

Annex I to the report contains information on the Group's revised methods of work and opinions adopted at the Group's November/December 1997 session. The revised methods of work address such areas as the functioning of the Group, implementation of its mandate, submissions and consideration of communications, actions taken on communications, the procedure for review of opinions, the urgent action procedure and coordination with other human rights mechanisms. Annex II contains statistics, covering the period from January to December 1997, on cases in which the WG adopted an opinion relative to whether or not the detention had been arbitrary.

Annex III summarizes the opinions adopted by the Group at its November/December 1997 session. These opinions related to cases involving, *inter alia*: detention for more than five years on charges of rebellion and sedition; arrest by order of a military court and detention at a military installation on the basis that the detainee had publicly denounced a misappropriation of public funds in a 90-per-cent state-owned enterprise; arrests either on suspicion of involvement in a politically motivated killing or without warrant or charge; re-arrest and charges of destabilizing national unity, printing and publishing material without official registration and improper use of official secret documents; and arrest on a charge of having sabotaged the government's policy of religious solidarity, abuse of the rights to liberty and democracy in order to harm the interests of the state, and intending to overthrow the government.

The addendum to the WG's main report contains the decisions adopted by the Group at its November/December 1996 session and the opinions adopted at its May and September 1997 sessions. These cases involved, *inter alia*: arrest on a charge of being an accessory after the fact to treason; the distribution of leaflets and the brandishing of flags during a demonstration; charges of sedition against supporters of a political party; charges of transporting explosive materials, and terrorist acts; arrest and charges of having expressed hostility, hatred or contempt of the government; detention and accusation of collaboration with or involvement in a terrorist organization; arrest on a charge of acting in a manner prejudicial to the security of the state; and arrest during a public demonstration.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

Under agenda item 8 the Commission adopted a resolution by consensus (1998/41) in which the Commission, *inter alia*:

- ♦ noted the preliminary observations made by the WG on the situation of immigrants and asylum-seekers;
- ♦ requested governments to take appropriate steps to remedy the situation of persons arbitrarily deprived of liberty;

- ♦ encouraged governments to pay attention to the Group's recommendations related to persons detained for a number of years;
- ♦ encouraged governments to ensure that legislation conforms with relevant international standards and legal instruments, not to extend states of emergency beyond what is strictly required by the situation, or to limit its effects;
- ♦ encouraged all governments to invite the WG to visit; and,
- ♦ requested relevant governments to give the necessary attention to urgent appeals sent by the Group.



DEVELOPMENT

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the right to development

At its 1996 session the Commission on Human Rights established an intergovernmental group of experts, for a two-year period, with a mandate to elaborate a strategy based on concrete and practical measures for implementation and promotion of the right to development. In 1997, the Commission requested the Group to consider the possibility of establishing a follow-up mechanism, or enhancing existing ones, to the Declaration on the Right to Development.

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) met from 29 September to 10 October 1997. The report of the meeting (E/CN.4/1998/29) includes information on, *inter alia*: elements of a global strategy for the promotion and implementation of the right to development (by the UN and other international organizations, states, and civil society) and a possible follow-up mechanism to the IGGE. The Annex to the report includes a summary of comments made by some observer governments.

The suggestions set out in the report for a global strategy on the right to development are based on a number of premises, including that: issues related to sustainable development and human rights are a high priority to the international community; to arrive at a global strategy to implement the right to development, the international community should focus on these issues in an "atmosphere" of dialogue; it should be the responsibility of each UN member state and international organization to protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development; human rights for women and the rights of the child should always be of the highest priority on all human rights and right to development agendas; there is an urgency to the need to implement this right because of the effects of poverty in developing countries and even in developed countries, and because the lack of human development presents a threat to security and peace at the national and interna-