

1997/249. Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 22 July 1997, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/32 of 11 April 1997:³⁹

(a) Authorized the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to meet for five working days prior to the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission;

(b) Approved the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(i) To provide adequate resources and assistance to the Working Group in discharging its tasks, including adequate dissemination of information about the activities of the Working Group to Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and organizations of indigenous people, in order to encourage the widest possible participation in its work;

(ii) To transmit the reports of the Working Group to Governments, organizations of indigenous people and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as soon as possible, for specific comments and suggestions;

(c) Also approved the Commission's recommendation that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights assume responsibility for the coordination of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, as well as the Commission's request to the High Commissioner to consider organizing, taking into account the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and recognizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems, a workshop for research and higher education institutions focusing on indigenous issues in education, to improve the exchange of information between such institutions and to encourage future cooperation, in consultation with indigenous people and in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies.

³⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.