

censure by the Commission. Extended negotiations resulted in the Commission deciding to: express its indignation and protest at the content of such an offensive reference to Islam and the Qur'an; affirm that the offensive reference should have been excluded from the report; and request the Chairman of the Commission to ask the SR to take corrective action in response to the Commission's decision.

Renewal of the mandate on racism and racial discrimination will be considered by the Commission at its 1999 session.

At its 1997 session the Commission adopted two resolutions, both by consensus, on the subject of racism and racial discrimination. The texts are virtually identical in a number of respects. The fact that two resolutions were adopted reflected the inability of the Commission to negotiate a comprehensive text incorporating all elements, including the decision to request that the United Nations hold a world conference on racism by the year 2001.

In the first resolution (1997/73) the Commission, *inter alia*: expressed concern that acts against Blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, negrophobia, anti-Semitism persist and take new forms and include tendencies to establish policies based racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity; recognized the distinction between racism as an institutionalized governmental policy, or arising from official doctrines of racial superiority, and manifestations of racism and acts perpetrated by individuals or groups; noted general recommendation XV (42) of 17 March 1993 by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, holding that the prohibition of dissemination of all ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in article 19 of the Universal Declaration and article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; noted that manifestations of racism and xenophobia are taking increasingly violent forms; reaffirmed that impunity for crimes motivated by racist or xenophobic attitudes contributes to a weakening of rule of law and tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes; expressed support and appreciation for the work of the SR and its continuation; unequivocally condemned all forms of racism, racial discrimination and all racist acts and, in particular, racist violence and related acts of random and indiscriminate violence; condemned manifestations of racism and intolerance against migrant workers and members of their families and other vulnerable groups in societies; categorically condemned any role played by some print, audiovisual or electronic media in inciting acts of violence motivated by racial hatred; welcomed the designation by the European Union of 1997 as the European Year against Racism; called on states to enact and enforce legislation to prevent and sanction acts of racism and racial discrimination; recommended that states give priority to education as a means of preventing and eradicating racism; welcomed the active role of NGOs in combatting racism and assisting victims of racist acts; and, urged all governments to cooperate fully with the SR; and invited all governments to provide assistance and rehabilitation to victims of racist acts and related intolerances.

The second resolution adopted by the Commission (1997/74) was divided into six sections.

In Section I (General), the CHR: unequivocally condemned all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including racist and related acts of random and indiscriminate violence; declared racism and racial discrimination to be among the most serious violations of human rights; underlined the importance of effective action to foster harmony and tolerance within societies; condemned manifestations of racism and intolerance against migrant workers; condemned the role played by print, audio-visual or electronic media in inciting acts of violence motivated by racial hatred; noted with interest general recommendation XV (42) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding the compatibility of the prohibition on dissemination of all ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred and the rights set out in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

In Section II (The Third Decade to Combat Racism), the CHR: regretted the lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; expressed the view that donations to the Trust Fund have proved inadequate and that the General Assembly should consider ways and means of financing the Programme, including through the UN regular budget; invited the General Assembly to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for implementation; called on governments, UN bodies, agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to participate in the Third Decade; requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to give due attention to appeals by the General Assembly and ECOSOC to establish a mechanism within Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as a focal point for coordinating activities related to the Third Decade; reaffirmed the General Assembly recommendation that a seminar be organized by the OHCHR and other appropriate entities to assess the role of the Internet; recommended that states give priority to education as a means to prevent and eradicate racism and related intolerance; encouraged mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and between cultures;

In Section III (Follow-up Activities), the CHR: welcomed publication by the Centre for Human Rights of "Model Legislation for the Guidance of Governments in the Enactment of Further Legislation against Racial Discrimination"; invited states to ensure that the competence of institutions related to the protection and promotion of human rights encompasses issues linked to the fight against racism and racial discrimination; recommended that celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration include programs targeted at combatting racism and racial discrimination;

In Section IV (Special Rapporteur), the CHR: took note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur (SR) and expressed full support and appreciation for the work undertaken and for its continuation; urged all governments to cooperate fully with the SR; invited governments of countries visited by the SR to consider ways to implement the recommendations arising from those visits and to permit follow-up visits if necessary; urged the High Commissioner for Human Rights