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2002/11. Assistance to Equatorial Guinea in the field of human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 2001/22 of 20 April 2001, in which it decided to renew the mandate of the Special Representative of the Commission to monitor the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and to make recommendations on technical assistance in this field,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Recalling that Equatorial Guinea is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 1993/277 of 28 July 1993 and previous resolutions of the Commission on the subject,

Recalling further that international cooperation in the field of human rights is one of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and welcoming the willingness of the Government of Equatorial Guinea to cooperate with the appropriate United Nations agencies in this field,

Recognizing the political will repeatedly shown by the Government of Equatorial Guinea to continue to make progress in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the fulfilment of its pledge to take definitive steps in this direction,

Noting with appreciation that the Government of Equatorial Guinea has cooperated fully with the Special Representative and has granted him full facilities to carry out his mandate,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Equatorial Guinea has cooperated with both the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea and the International Committee of the Red Cross by facilitating visits to places of incarceration and by improving basic prison conditions,

Welcoming the sustained efforts by the Government of Equatorial Guinea to hold a dialogue with the political parties and civil society in the country,

Noting with great appreciation that the Government of Equatorial Guinea has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Recognizing that the Government of Equatorial Guinea has adopted concrete measures to strengthen both the independence and the integrity of the judicial system, such as separating the jurisdictions of civilian and military courts, establishing the mechanism of judicial agents to protect the rights of detainees, and creating the Higher Council of the Judiciary to oversee the implementation of the judicial reform,

Noting that the Government of Equatorial Guinea has taken steps to protect freedom of the movement within the country and the right of nationals to leave and enter the country freely,

Noting also the growth and development of civil society in Equatorial Guinea, as well as the expansion of the media,

Welcoming efforts by the Government of Equatorial Guinea, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to embark on comprehensive programmes in the fields of health, education, welfare and the rights of women and children,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea (E/CN.4/2002/40);
2. *Encourages* the Government of Equatorial Guinea to continue its efforts to adopt effective measures to protect and strengthen the human rights situation in the country;
3. *Welcomes* the willingness of the Government of Equatorial Guinea to implement a national human rights action plan and, for that purpose, encourages the Government to discuss and to agree on a comprehensive programme of technical assistance with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
4. *Calls upon* the specialized bodies and agencies of the United Nations, as well as donor countries and any other international institutions present in the country, to assist the Government of Equatorial Guinea in strengthening those national institutions that promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;
5. *Decides* to end the mandate of the Special Representative to monitor the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea;
6. *Also decides* to examine the question of technical assistance to Equatorial Guinea in the field of human rights at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights".

47th meeting

19 April 2002

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 votes to 1,
with 20 abstentions. See chap. IX.]