

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION  
(EAFORD)  
5 route des Morillons, CP 2100. 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Telephone & Fax: 788.62.33**

**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Item 4: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights**

Mr. Chairman,

In connection with the High Commissioner's report especially in relation to the effective functioning of human rights mechanisms, our organization is concerned about the efficiency of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN organs and human rights programmes.

The United Nations is one of the greatest and most remarkable institutions established at the outset of the past century. It holds the prospect for securing a lasting peace and a united humanity to lead the world to progress and prosperity and to realize those long-held aspirations to systematically and scientifically unveil this planet's secrets.

This great institution has suffered during the past few years from what has so adversely affected its effectiveness that its very survival is being slowly but surely questioned. Perhaps one of the most serious challenges facing this institution is the financial problem that has come in the way of truly fulfilling its mission. All of this has been due to the unwillingness of some States, especially the United States, to fulfill its membership obligation which it pledged to make to this institution.

Such a serious problem which is as serious as life or death has surfaced because the grounds for the financial pledge that the founding States committed themselves to have been shaken. Advancements in societies during the past three or four decades convinced some that the financial pledges they made to the United Nations are no longer fair.

This serious disturbance can become debilitating like termite decaying the solid foundation upon which this tenacious organization was built. It can lead to grave consequences that may necessitate the involvement of every person, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations to find solutions to this critical hardship.

One of the first things that come to mind in this regard is that the United Nations was established basically on behalf of people not on behalf of States or governments, as it was clearly underlined in the first statement of its Charter - We the peoples of the United Nations - It is true that States represent peoples through the executive offices of the governments of these States. In defining the United Nations, however, the essential principle remains to be "We the peoples of the United Nations." It is the people that constitute the cells of this great institution not States or governments. In light of this important point, we should treat the problem facing this institution based on this essential highlighted principle.

Therefore, these "cells", meaning individual people worldwide, must interact with this body, the United Nations, which is collectively made of them. The process cannot take place unless every person in the whole world feels that he/she is actively participating in forming the work of this institution by providing a contribution, the least of which would be a financial one.

The financial contribution from individual people worldwide to secure the budget of the United Nations will have two important outcomes concerning the future of this great institution.

Firstly, the sense of people throughout the world of their active participation in the very existence of this institution will encourage them to follow-up its activities and safeguard its success in carrying out its mission.

Secondly, the financial contribution from individual people worldwide provides a fair distribution of contributions to meet the financial obligation to the United Nations. In order to achieve the above, we suggest

the following method.

If we were to assume that everyone in the world would have to contribute to the United Nations a quarter of a dollar on every thousand of his/her income, then an annual income of four thousand dollars would equal one dollar of contribution to the United Nations. If the population of the State is ten million, then it should collect from its citizens ten million dollars by means of a special tax designated to the United Nations.

This concept is not as hard or complicated as it may initially seem. Nowadays, the Gross Domestic income of every State is documented. In turn, the average income of a person in any State is recorded as well. Thereby in accordance to this readily available information, it is possible to estimate and appropriate what each State's annual contribution to the United Nations should be.

This proposition may need more clarification and require further examination by experts, but basically it is not difficult or complicated considering the value added in terms of the increased efficiency, fairness and interest in this vital institution.

**EA Ford**

**20 March 2002**