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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In conformity with resolution 33 (XXXVI) of 11 March 1980 of the Commission on Human Rights, and decision 1980/37 of 2 May 1980, of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General designated Mr. Fernando Volio Jiménez as the Expert on the situation in Equatorial Guinea who, after appropriate scrutiny of the relevant aspects of the situation drew up a Plan of Action which the Secretary-General proposed to the Government of Equatorial Guinea by whom it was accepted. The Economic and Social Council took note of this plan by its resolution 1982/36 of 7 May 1982.
2. On 15 August 1982, a new constitution was drawn up under the supervision of two consultant jurists appointed on the advice of the Expert. Since then the Expert continued to provide advice in further implementation of the Plan of Action and accordingly, the Commission on Human Rights had before it, at its forty-second session, a report on progress in this regard, including information on the work accomplished by another team of two consultant jurists also appointed on the advice of the Expert in the context of the implementation of the Plan of Action.
3. At its forty-third session the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1987/36, in accordance with which the present report has been prepared. By this resolution the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue his contacts with the Government of Equatorial Guinea with the help and advice of the Expert. The Commission also requested the

Secretary-General to seek, taking into account the need to apply the Plan of Action, the manner in which adequate assistance could be extended to the Government in the context of this plan.

4. On 7 April 1987 the Government of Equatorial Guinea communicated its observations on the report of the Consultant Jurists. Mr. Volio Jiménez, in his capacity as an Expert examined these documents and informed the Secretary-General that in the circumstances, particularly in view of the length of time that had elapsed since the acceptance of the Plan of Action, steps should be taken to accelerate its process of implementation in order to ensure its ultimate purpose, which is to ensure that the protection of human rights in Equatorial Guinea is guaranteed by an adequate juridical system. For this purpose, and taking into account the observations of the Government, the Expert proposes that the accelerated implementation of the Plan of Action be entrusted to the National Codification Commission whose establishment the Government has announced in its observations, with the assistance of further technical expertise to be provided from within the Advisory Services programme in consultation with the Expert.

5. The Secretary-General endorses this recommendation and with the advice and assistance of the Expert, intends to seek the views of the Government for the purpose of its earliest implementation.