

minorities have the right to respect for their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity without discrimination.

- Religious Intolerance: The Commission invited the Special Rapporteur to continue to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that came before him, to seek the views and comments of the government concerned on any information which he intended to include in his report, and to carry out his work with discretion and independence. It called especially for the cooperation of governments whose failure to respond had been noted in successive reports of the Special Rapporteur.
- Role of Youth: The Commission called upon all states, all governmental and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations organs concerned and special agencies to devote constant attention to the exercise by young people of all human rights, including the right to education and vocational training and the right to work, with a view to ensuring full employment and the solution of the problems of unemployment among young people. It called on all states to take the necessary action for the exercise by youth of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a view toward creating conditions for the participation of the young in the implementation of programmes for the overall development of their countries.
- Conscientious Objection: The Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the CHR on the question of conscientious objection to military service, taking into account the comments provided by governments and further information received by him, and decided to continue consideration of this matter at CHR49.

Conclusions

In general, CHR47 can be considered a success in terms of making progress toward the protection and promotion of human rights around the world. The threat that the Gulf War would overshadow the proceedings, thus hindering efforts to discuss other crucial issues, never materialized. And the precedent-setting statement on the Baltics demonstrated that even superpowers are no longer immune to censure.

Moreover, this year's session reflected a positive North-South climate, with some relaxation in strong group positions: the divisions in the Latin American group over Cuba were a prime example.