

ECOSOC Decision 2001/221

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 4 June 2001, the Economic and Social Council, having taken note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/46 of 23 April 2001, endorsed the decision of the Commission:

(a) To renew, for a three-year period, the mandate of the Working Group of five independent experts entrusted with the task of investigating enforced or involuntary disappearances;

(b) To request the Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, after consultations with the Bureau and the regional groups, to appoint an independent expert to examine the existing international criminal and human rights framework for the protection of persons from enforced or involuntary disappearance, taking into account relevant legal instruments at the international and regional levels, intergovernmental arrangements on judicial cooperation, the draft international convention on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance¹ transmitted by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in its resolution 1998/25 of 26 August 1998,² and also comments of States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with a view to identifying any gaps in order to ensure full protection from enforced or involuntary disappearance and to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session and to the working group established under paragraph 12 of Commission resolution 2001/46, at its first session;

(c) To establish, at its fifty-eighth session, an inter-sessional open-ended working group of the Commission, with the mandate to elaborate, in the light of the findings of the independent expert, a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, taking into account, inter alia, the draft international convention on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, transmitted by the Subcommission in its resolution 1998/25, for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly.

¹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/19, annex.

² See E/CN.4/1999/4-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/45, chap. II, sect. A.