

international human rights law; measures to make corruption punishable in national law and enable affected individuals and groups to submit complaints to both national and international bodies, including in cases of alleged nepotism; and avoidance of the unilateral imposition of policies related to, for example, coercive economic measures and extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

The report states that the UN system, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international organizations should expand the space for participation of NGOs and other civil society organizations in their meetings, conferences and consultative and policy formulation processes. Additional points on the role of civil society included, *inter alia*: states should adopt the principle of recognizing and enlarging the role of civil society organizations in the economic, social and political life of their countries; groups representing vulnerable persons and the public interest should be given effective roles and channels to communicate their interests in arenas of local and national decision-making; civil society organizations should incorporate the principles of the right to development in their activities and promote the right at the local, national, regional and international levels; states and civil society organizations should collaborate and establish forums for dialogue to monitor and discuss various aspects of the globalization process; civil society groups should address the implications of transnational corporations and financial institutions especially in terms of the ethics of their behaviour, economic, environmental, health and cultural effects, effects on local firms and sectors, and on the right to development; there should be a commitment on the part of civil society in all its forms to the promotion and achievement of participatory democracy, sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the rule of law; and local, regional and national programmes for development should be adopted and carried out with the participation of civil society.

With its two-year mandate concluded, the IGGE recommended that a followup mechanism be established to ensure promotion and implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The IGGE noted a range of possibilities for such a mechanism. The Commission on Human Rights could establish: a group of high-level experts; a working group of the CHR composed of experts nominated by the regional groups; or a committee on the right to development composed of a limited number of states from each regional group for a defined period (e.g., three years).

The Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development

The report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/53/268) recalls General Assembly resolution 52/136 (December 1997) which reaffirmed the importance of the right to development for every person and for all peoples in all countries, in particular the developing countries, as an integral part of fundamental human rights.

The report takes note of the policy document of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development". That document suggests that the role of UNDP is the development of a national capacity for the promotion of human rights through three main focus areas: (a) governance, which contributes to developing the national capacity for human rights promotion in governing institutions and provides support for human rights institutions in the public and private sectors, including non-governmental organizations; (b) human rights mainstreaming in all activities in the framework of sustainable human development; and (c) human rights advocacy as part of the policy dialogue with governments. The report notes that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP to serve as a catalyst in this process. A joint task force was established in Geneva to follow up the implementation of the MOU.

Other institutional measures within the UN to promote the right to development are noted as including the establishment of the United Nations Development Group and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Right to Development within that larger Group. The Ad Hoc Working Group is chaired by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and has the mandate to develop: (a) a common Development Group approach for enhancing the human rights dimension in development activities; (b) a matrix outlining specific human rights goals for the Development Group as a whole as well as for individual members, including benchmarks and terms of accountability; and (c) a training module for Development Group staff on the right to development and its implications for development operations.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

At its 1998 session, the Commission adopted by consensus a resolution on the right to development (1998/72). The Commission, *inter alia*: recalled that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative of both nations and individuals; recognized the Declaration on the Right to Development as an integral link between the Universal Declaration and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; expressed concern at situations of absolute poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy affecting over one billion people; noted that the human person is the central subject of development and that policy should make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development; affirmed the need to apply a gender perspective in the implementation of the right, for example, by ensuring that women play an active role in the development process; welcomed adoption by the General Assembly, in December 1997, of the Agenda for Development which declares that development is one of the main priorities of the UN; underlined the important role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the