

## Right to Development

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) held two sessions of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development (18-22 September 2000 and 29 January – 2 February 2001). These focused, among other things, on the need to continue deliberations on the right to development in all its aspects, *inter alia*, on the basis of the report of the open-ended Working Group and the Chairperson's conclusions, as well as comments submitted thereon.

The Working Group emphasised that, on the basis of the text of the Declaration on the Right to Development of 1986, several resolutions and declarations adopted by consensus at subsequent international conferences and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, it should now be possible to reach consensus on the full implementation of the right to development.

The Commission Resolution of 18 April 2001, on *The Right to Development* (see page 184) underlines, among other things, the need to enhance efforts to consider and evaluate the impact of international economic and finan-

cial issues on the enjoyment of human rights, such as international trade issues; access to technology; good governance and equity at the international level; and the debt burden. It requests the independent expert to prepare, in consultation with all relevant UN agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, a preliminary study on the impact of these issues on the enjoyment of human rights, by analysing the existing efforts and means of assessing and evaluating such an impact, for consideration by the Working Group at its future sessions.

At its 77th meeting on 25 April 2001, the Commission adopted a Decision on Science and the Environment (see page 185). The Decision, *inter alia*, invites the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to review and assess progress achieved since the

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in promoting and protecting human rights in relation to environmental questions and in the framework of Agenda 21.

