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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Austria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus,  
France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Mexico,  
Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sweden,  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and  
Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons, and its resolution 40/147 of 13 December 1985 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Deeply concerned about the persistence, in certain cases, of the practice of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Expressing its profound emotion at the anguish and sorrow of the families concerned, who are unsure of the fate of their relatives,

Convinced of the need to continue implementing the provisions of its resolution 33/173 and of the other United Nations resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, with a view to finding solutions for cases of disappearances and helping to eliminate such practices,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1986/55 of 11 March 1986, in which the Commission decided to extend for two years, on an experimental basis, the term of the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and Economic and Social Council decision 1986/142 of 30 May 1986, in which the Council approved the Commission's decision,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work and to those Governments that have co-operated with it;
2. Welcomes the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to extend for two years, on an experimental basis, the term of the mandate of the Working Group, as defined in Commission on Human Rights resolution 20 (XXXVI), while maintaining the principle of annual reporting by the Group;
3. Also welcomes the provisions made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1986/55 to enable the Working Group to fulfil its mandate with even greater efficiency;
4. Appeals to all Governments particularly those which have not yet replied to the communications addressed to them by the Working Group, to co-operate fully with the Group so as to enable it, with respect for its working methods based on discretion, to perform its strictly humanitarian role;
5. Encourages the Governments concerned to consider the wish of the Working Group, when such a wish is expressed, to visit their countries, thus enabling the Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;
6. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any step it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group when it considers the report to be submitted by the Group to the Commission at its forty-third session;
7. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all necessary facilities.

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