

## **ECOSOC Decision 2005/278**

### **Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities**

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2005, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/79 of 21 April 2005,<sup>1</sup> and endorsed the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to appoint an independent expert on minority issues for a period of two years, with the mandate:

(a) To promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, including through consultations with Governments, taking into account existing international standards and national legislation concerning minorities;

(b) To identify best practices and possibilities for technical cooperation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the request of Governments;

(c) To apply a gender perspective in his or her work;

(d) To cooperate closely, while avoiding duplication, with existing relevant United Nations bodies, mandates, mechanisms as well as regional organizations;

(e) To take into account the views of non-governmental organizations on matters pertaining to his or her mandate.

The Council also endorsed the request of the Commission to the independent expert to submit annual reports on his/her activities to the Commission, including recommendations for effective strategies for the better implementation of the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The Council further endorsed the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary resources, from within existing budgetary resources, for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the independent expert.

The Council endorsed the decision of the Commission to amend the mandate of the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights with a view to the Working Group holding one session of three consecutive working days annually during the time of the annual session of the Subcommission, focusing its work on interactive dialogue with relevant non-governmental organizations and on conceptual support of, and dialogue with, the independent expert, who shall participate as an observer.

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<sup>1</sup> See E/2005/23 (Part I), chap. II.A.