

5. contribute to the General Assembly's evaluation, in the year 2000, of the World Summit on Social Development by making the final report and conclusions available to the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly; and
6. make suggestions to the Commission on Human Rights at its 1999 session on the main points of a possible draft declaration on human rights and extreme poverty so that the Commission can consider initiating a process at the 51st session of the Sub-Commission to draft a text for examination by the Commission and adoption by the General Assembly.

#### **Resolution on human rights and unilateral coercive measures**

The resolution (1998/11) was adopted by roll call vote with 37 in favour, 7 opposed, 8 abstentions. The Commission, *inter alia*: reaffirmed the principles and provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (GA resolution 3281 [XXIX], 12 December 1974); reaffirmed the right to development as an integral part of all human rights; recalled that the World Conference on Human Rights called on states to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter that creates obstacles to trade relations among states and hinders full realization of all human rights; expressed concern that such measures continue to be promulgated and implemented, thereby creating additional obstacles for the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals; called on all states to refrain from adopting or implementing unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects; rejected the application of such measures as tools for political or economic pressure against any country and particularly against developing countries; reaffirmed the right of all peoples to self-determination, including free determination of their political status and their economic, social and cultural development; reaffirmed that essential goods such as food and medicines should not be used as tools for political coercion; endorsed and reaffirmed the criteria of the Working Group on the Right to Development according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development; and, welcomed and endorsed the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the right to development according to which states should avoid the unilateral imposition of coercive economic measures and extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

#### **Resolution on the right to food**

The resolution (1998/23) was adopted by consensus. The Commission, *inter alia*: recalled provisions in the Universal Declaration and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights referring to an adequate standard of health and well-being, including food, and freedom from hunger; referred to the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition; referred to the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan

of Action of the World Food Summit of November 1996; recognized that the problems of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions; reiterated that food should not be used as an instrument of political and economic pressure; reaffirmed that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and requires the adoption of urgent measures at all levels for its elimination; reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger; characterized as intolerable the fact that 800 million people worldwide, especially women and children, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs; stressed the need to mobilize and optimize the allocation and use of resources, including external debt relief for developing countries, to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies; welcomed the High Commissioner's initiative to convene a Consultation on the right to adequate food; endorsed the proposal of the Consultation to have a follow-up meeting in 1998 and invited the High Commissioner to promote and encourage broader participation by experts from states, relevant agencies and programmes of the UN as well as non-governmental organizations; and, invited the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to draft and adopt a general comment on the content of the right to food, as set out in article 11 of the Covenant.

#### **Resolution on economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt**

The resolution (1998/24) was adopted by show of hands with 27 in favour, 16 opposed, 9 abstentions, 1 not participating. The Commission, *inter alia*: reaffirmed the Declaration on the Right to Development and various resolutions and decisions related to the problem of the foreign debt of developing countries; noted that the foreign debt burden continues to be intolerable for a considerable number of developing countries; acknowledged that the problem of the foreign debt burden remains one of the most critical factors adversely affecting economic, social, scientific and technical development and living standards in many developing countries with serious effects of a social nature; stressed that the economic globalization process had created new risks and uncertainties; expressed concern at the continuing decline in levels of official development assistance; noted the relationship between the heavy foreign debt burden and considerable increase in poverty apparent at the world level and especially in Africa; acknowledged that foreign debt constitutes one of the main obstacles to developing countries fully realizing their right to development; stressed the importance of continuing to implement debt relief measures for developing countries with debt problems; affirmed that the permanent solution to the foreign debt problem lies in the establishment of a just and equitable international economic order, including better market access, stabilization of exchange and interest rates, access to financial capital markets and better access to the technology of developed countries; affirmed that the basic rights of people in debtor countries — related to food, housing, clothing, employment, education, health