

**1997/283. Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights**

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 22 July 1997, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1997/103 of 3 April 1997,<sup>53</sup> endorsed the Commission's decision to authorize the open-ended working group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights to meet for one week, at least four weeks before the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, with a mandate to gather and analyse information on the efforts of structural adjustment programmes on economic, social and cultural rights and to elaborate basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights, which could serve as a basis for a continued dialogue between human rights bodies and international financial institutions, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session. To enable the working group to carry out its mandate, the Council decided:

(a) To request the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, in consultation with the regional groups, to appoint an independent expert, preferably an economist specialized in the area of structural adjustment programmes, to study the effects of structural adjustment policies on economic, social and cultural rights in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights. The expert should update previous work done on the subject within as well as outside the United Nations and submit a consolidated study, including a draft set of guidelines, to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to circulate the study to Governments, United Nations bodies, in particular the regional commissions, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, particularly those involved in development, and academic institutions and organizations representing disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to invite them to submit their comments thereon to the working group at its next session;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to invite and encourage, in particular, non-governmental organizations involved in development and working in the field to participate actively in the sessions of the working group;

(d) To request the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary assistance and resources to enable the working group to complete its work and to provide the independent expert with all the necessary assistance and resources to carry out his or her mandate.

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. B.