social hierarchy that serves as a basis of an intensive labor mobilizing, which is a pattern strikingly similar in many rapidly developing or developed countries.

Mr. President,

Nationalistic authoritarian States in Asia and the Pacific employed accelerated development plan by making a full use of the cold war situation. Along the way, expansion of the military accompanied, which also incorporated into each nation's economic structure, for example, expansion of defense industries based on heavy and electronic industries in many newly industrialized countries.

Mr. President,

I would like to urge that this pattern of human rights violations in relation to national development should come to an end, and I would like to urge that the international community should look carefully upon what the present development strategy has resulted in in many countries around the world. For example, how closely the various gross human rights violations are related to the results coming from the development strategy of today.

Though never clearly recognized by broad public, the damages done to the unprivileged people during the process of national development in Asia was enormous, and the cost of recovery from such a total damage far exceeds the gains even in some economic miracle countries.

From these observations and on this important occasion, I would like to recommend the following: as in the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the United Nations in 1986, we understand that the genuine development should be a social progress oriented towards human development. For this goal, today's world demands more and more a new paradigm of progress; today's world also challenges us to reconsider our present model of civilization, which is mass production, mass consumption and mass dumping civilization. And I believe, it has proved us that it is so destructive to human kind and also to the natural environment around us. Thus, we should strongly uphold the concept of sustainable development in the sense of human rights compatible development, and I speak this as a witness of the failure of the prevailing development model in one of the so-called economic miracle countries in Asia.

Furthermore, we identify the current prevalent development model, the nation state itself has become the most powerful and overdeveloped actor as well as the cause of many gross human rights violations. On behalf of all the past victims and in the hope of no such repetition in the future, I claim that this development model and the role of the state should be checked and changed.

Development should also be a peace-oriented development. Paying attention to the vast flow of profit in the arms trade and its integral role in the past national development and in sustaining military regimes in Asia, I urge for an immediate hold of military competition in this region. The continued military build-up must be immediately replace by genuine peace treaties without influences or infringement of non-intervention principles by world major powers. Without peace and without human development strategies we cannot call for full protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

JAWARA, Dawda Kairaba (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the representative of the Lawyers for a Democratic Society in Korea.

Jung-Bae Chun (Lawyers for a Democratic Society in Korea):

Keywords: COLONIAL COUNTRIES - MILITARY OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR (1939-1945)
- ASIA - IMPUNITY - SELF-DETERMINATION

Thank you, Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of MINBYUN, Lawyers for a Democratic Society in the Republic of Korea, on the issue of colonial domination or foreign occupation.

As a people from a country, which has bitter experience of colonial domination, we should raise the issue of human rights violations perpetrated in a country whose national sovereignty is infringed upon. When the right to self-determination is denied, the situation naturally leads to the enslavement of one whole people and the complete negation of the people's human rights.

Many Asian countries underwent unspeakable hardship from colonial domination or foreign occupation. Now, the same Asian countries have invaded, occupied and colonized its neighboring country and people. The failure of the international community to deal effectively with the colonial and neo-colonial domination in Asia signifies a deep concern to all of us.

Mr. President,

In Asia, the gross and systematic violations of human rights and war crimes during the Second World War have been blatantly concealed or even justified under the pretext of the cold war situation. Although

the cold war is over, the wounds have not been healed – the impunity enjoyed by war criminals stands as the symbol for continuing contempt of human dignity.

There is a close link between foreign domination, impunity of war criminals and the heavy military build-up in Asia. The cold war has forced many Asian countries to take one side and, thus, invite foreign influences, which have led to impunity of war criminals who have often been incorporated into new political powers sponsored by the foreign States and to large scale military build-up. The escalation of militarism in this region seriously threatens peace that is a prerequisite to all human rights as well as wastes resources to be utilized for people's welfare.

Mr. President,

The United Nations instruments and mechanisms have not been successful in solving the extreme violation of human rights taking place in several countries under foreign occupation. We may contrast a recent case where the United Nations troops were dispatched to defend a small country from the aggression and occupation of another, with previous inaction on behalf of other small countries finding themselves in a similar predicament. These irregularities signify the existence of double standards among the Member States of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

We urge all the States concerned to abandon their policy of colonization, occupation or military influence towards other States and to guarantee neighbor-peoples' right to self-determination. We also call on the United Nations to take every possible measure to immediately guarantee the right to self-determination of the occupied peoples. We suggest that the following:

First, peace talks among all the parties concerned in areas of dispute should be commenced without delay. We need only look at history to realize the impossibility of achieving lasting peace without popular participation in the peace process.

Secondly, process for guaranteeing the right to self-determination should be emphasized. We implore the United Nations to initiate concrete processes to facilitate the achievement of self-determination such as free elections or referenda under the auspices of the United Nations.

Thirdly, the States concerned should be encouraged to ratify the relevant international conventions and to duly acknowledge the related resolutions of the United Nations. The relevant bodies of the United Nations should take every possible step to sanction a State that neglects to comply with such resolutions. These resolutions should, in turn, be prepared so that they can apply to all the responsible States, thereby avoiding double standards.

Fourthly, a regional tribunal should be set up in order to deal with the continuing complaints of the victims of the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we wish to affirm that the first and most important lesson that we have learned from the history of World War II is that any form of colonial domination or foreign occupation poses a serious threat to the peace of the world and to the human rights of all human beings. We emphasize that the right to self-determination of all peoples and the spirit of equal participation and mutually respecting co-determination in international affairs are of the vital importance to the new just world order.

Thank you.

[Change of President]

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Société internationale de rédaction de l'encyclopédie juridique africaine. I repeat, I give the floor to the representative of Société internationale de rédaction de l'encyclopédie juridique africaine. I now give the floor to the representative of the Center for Constitutional Rights. I give the floor to the representative of the Center for Constitutional Rights. I now give the floor to the representative of the International Women's Human Rights Clinic. I give the floor to the representative of the International Women's Human Rights Clinic. I now give the floor to the representative of Indian Institute for Non-Aligned Studies. I give the floor to the representative of Indian Institute for Non-Aligned Studies. I now give the floor to the representative of Consejo Internacional de Educacion de Adultos. You have the floor.

OJASTI, Tapani (Consejo Internacional de Educacion de Adultos):

Keywords: EDUCATION - HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames, Messieurs, representatives of the States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations.

For the International Council for Adult Education it is a great honor to participate in this World Conference on Human Rights. Our Adult Education Associations in 88 countries are keenly interested in what is now happening here. Many hopes, doubts and expectations cross our mind when the basic issue of human rights is discussed by the international community according to all the importance it deserves.

For over twenty years, we at the International Council for Adult Education have believed education is the only real means of social change and reconstruction. We believe so today more than ever.

Having had occasion to study the preparatory documents for this World Conference as well as regional and NGO contributions we must notice with pleasure that the human rights education has been accepted as a vital and essential activity.

The right to education and training, the mother of all the rights, has been celebrated in many forums but still today the reality gives us figures of 40 to 60 percent of illiteracy in many developing countries. Even in the developed countries the number of "new illiterates" is increasing. Once more, we urge governments to assign adequate resources for education and training and to strengthen our common efforts through UNESCO.

In 1990, the Fourth World Assembly held in Bangkok the International Council for Adult Education decided to focus the action programmes to four priority areas, namely, literacy, environment, women and peace, and human rights education.

The worldwide programme of Peace and Human Rights education goes on in all the continents. In the ICAE we not only believe in democratic solutions and human rights, as educators we are engaged to make them present in our societies. We spread awareness and educate for democracy and participation.

In the present day context of multidimensional and multicultural complexities, the Adult Education has met new challenges such as the social consequences of the so-called market economy and unemployment. We observe two contrary trends: one to create big integrated markets, the other to split in many national and ethnic groups. The international community of educators must work out solutions that emphasize the positive aspects of the two dynamics.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

It is time to pass from the ideas to competent action.

Our Association has participated recently at the Conference on Human Rights Education organized by UNESCO in March 1993 in Montreal. We shall try to implement the recommendations of this meeting along with the Vienna resolutions to be part of our programme.

We ask this Assembly to give its support of the Organizing Committee of Peoples Decade for Human Rights Education and to the United Nations General Assembly to declare the United Nations decade of Human Rights Education.

We also invite the United Nations representatives, governmental and non-governmental organizations representatives to join us at our fifth General World Assembly to be held at Cairo in September 1993.

We also feel deeply indebted to the Austrian government for holding this World Conference on Human Rights so very competently.

We also feel deep gratitude to the United Nations, to the ECOSOC and UNESCO for all the cooperation with the International Council. To the governments, regions, agencies and cooperating NGOs our deepest appreciation.

We hope this World Conference shall have a meaningful outcome and an effective follow up.

Thank you.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Association pour l'égalité devant la loi entre les femmes et les hommes. I give the floor to the representative of Association pour l'égalité devant la loi entre les femmes et les hommes. I now give the floor to the representative of Australian Council for Overseas Aid, ACFOA. I give the floor to the representative of Australian Council for Overseas Aid, ACFOA. I now give the floor to the representative of Organisation Marocaine des droits de l'homme. I give the floor to the representative of Organisation Marocaine des droits de l'homme. I now give the floor to the representative of Women's International Democratic Federation. I give the floor to the representative of Women's International Democratic Federation. I now give the floor to the representative of Association démocratique des femmes du Maroc. I give the floor to the representative of Association démocratique des femmes du Maroc. I now give the floor to the representative of International Human Rights Law Group. I give the floor to the representative of International Human Rights Law Group. I now give the floor to the representative of Malik Gulam Jilani Foundation. I give the floor to the representative of Malik Gulam Jilani Foundation. I now give the floor to the representative of the Human Rights Movement of Kyrgyzstan. I give the floor to the representative of the human rights movement of Kyrgyzstan. You have the floor.

AKUNOV, Tursunbek (Human Rights Movement of Kyrgyzstan), spoke in Russian:

Keywords: KYRGYZSTAN - GOVERNMENT POLICY - UN - ON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - ETHNIC CONFLICTS - INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Distinguished Mr. President, distinguished delegates of the World Conference,

I am glad that finally I have been given the floor, the only representative of Central Asian non-governmental organizations.

As in the other former Republics of the Soviet Union, beginning with 1989 democratic changes have taken place in Kyrgyzstan. Informal associations, mass movements and various parties appeared as an

alternative to the existing then communist regime. A particularly significant event in the Republic was the emergence in 1990 of the democratic movement of Kyrgyzstan, which plays an important role in the development of the democratic process. As a result of the popular unrest and democratic changes in 1990, a peaceful revolutionary transformation took place in the Republic. For the first in the history of the Republic, the presidential institution was established and as the result of action by democratic forces the first President was elected from this scientific intelligentsia, an academician and a doctor of science.

After the election of Askar Akaev as President, the necessary conditions for democratic reforms were established in the Republic. The "Law on public associations" was adopted and many political parties, public associations and different movements were given legal recognition. As a result of the democratic reforms and changes, which began in 1990, for the first time human rights defense committees were formed in the Republic which later took the form of a mass human rights defense movement. The emergence in the Republic of a non-governmental human rights defense organization provides an alternative to the law enforcement agencies of the Republic. Human rights organizations identify all cases of the violations of the law and infringement of human rights and demand that government bodies strictly comply with the law in the field of human rights.

Human rights defense organization unite activists in the campaign against lawlessness and all forms of human rights violations.

A major event in the Republic was the adoption of the new Constitution on the 5 May 1993, which provides constitutional defense for human rights and freedoms.

Recently, Kyrgyzstan became the first Central Asian state to bring in its own national currency and to leave the Rouble zone. Currently, there is interethnic peace and civil accord in Kyrgyzstan. The democratically elected President Askar Akayev pursues an open, democratic policy that is recognized by the international community. There are political parties in the Republic, numerous socio-political organizations and movements, and national cultural centres are in operation. The President's meetings with the representatives of public organizations have become a regular and traditional event. Despite this, there are still many problems. As a result of the totalitarian system, mass legal illiteracy prevails, which requires legal education. In some regions, people live in poverty, the living standards are not up to every day requirements. There is strong system of bureaucracy and conservatism in the government and other state structures. Many local and government officials are blocking reforms introduced by the President and his associates. People do not know their rights. There illiteracy is exploited in order to violate the law. People who violate the law remain unpunished.

Now, I would like to say a few words on the work of the World Conference on Human Rights.

The world currently lives through a complicated period of its history. Human rights are grossly violated, the environment has been contaminated, bloody interethnic and international conflicts continue, the living standards of people of the planet remain low, there is still hunger, all these are characteristic signs of the current situation.

A legitimate question arises, "What measures are being taken to solve these problems by the United Nations and the international community?"

The concrete results, unfortunately, are very insignificant. The United Nations cannot provide international assistance to resolve issues that I mentioned earlier. Despite its international authority, the United Nations is becoming a bureaucratic organization. Its Charter has long become obsolete and its structure requires significant changes. The Charter and resolutions of the UN are often violated by many States. But they remain unpunished, and the violations of international order continue.

However, the very fact of holding the World Conference on Human Rights is a major event in the world history. Many non-governmental organizations and groups are represented, and they speak freely speaking from this high rostrum of the conference. Many valuable proposals have been made by NGOs

for the defense of human rights, and they have been heard by the Conference. But, unfortunately, there are still many shortcomings in the work of the Conference. The representatives of NGOs have not been allowed into the Drafting Committee of the Conference, thus, their point of view has been ignored. Many statements by the representatives of States at the Conference are characterized by formalism, complacency and unfounded self-aggrandizement of the leaders of the Conference and their organizers. Very few specific proposals have come from the government delegations. There is no real lively discussion of such important problems as interethnic conflicts. There has been practically no mention of tragedies in the Republics of the former Soviet Union, Nagorny Karabakh, Tajikistan, Georgia, Moldova, and in Osh. The events in Osh in 1990 were a tragedy for our Republic and I would say for the world community as a whole. People died, blood was shed, two fraternal peoples, Kyrgyzs and Uzbeks, clashed the in the Kyrgyz Republic.

But, unlike other regions of the former Soviet Union, where interethnic conflicts take place, the public and the leadership of Kyrgyzstan were able to stop this conflict, and the tragedy became our history. Nevertheless, the United Nations and the international community know little about this tragedy. I think that all tragedies are alike regardless of where they take place. Therefore, at the Conference, we should have discussed all tragedies, particularly tragedies that arise on interethnic grounds, and decide ways of solving them. Therefore, I suggest, as the others did, establishment of an international criminal court and of an international institute for human rights. I support the introduction of a post of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Finally, I suggest that the next World Conference on Human Rights be held not in twenty-five but in seven years, at the turn of the new millennium, in the capital of Kyrgyzstan Bishkek. In its resolution on this issue, the Conference should take a specific decision.

Thank you for your attention.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Aliran. I give the floor to the representative of Aliran. I now give the floor to the representative of Korean Society of Barristers. I give the floor to the representative of Korean Society of Barristers. I now give the floor to the representative of the Justice and Peace Commission. You have the floor.

GAMA, Paulino (International Justice and Peace Commission):

Keywords: TIMOR-LESTE - COLONIAL COUNTRIES - PORTUGAL - INDONESIA

Thank you, Mr. President, to allow me to take the floor in the name of the Justice and Peace Commissions to speak on behalf of my people aspiration and choice.

Mr. President and distinguished delegations,

Once again, the cause of human rights throughout the world is being brought into this body of the United Nations and to the attention of the world at large in the search for measures, which can help improve a fundamental principle expressed in the Holy Books of all religions and beliefs seeking peace between all men: mutual respect.

The World Conference on Human Rights is now in progress in Vienna, this eternal European capital of civility and music, dear to our hearts and to those who struggle for humanism at all levels around this planet despite geographical distances and differences in cultures, races and beliefs.

The first precondition to serve the cause of human rights is to listen to our hearts and minds and to seek the best way to harmonize the conditions necessary to maintain a favorable atmosphere for the world to live in peace and to provide a better life for all.

The basis of a nation is the individual and the family. Without the sacred institution of the family, no nation or group of nations can build strong foundations for religions, states and communities or international organizations. It is important to attend the Human Rights Conference with good will and not exploit the cause of human rights to inflict unnecessary drama and suffering. An adequate solution is to identify those in need by listening to their own opinions and not to rely on those who intend nothing else than to create endless discussions with the sole intention of presenting unrealistic conceptions of human rights based simply on their unilateral way of thinking and undue subjectivity. This is the case of human rights in East Timor.

I am entitled to speak on the cause of human rights in East Timor as I am the President of the Timorese International Secretariat for Human Rights.

After almost 450 years of Portuguese colonialism, Portugal should not use the existing situation to destroy the peaceful life of my people by feeding hopes and giving advice to provoke confrontation between brothers of the same blood and to disrespect the people who consider themselves Indonesian citizens under the administration of the Indonesian State.

Mr. President and distinguished delegation,

Allow me to outline briefly the role of Fretilin /FALINTIL/CNRM in East Timor.

In 1974-1975, Fretilin was one of the five political parties of East Timor, the others were APODETI, UDT, KOTA and Trabalhista, whose origin firstly came from the city of Lisbon during the Portuguese leftist revolution having entered in Timor through the transformation of ASDT (Associacao Social Democrata) into Fretilin, on September 11, 1974. However, with the Portuguese aid and certain military support, Fretilin succeeded in imposing by terror and violence principles totally counter to the free and peaceful life of my people. The Fretilin slogan for independence touched the hearts of young people like myself, who opted to go into the mountains and the jungles to struggle for it. People like me survived ten or more years trying to have the people on our side, but we soon understood that our behavior caused excessive violence, which encouraged strong divisions between the guerrilla groups. Operating under FALINTIL forces, many groups or sector commandants did not get the people's sympathy but, on the contrary, created serious enmity, particularly against their methods of control and order, which resembled the colonialist ways.

Again, like in the times of Fretilin rule during August-December 1975, FALINTIL was imposing extreme pressure on the people, applying guerrilla philosophies practiced on other continents and totally unsuited to being practiced among our people.

The result was clear. The people wanted to live in peace and harmony and were struggling to heal the wounds from the colonialist and civil war periods. This caused the partition and weakening of the FALINTIL groups to the point where even Commandant Kilik was murdered by his comrades, as he, like myself, opposed sacrificing the people to theories that could not provide freedom and independence for East Timor. The cost of this was unbearable for all those commandants who, after all, loved the people.

Fretilin had disrespected the lives of many brothers and even managed to scorn its own highest-ranking representatives in a mad march to gain power at all costs.

Some commandants, therefore, concluded that it was better to give up the armed fight and become integrated into society. Today, most former Fretilin/FALINTIL decision-makers live peacefully contributing to helping the people become prosperous, educated and respected in Indonesian society.

However, in the Fretilin/FALINTIL self-styled body pompously called CNRM (the National Council of Maubere Resistance), Mr. Xanana Gusmao and his mates thought that with the help of Portugal and other supporters, precisely the same who contributed to the Fretilin philosophy used to enslave the people of East Timor, East Timor could somehow become independent and, therefore, a good stronghold to disturb

not only Indonesia but all of Southeast Asia. The old project conceived in 1974 to make East Timor a second Cuba-styled island was transformed after the disintegration of the Soviet Empire into a formula of “nationalism forbidden by the Indonesian administration.” Thus, to counterbalance the growing support of the entire population of East Timor for integration into the Indonesian State with all political, social, economic and cultural advantages facilitated by ancestral blood ties, the CNRM supporters and mentors outside East Timor decided to pursue their dreams of international revolution. It was a tactical and strategic decision to use the cause of human rights for political destabilization. And because the role of the Portuguese government during 1974-1975 was never honestly brought to light, we have now in the international forum a real masquerade of a marriage between professional international agitators and Portuguese officials trying to bury the past and act as though they were innocents who never violated human rights in East Timor.

I believe the time has come to say loud and clear: let the people of East Timor develop themselves under the protection of the Indonesian flag and do not impose the will of foreign minority interests, which would only bring more disgrace and suffering.

I understand that the people of East Timor must be heard in the name of human rights. So, let it be that way but without allowing such an important world concern to interfere with their political and legal status as part of the Indonesia people.

Hundreds or even thousands of East Timorese were victimized during the civil war and its aftermath in which the Fretilin /FALINTIL played an important role but never such a ridiculous number as 200,000. Portuguese outsiders claiming to have a monopoly on the truth are also seeking to continue their criticism of Indonesia, especially after they heard that East Timor has petroleum reserves suitable for commercial exploitation.

As former colonized Portuguese territory, we are very sad to see the dramatic sufferings of Angola and Mozambique merged in famine, war, death and despair. Also, we see the poverty of Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Guinea-Bissau. We, therefore, in East Timor feel very lucky and proud to have the control of the central government of Indonesia in a continuous eighteen years development and our people is no longer illiterate, sick and in starving conditions. On the other hand, as part of the great Indonesian family and State we breathe peace, order, harmony and development and this is, in fact, our independence inside the Independence of Indonesia as a peaceful and prosperous nation ready to contribute to all European needs and European reforms on human rights, so at least we will avoid similar crisis and dramas now in progress in some areas of former Eastern Europe.

In any armed conflict, there was always abuse of human rights because this is the evolution of the history of humankind. It is human nature.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I wish to remind the speaker that he has exceeded the time limit of five minutes. I will give you one minute more.

GAMA, Paulino:

Ok, thank you, to conclude then.

Let us help the government of Indonesia to consolidate its Pancasila Humanism and we shall have an Asian State perhaps as a great model to be appointed to other troubled areas in the world. In the present circumstances, the Indonesian administration in East Timor is doing the utmost possible to allow our final reconciliation because we have honestly to admit that we made mistakes by dreaming with the nice revolutionary slogans imported from Portugal.

Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, ex-Yugoslavia, etc., are situations of horrible consequences for all humankind. Therefore, let our homeland of Indonesia be stable, contribute to world welfare and ready to be in a position to exhibit its humanism and potentials to permit the existence of a better world with no famine and far away from chaos and disorder.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Human Rights National Movement Brazil. I give the floor to the representative of Human Rights National Movement Brazil. I now give the floor to the representative of International Educational Development. You have the floor.

SOOSIPILLAI, David (International Educational Development):

Keywords: SELF-DETERMINATION - INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS - UN

Thank you Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Chairman.

International Educational Development and our Humanitarian Law Project welcome the opportunity to present some of our concerns to this World Conference on Human Rights.

Mr. Chairman,

International Educational Development is convinced that the primary obstacle to realization of human rights is the lack of political will of governments – whether minor powers, or super powers, or in regional, or economic blocs, or in concert with other nations at the United Nations.

Some vocal defenders of human rights in other countries fail to comply with rulings of the International Court of Justice, the Security Council or with opinions of regional bodies such as the Organization of American States, some are slow to ratify the major human rights instruments or fail to pay their dues to the United Nations causing intense hardship to the dedicated personnel of the Secretariat who struggle with woefully inadequate resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The doctrine of self-determination is undergoing intense challenges all around the world today, threatened itself almost to extinction by a lack of political will to accommodate its many dimensions. However, the fact that the last three Nobel Peace Prize winners emerged from some form of struggle for self-determination indicates its importance today.

Mr. Chairman,

This forum has heard statements from governments claim “the right to self-determination has never been recognized as the equivalent of secession. Opportunistic groups committed to mono-ethnic ideologies have sought to justify division of existing states by violent means.” Such language attempting to justify repression against an ethnic nationality seriously misinterprets the doctrine of self-determination in several profound ways. First, it contradicts the international Court of Justice in its decisions of 1971 in which the Court and its Judges recognized the lawfulness of the use of force to achieve self-determination and 1975, in which pre-colonial status was relevant to finding self-determination rights, a conclusion reached by the Security council in its, as yet unrealized, resolution 39/1948. Second, it goes against the law of Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, which is applied in situations of armed conflict

against colonial or racist regimes. Third, it fails to acknowledge the definition of “peoples” – “peoples” are inter-mono-ethnic, a point repeatedly emphasized by the UN Special Rapporteurs on self-determination.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, IED suggests some action. We hope it will weaken political considerations and strengthen UN and regional mechanisms.

First, the concerns and findings of the International Court of Justice, the Security Council, Treaty Bodies and regional organizations regarding individual countries should be brought to the attention of the United Nations Commission and Sub-Commission and the relevant bodies should be compelled to take meaningful action.

Second, Article 27 of the United Nations Charter should be clarified to ensure that no country can veto action contemplated against it to enforce a specific decision of the International Court of Justice.

Third, regimes that have failed to turn over power to winners of full and fair elections or regimes that overthrow a legitimately elected government should not be allowed to represent that country in the United Nations or any other international body. No business should be done with such regimes,

Fourth and final, all Member States should immediately pay past dues and should consider special contributions to the human rights Secretariat.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the World Peace Day Association. I give the floor to the representative of the World Peace Day Association. I now give the floor to the representative of the International Association of Educators for World Peace. I give the floor to the representative of the International Association of Educators for World Peace. I now give the floor to the representative of Gabriela. I give the floor to the representative of Gabriela. I now give the floor to the representative of the Union interafricaine des droits de l’homme. I give the floor to the representative of the Union interafricaine des droits de l’homme. You have the floor.

OUEDRAOGO, Halidou (Union interafricaine des droits de l’homme), spoke in French:

Keywords: HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT - AFRICA

Thank you.

First of all, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for giving me the floor at this august rostrum, which symbolizes the intelligence and the ability of the human beings to change the nature in favor of their life and wellbeing.

The Inter-African Union of Human Rights, a pan-African NGO for the defense, protection and promotion of human rights on the African continent, has carried out preparatory work for this Conference, which takes place twenty-five years after the conference in Teheran, and is committed to improve the image of the African States at the time of the present meeting in Vienna.

The World Conference on Human Rights, the objectives of which are to evaluate the general state of human rights throughout the world and to provide the United Nations with appropriate material and financial resources in order to promote freedom and democracy, is finishing in an acceptable manner, what if we bear in mind that the texts cannot be better than the men who drafted them, and this is also true

that the application of these texts or instruments depends on the objective and subjective conditions that we live and on ourselves.

The four Preparatory Committee meetings in Geneva from 1990 to 1993 and the three regional meetings in Tunis, Bangkok and San José as well as the satellite meetings debated the human rights questions for the Vienna agenda, and our Union has noticed that the will to harmonize the world will depend on the decisions, which have been taken in the ten days that have been allocated to us.

Our organization appreciates in any case, Mr. President, the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Secretary-General of the Conference as authorized by resolution 46/116 of the General Assembly encouraging their initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, which have contributed to strongly reminding us of what is at stake of the universality, indivisibility of the legal instruments relating to the international human rights protection.

As part of the preparation for the Vienna Conference, the Union, which is represented in several African countries, ladies and gentlemen, has been able to show how much the universal nature of human rights deserves to be accepted, practiced, maintained by the men and women of our planet, and how the life and human dignity are the same from [inaudible] in the North and Kenedougou in Burkina Faso and must be taken on by all at all times and all places.

Mr. President,

It is a great fascist resistance that I am quoting here:

Over the centuries, the protection of human rights has been a daily conquest, a continuous effort in the face of the skidding and stuttering of history, an incessant adaptation to the philosophical concept of human evolution and his rights, and readjustment in the face of a political context and a sociological reality in perpetual transformation.

This is not a reason to make human rights a dogma or a catechism. Human rights is everyone's business. It must be said forcefully around such principal as contained in the International Bill of Human Rights. They condition the existence of States and of the human family. Likewise, in Africa that is torn apart, mutilated by massive and often unspeakable violations of human rights here and there, our Union listens to the echoes of the extreme poverty that shakes numerous African States, sees the hegemony of disrespect for human rights displayed by many countries that stigmatizes this state of affairs and affirms that in such a situation democracy must be sought, built, strengthened and consolidated in Africa. This social choice remains a condition *sine qua non* for fair and sustainable development.

This position of the Union leads me to condemn the reappearance of concentration camps in the Balkans or in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the canons of shame challenge the humanity and diminish every day the life and human dignity.

Mr. President,

Many opportunities present themselves to the world at the end of this century to become better. The refusal of African populations of all oppression, the liberation of Nelson Mandela and his initiatives in the dismantling of the apartheid, the return to the state of law in many countries in Europe and Africa and to make progress the Union, whose objective is to be represented everywhere throughout Africa and, particularly, where there is a need for the protection, promotion and defense of human rights, pleads for the acceptance of the work of Montreal in March 1993 during the UNESCO conference on the topic of education for human rights, education and democracy.

Mr. President,

Our Union supports the idea of a High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the creation of an international criminal court as a remedy for impunity of those who violate human rights.

I conclude, Mr. President, by taking up the observation given to our reflection by Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Secretary-General of this Conference, at the Tunis meeting and which, in my opinion, remains of crucial relevance. I quote:

Of course, the cold war for the long time relegated human rights to the ranks of passive concern. They too had to undergo the distorting prisms of ideologies but now with the end of the bipolarization of the world, the world organization can engage more resolutely and place human rights directly at the center of its concerns, whether in emergency aid, the promotion of democracy, socio-economic development, environmental protection or the peaceful settlement of conflicts. The United Nations makes a determined progress towards the effective safeguard of human rights in all their dimensions – civil, political, economic, social and cultural, environmental dimensions.

I would like to call upon you, ladies and gentlemen, let us accompany the United Nations towards the better world.

I thank you, Mr. President.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Antislavery International. I give the floor to the representative of Antislavery International. I now give the floor to the representative of the Kazem Radjavi International Association for the Defense of Human Rights. You have the floor.

BEHZAD, Naziri (Kazem Radjavi International Association for the Defense of Human Rights), spoke in French:

Keywords: POLITICAL PRISONERS - TORTURE AND INHUMAN TREATMENT - ISLAM

Thank you, Mr. President.

I make this statement on behalf of Dr. Saleh Radjavi, the Chairman of the Kazem Radjavi International Association for the Defense of Human Rights.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

The association that we represent follows the path and bears the name of the tireless defender of human rights and a great martyr, professor Kazem Radjavi, whom many of you know very well as he symbolizes the motivated and effective denunciation of human rights violations by two dictatorships in his country: one military that of the shah who was overthrown; the other religious and, thus, the worst, which continues to prevail.

Voice of the voiceless, Radjavi denounced these regimes with supporting evidence and succeeded to have them condemned several times by the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

Our association created to support human rights defenders is registered and active in different countries on five continents.

Innumerable executions and political prisoners, thousands of political prisoners, have been systematically subjected to a range of different forms of torture, public flogging and stoning of women, the rape of young girls mujahedeen before their execution to bar their access to paradise – as declared by the official religious decree – abuse against children in front of their parents to make them talk, passing of a red hot iron in the womb of women in front of other political prisoners are one part of the barbaric practices for the denunciation of which Kazem Rajavi was assassinated in Geneva.

The judicial investigation revealed the involvement of 13 people, all holding the passports of official services as well as several officials of Teheran.

Mr. President,

The World Conference under Agenda Items 9 and 11 has examined the contemporary trends and new challenges to the full realization of all human rights of women and men as well as on the identification of obstacles to further the progress in this area and ways in which they can be overcome. Allow me in this context to evoke a phenomenon of our times illustrated by the politics and practices, which are conducted in my country.

Beyond a certain limit, human rights violations in a country inevitably lead to a state terrorism. A terrorism that requires appropriate measures on the part of this Conference. Seventy-four other compatriots of Kazem Rajavi suffered the same fate: here in Vienna, Istanbul, Paris, Berlin, Rome and most recently in Karachi. The spiral of violence and censorship quickly affected citizens of other countries: a British writer, these Japanese and Italian translators, Turkish, Egyptian, Lebanese, Algerian journalists and writers, etc., were not spared. No ideology in the world, no belief, religion nor culture justify such horrors and crimes, much less Islam. The teaching of this noble religion that appeals to the conscience of men abounds in the sense of peace, dialogue, understanding and finally tolerance, clemency and mercy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As Muslims, allow us to speak out against this wrong fallacious exploitation of Islam to cover up such heinous crimes.

Religions and, in particular Islam, are also victims of this beleaguered regime. It is in the name of Islam that Khomeinism deprived a whole people of their most basic individual and social rights exporting to Arab and Islamic countries in the troubled region terrorism and religious fanaticism.

Khomeinism is incompatible with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights because it is the expression of absolute religious power that has nothing to do with Islam. When Khomeinists talk about what they themselves call Islamic human rights and call for exemptions in the name of cultural specificities, they seek to legitimize their crimes and their tortures.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

We have a point of order. Excuse me, the representative of Iran has asked for the point of order. You have the floor.

SALEHI, D.M. (Islamic Republic of Iran), spoke on the point of order

Keywords: RULES OF PROCEDURE

Excuse me, Mr. President. He is not going to name a country, and it is out of the procedure.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

Thank you. The representative of Iran has made a point of order regarding the content of this intervention. May I remind the speaker, the understanding that during the general debate at the World Conference on Human Rights no reference should be made to specific situations so as to castigate any particular country.

I, therefore, ask the speaker to continue his statement without castigating any particular country. You have the floor.

BEHZAD, Naziri:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For supporters of an original and rational Islam the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are indivisible. Their universality and extension corroborate the standards advocated by Islam and its Prophet.

Mr. President,

As Mr. Massoud Rajavi said, "religious fundamentalism is the worst enemy of Islam, of the Iranian people and of their rich cultural and democratic traditions." As the last unitary religion, Islam was particularly interested in ensuring and guaranteeing human rights, the extension of democracy and the propagation of the spirit of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Therefore, we must forever reject those who profit from Islam seeking to justify their crimes.

We hope that the process started during this Conference will help to remove the obstacles mentioned in this statement.

Thank you, Mr. President.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of International Progress Organization. I give the floor to the representative of International Progress Organization. I now give the floor to the representative of Article 19 Human Rights for All. I give the floor to the representative of Article 19 Human Rights for All. I now give the floor to the representative of Kosovo Helsinki Committee. I give the floor to the representative of Kosovo Helsinki Committee. I now give the floor to the representative of Croatian Human Rights Forum. I give the floor to the representative of Croatian Human Rights Forum. I now give the floor to the representative of Moscow Research for Human Rights. I give the floor to the representative of Moscow Research for Human Rights. I now give the floor to the representative of Asian Centre for the Progress of People. I give the floor to the representative of Asian Centre for the Progress of People. I now give the floor to the representative of International Immigrants Foundation. I give the floor to the representative of International Immigrants Foundation. I now give the floor to the representative of International Society for Human Rights (Kazakhstan-Latvia). I give the floor to the representative of International Society for Human Rights (Kazakhstan-Latvia). I now give the floor to the representative of Suara Rakyat Malaysia. I give the floor to the representative of Suara Rakyat Malaysia. I now give the floor to the representative of Forum for the Protection of Human Rights. You have the floor.

MAINALI, Bishwa Kanta (Forum for the Protection of Human Rights) and SIWAKOTI, Gopal (International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED International)):

Keywords: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS - STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT - ENVIRONMENT - EXTREME POVERTY - EXTERNAL DEBT - ACCOUNTABILITY - INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Chairman,

This is a joint statement delivered by Bishwa Kanta Mainali, General Secretary of Forum for the Protection of Human Rights, Nepal, and Gopal Siwakoti, International INHURED.

Mr. Chairman,

We, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attending the UN World Conference on Human Rights, would like to express concern about the effects of the policies of international financial institutions on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. The concerns expressed in this statement and the call for actions are the outcome of the public hearing held on this subject from June 13-14, 1993 in Vienna, Austria.

Mr. Chairman,

Alarming evidence of massive human rights violations in every part of the world as a result of the policies of the international financial institutions was presented at a public hearing during the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. Witness after witness provided statistical data, personal testimony and other compelling evidence that the actions of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional development banks and the giant transnational corporations are causing widespread but preventable harm to many millions of people and severe environmental devastation. These institutions controlled by the rich industrial nations have replaced the colonial powers as the dominant global economic force. This compromises the sovereignty of the developing countries and impedes people-centred sustainable development. It is carried out with the complicity of the ruling elites of these countries.

The policies and conditions imposed by the World Bank and the IMF including structural adjustment, export-oriented development schemes, privatization, liberalization and deregulation are responsible for an increase in gross and systematic violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. Mounting unemployment, poverty, hunger and cutbacks in health, education, housing and social services are eroding the quality of the life of the majority of the world's people. As people organize to protest these policies, militarization and repression intensify.

The situation has worsened dramatically as a result of global economic recession and rapid technological change. If the international economic system is not restructured in the direction of meeting human needs, the situation of poor and vulnerable groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples, ethnic groups and minorities in Asia, Africa, Latin America and in the industrialized countries of the North will inevitably worsen.

Call for action

In view of the need for concerted global action to change this situation, we call for:

- A worldwide campaign to expose the impact of the policies of the international financial institutions on human rights, development, environment and national sovereignty of the developing countries and implications for peace and global security;

- Second, cancellation of the foreign debt and pressure on governments to stop debt repayments; reorientation of production to meet domestic needs including food and other basic essentials rather than to produce for export;
- Restructuring of national and international economic and trade relations based on justice, cooperation and solidarity including redistribution of income, land, resources and productive assets;
- Resistance to attempts to include services, investment measures and intellectual property rights under the GATT regime and the promotion of fair and equitable trade relations;
- The institution of genuine democracy and popular participation in the political and economic spheres at the community, national and international levels;
- Drastic reductions in military expenditures and an end to the arms trade with the diversion of military budgets to human development.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN should adopt an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to permit individuals and groups to bring complaints about violations of economic, social and cultural rights to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

There must be genuine transparency and accountability to those whose lives are most directly affected by the operations of the international financial institutions. They should not be permitted to continue to commit human rights violations with impunity. They be required to provide advance notice of proposed projects in a particular country and undertake a human rights impact evaluation in which NGOs and people's organizations have the right to participate and submit testimony and data.

In addition, all UN specialized agencies including the international financial institutions should conform with existing and future human rights instruments including the provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations, relevant ILO Conventions and the Declaration of the Right to Development. A ruling should be sought from the International Court of Justice to determine the extent to which these institutions comply with the foregoing instruments and the objectives set forth in their own statutes.

Transnational corporations should be held accountable for human rights violations. They must be required to comply with international human rights standards and obey national laws.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

NAHUM, Fasil (President):

I thank the representative for his statement. This was the last speaker for this morning. This concludes the general debate. The meeting is adjourned until 3 pm.