

## **ECOSOC Decision 2004/279**

### **Responsibilities of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights**

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2004/116 of 20 April 2004<sup>1</sup> and

(a) Confirmed the importance and priority it accords to the question of the responsibilities of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights;

(b) Requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to compile a report setting out the scope and legal status of existing initiatives and standards relating to the responsibility of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights, inter alia the draft norms contained in Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2, and identifying outstanding issues, to consult with all relevant stakeholders in compiling the report, including States, transnational corporations, employers' and employees' associations, relevant international organizations and agencies, treaty monitoring bodies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the Commission at its sixty-first session in order for it to identify options for strengthening standards on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights, and possible means of implementation;

(c) Affirmed that document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2 had not been requested by the Commission and, as a draft proposal, had no legal standing, and that the Subcommission should not perform any monitoring function in that regard.

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<sup>1</sup> See E/2004/23 (Part I), chap. II, sect. B.