



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Human rights defenders

Economic and Social Council Decision 2000/220

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 16 June 2000, the Economic and Social Council, having taken note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/61 of 26 April 2000, endorsed the Commission's decision to request the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of three years, a special representative who shall report on the situation of human rights defenders in all parts of the world and on possible means to enhance their protection; the main activities of the special representative shall be:

- (a) To seek, receive, examine and respond to information on the situation and the rights of anyone, acting individually or in association with others, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (b) To establish cooperation and conduct dialogue with Governments and other interested actors on the promotion and effective implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; *General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)*.
- (c) To recommend effective strategies better to protect human rights defenders and follow up on these recommendations.