

For the time being however, I would like to mention briefly three general themes that we believe warrant the Commission's ongoing attention with a view to ensuring that its subsidiary organ may continue to fulfil its important role in an effective way.

First, my delegation is increasingly concerned that the Sub-Commission's agenda has taken on virtually unmanageable proportions. The list of major issues and studies in play at any given session in recent years would strain the capabilities of any expert body. Of course, human rights concerns have become a matter of such prominent and pressing international concern that the problem of agenda overload affects all responsible United Nations organs, not least the Commission on Human Rights. These considerations lead my delegation to urge that both Commission and Sub-Commission members exercise the greatest possible restraint in developing ideas for new topics to be studied by the Sub-Commission. Conversely, the Sub-Commission should be discouraged from adding unnecessarily to the workload of the Commission by submitting proposals that it has not itself been able to consider thoroughly. In other words, the effectiveness of the working relationship between the Commission and the Sub-Commission requires restraint on both sides.

Secondly, given the overwhelming workload facing the United Nations in the human rights field, we must be especially cognizant of the need to avoid duplication of effort. I do not propose here to rehearse the range of specific areas where unnecessary and wasteful duplication might be better avoided. Upon reflection, the problem might better be approached from the viewpoint of working methods, and here I would like to make one suggestion. Perhaps the Sub-