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Annotations to the agenda for the seventh session of the Human Rights Council*

Note by the Secretary-General

* Late submission.

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Item 1. Organizational and procedural matters

Date and venue of the session

1. On 22 June 2007, at its first organizational meeting held from 19 to 22 June, the Council decided that its seventh session would be held from 3 to 28 March 2008 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
2. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, as contained in part VII of the annex of resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the organizational meeting for the seventh session was held on 18 February 2008.

Agenda of the session

3. The agenda of the Human Rights Council is contained in part V of the annex of Council resolution 5/1. The Council will have before it the present annotations for the seventh session relating to items included in the agenda.

Composition of the Human Rights Council

4. The composition of the Council at its seventh session is as follows: Angola (2010); Azerbaijan (2009); Bangladesh (2009); Bolivia (2010); Bosnia and Herzegovina (2010); Brazil (2008); Cameroon (2009); Canada (2009); China (2009); Cuba (2009); Djibouti (2009); Egypt (2010); France (2008); Gabon (2008); Germany (2009); Ghana (2008); Guatemala (2008); India (2010); Indonesia (2010); Italy (2010); Japan (2008); Jordan (2009); Madagascar (2010); Malaysia (2009); Mali (2008); Mauritius (2009); Mexico (2009); Netherlands (2010); Nicaragua (2010); Nigeria (2009); Pakistan (2008); Peru (2008); Philippines (2010); Qatar (2010); Republic of Korea (2008); Romania (2008); Russian Federation (2009); Saudi Arabia (2009); Senegal (2009); Slovenia (2010); South Africa (2010); Sri Lanka (2008); Switzerland (2009); Ukraine (2008); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2008); Uruguay (2009); Zambia (2008).¹

Bureau of the Human Rights Council

5. Rule 8 (a) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council as contained in part VII of the annex of Council resolution 5/1, provides that “at the beginning of each Council-year the Council shall hold an organizational meeting to elect its Bureau”.
6. On 19 June 2007, at its first organizational meeting, the Council elected its President and Vice-Presidents, who, in accordance with rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the Council, shall constitute the Bureau.

¹ The term of membership of each State expires in the year indicated in parenthesis.

7. The composition of the Bureau of the Council is as follows: President of the Council, Mr. Doru Costea (Romania); Vice-Presidents, Mr. Mohamed Siad Doualeh (Djibouti), Mr. Boudewijn van Eenennaam (the Netherlands), and Mr. Dayan Jayatilaka (Sri Lanka); Vice-President and Rapporteur, Mr. Alejandro Artucio (Uruguay).

Annual programme of work

8. The annual programme of work for the second year of the Council was adopted on 14 December 2007 (see report of the Council on its sixth session).

Programme of work for the session, including other business

9. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly² provides that each committee “shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item”. Accordingly, the Council will have before it for approval a draft programme of work for the session, showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment.

10. In its decision 4/105 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to take note of the deferral of the draft resolutions and decisions contained in documents A/HRC/2/L.33/Rev.1, A/HRC/2/L.37, A/HRC/2/L.38/Rev.1, A/HRC/2/L.42/Rev.1, and A/HRC/2/L.43 to one of its coming sessions.

11. At its organizational meeting, on 20 June 2007, the Council, by its decision OM/1/101, decided to postpone action on the draft resolution contained in document A/HRC/2/L.19, and deferred from previous sessions pursuant to Council decision 4/105, to its September session. The Council at the sixth session decided, at the request of the main sponsors, to defer action on the draft resolution to the seventh session.

12. At its sixth session, the Council decided, at the request of the main sponsors, to defer action on draft resolution contained in documents A/HRC/6/L.19 to the seventh session.

Review, rationalization and improvement of mandates

13. Paragraph 55 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides that the review, rationalization and improvement of each mandate would take place in the context of the negotiations of the relevant resolutions, and that an assessment of the mandate may take place in a separate segment of the interactive dialogues between the Council and the special procedures mandate-holders.

14. At its seventh session, the Council will continue the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates as commenced during the sixth session. The following mandates are scheduled to be reviewed: Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child

² A/520/Rev.16.

pornography; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; independent expert on minority issues; independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; independent expert on human rights and international solidarity; Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia.

Selection and appointment of mandate-holders

15. In accordance with paragraph 62 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1, current mandate-holders may continue serving, provided they have not exceeded the six-year term limit. On an exceptional basis, the terms of those mandate-holders who have served more than six years may be extended until the relevant mandate is considered by the Council and the selection and appointment process is concluded. Mandates included in appendix I of Council resolution 5/1, where applicable, will be renewed until the date on which they are considered by the Council according to its programme of work.

16. Paragraph 41 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides that technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates for mandate-holders will be approved by the Council at its sixth session, in order to ensure that eligible candidates are highly qualified individuals who possess established competence, relevant expertise and extensive professional experience in the field of human rights. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102, which sets out the above-mentioned technical and objective requirements.

17. Paragraph 47 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides for the establishment of a consultative group to propose to the President, at least one month before the beginning of the session in which the Council would consider the selection of mandate-holders, a list of candidates who possess the highest qualifications for the mandates in question and meet the general criteria and particular requirements. At the beginning of the annual cycle of the Council, regional groups would be invited to appoint a member of the consultative group, who would serve in a personal capacity. The Group will be assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (paragraph 49 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1).

18. On 7 February 2008, in accordance with paragraph 47 and the requirements set out in decision 6/102, the consultative group proposed to the President of the Council a list of candidates for the mandates for which a new mandate-holder is to be appointed at the seventh session.

19. In accordance with the procedure stipulated in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1, the appointment of the special procedure mandate-holders will be completed upon the subsequent approval of the Council. The mandate-holders in question shall be appointed before the end of the seventh session.

Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

20. The members of the Advisory Committee will be elected at the seventh session in accordance with the relevant provisions of Council resolution 5/1 and decision 6/102.

21. Paragraph 70 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides that the Council shall elect the members of the Advisory Committee, in secret ballot, from the list of candidates whose names have been presented in accordance with the agreed requirements (see paragraph 22 below).

22. Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the annex of its resolution 5/1, the Council on 27 September 2007 adopted decision 6/102 containing technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures for members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, with the aim of ensuring that the best possible expertise is made available to the Council.

23. In accordance with paragraph 71 of Council resolution 5/1, the list of candidates and relevant information was made available to member States and to the public in the note by the Secretary-General on the election of the members of the Advisory Committee (A/HRC/7/64).

Report of the session

24. At the end of its session, the Council will have before it for adoption a draft report prepared by the Rapporteur. The report will include resolutions and decisions made by the Council and President's statements, as well as a technical summary of the proceedings held during the seventh session.

Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner and the Secretary-General³

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow up to the World Conference on Human Rights

25. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, decided to create the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, inter alia, requested the High Commissioner to report annually on her activities. The Council will have before it the annual report of the High Commissioner, as well as the reports on the activities of her offices in Guatemala and in Uganda (A/HRC/7/38 and Add.1 and 2).

³ While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the Council will consider them under the relevant agenda items, as indicated.

Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan

26. In its decision 2/113 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue, in cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, to monitor the human rights situation in Afghanistan, provide and expand advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights and the rule of law, and report regularly to the Council on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, paying special attention to the rights of women, and on the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights. The Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/7/27).

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

27. In its resolution 6/9 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Council, prior to its seventh session, a joint progress report, from within the regular budget of the United Nations, on public information activities in the field of human rights, including activities being undertaken throughout the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by the United Nations system, internationally and at the national level, and, particularly, by the field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Council will have before it the joint progress report of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner (A/HRC/7/34).

Situation of human rights in Colombia

28. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and the statement concerning the situation of human rights in Colombia made on behalf of the Commission by the Chairperson of the sixty-first session on 22 April 2005, the Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/39).

Question of human rights in Cyprus

29. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission decision 2005/103, the Council will have before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/46).

Human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

30. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/11, the Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/47).

Technical cooperation and advisory services in Cambodia

31. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/77, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/HRC/7/56) (see also paragraph 143 below).

Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

32. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/72, the Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/57).

Assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights

33. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/76, the Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights (A/HRC/7/66).

Technical cooperation and advisory services in Nepal

34. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/68).

Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights

35. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2004/81, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/74).

Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

36. In its decision 2/107 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to solicit comments from Governments, United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies and international and non-governmental organizations on the steps they had taken to improve access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and to submit a report thereon to the Council at any session after its fourth session. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, when submitting his report to the Council, a study on the exploration of new and innovative financing mechanisms, bearing in mind the existing ones, which can help improve access to medication that fight those pandemics, from the perspective of human rights. It also requested the Secretary-General to include an assessment of the impacts of intellectual property rights on access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria from the perspective of human rights, taking into consideration the discussions carried out in the WHO Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, Essential Health Research and Intellectual Property Rights and in consultations with Governments, United Nations organs, programmes, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/30) under agenda item 3.

Human rights and extreme poverty

37. In its resolution 2/2 of 27 November 2006, the Human Rights Council took note of the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights: the rights of the poor, annexed to Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights resolution 2006/9. In the same resolution, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate

the draft guiding principles, in order to obtain the views of States, relevant United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations treaty bodies, special procedures, including the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, especially those in which people in situations of extreme poverty express their views, and other relevant stakeholders, and to report to the Council at its seventh session. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/7/32) under agenda item 3 (see also paragraph 76 below).

Missing persons

38. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2004/50, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/33) under agenda item 3.

Prevention of genocide

39. In its decision 6/104, the Council requested the Secretary-General to make available to the Council at its seventh session an updated report on the implementation of the Five-Point Action Plan and the activities of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. The Council also invited the Special Adviser to address the Council at the same session on the progress made in discharging his duties. The Council will have before it the updated report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/37), and will hear an oral report of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide under agenda item 3.

Cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies

40. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/9, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of reports and studies relevant to cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies (A/HRC/7/45) under agenda item 3.

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

41. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/79, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/48) under agenda item 3 (see also paragraphs 88 and 116 below).

Integrating the human rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations

42. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and resolution 6/30 of 14 December 2007, the attention of the Council is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.6/2008/8-A/HRC/7/52) prepared pursuant to resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women and resolution 1997/43 of the Commission on Human Rights, which will be considered by the Council under agenda item 3 (see also paragraph 131 below).

Elimination of violence against women

43. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and General Assembly resolution 50/166, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.6/2008/9-A/HRC/7/53) under agenda item 3 (see also paragraph 85 below).

Question of violence against children

44. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/44, the Council will consider the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/54) under agenda item 3.

Abduction of children in Africa

45. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/43, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/55) under agenda item 3.

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

46. In its resolution 4/1 of 23 March 2007, the Council took note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights⁴ submitted pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/22. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on the implementation of that resolution and decided to remain seized of the issue and to consider taking further action in order to implement the resolution. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/58) under agenda item 3.

Protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

47. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/84, the Council will have before it a note on the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/59) under agenda item 3.

Status of the core international human rights instruments

48. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolutions 2004/69, 2005/39, 2005/44 and 2004/56, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the status of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and of the International Covenants on Human Rights (A/HRC/7/60) under agenda item 3.

⁴ A/HRC/4/62.

49. For the text of reservations, declarations, notifications and objections relating to the core international human rights instruments, member States are invited to consult the websites of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section (<http://untreaty.un.org>) and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.ohchr.org).

Human rights and disability

50. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/65, the Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the study on human rights and disability (A/HRC/7/61) under agenda item 3.

Fundamental standards of humanity

51. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission decision 2004/118, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/62) under agenda item 3.

Indigenous issues

52. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/49, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/65) under agenda item 3.

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

53. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/71) under item agenda 3 (see also paragraph 99 below).

The question of the death penalty

54. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/59, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the yearly supplement to the Secretary-General's quinquennial report on capital punishment (A/HRC/7/72) under agenda item 3.

Conscientious objection to military service

55. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2004/35, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/73) under agenda item 3.

Right to development

56. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/75) under agenda item 3 (see also paragraphs 92 and 93 below).

Human rights and access to water

57. In its decision 2/104 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking into account the views of States and other stakeholders, to conduct, within existing resources, a detailed study on the scope and content of the relevant human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments, which includes relevant conclusions and recommendations thereon, to be submitted prior to the sixth session of the Council. At the first part of the sixth session, the Council considered the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/6/3). In its resolution 6/8 of 28 September 2007, the Council called upon all States to give due attention to the report of the High Commissioner and decided to consider the issue at its seventh session. This will be considered under agenda item 3.

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights

58. In its resolution 2/5 of 28 November 2006, the Council encouraged the High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake a study on various options for reforming the treaty body system, and to seek the views of States and other stakeholders in this regard and to report thereon to the Council. The study of the High Commissioner will be submitted to one of the future sessions of the Council under agenda item 3.

Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity

59. In its resolution 6/6 of 28 September 2007, the Council acknowledged that the process of review, rationalization and improvement of mandates represents momentum towards the establishment of an independent expert in the field of cultural rights, and to that end requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the content and scope of the mandate of the independent expert in the field of cultural rights, the basis of which would be the comprehensive implementation of resolution 6/6, and to report on the results of those consultations to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner at a future session under agenda item 3.

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

60. In its resolution 6/7 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Member States and to seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations, and to submit a report thereon to the Council as appropriate, in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will have before it the report if the Secretary-General at a future session under agenda item 3.

Fourteenth meeting of special procedures

61. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will have before it a note by the High Commissioner transmitting to the Council the report of the fourteenth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups (A/HRC/7/29) under agenda item 5.

Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures

62. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General containing conclusions and recommendations by special procedures (A/HRC/7/49) under agenda item 5.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

63. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/39, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/50) under agenda item 5.

Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

64. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 1999/46, the Council will have before it a note by the secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/63) under agenda item 5.

Issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints

65. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/7, the Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner for Human rights on the issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints (A/HRC/7/44) under agenda item 7 (see also paragraphs 121 to 127 below).

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

66. In its decision 4/104 of 30 March 2007, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means to enhance the international cooperation and dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Council, as recognized in the ninth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 60/251. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/7/31) under agenda item 8.

Regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region

67. In its resolution 6/25 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit for the Council's consideration at its seventh session a report containing the conclusion of the Fourteenth Annual Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region and information on the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 6/25. The Council will consider the report by the High Commissioner (A/HRC/7/35) under agenda item 8.

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

68. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/HRC/7/51) under agenda item 8 (see also paragraph 129 below).

National human rights institutions

69. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/74, the Council will consider the reports of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/HRC/7/69) and on the process currently utilized by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions to accredit national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principals, and ensure the process is strengthened with appropriate periodic review and on ways and means of enhancing participation of national human rights institutions in the work of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/7/70) under agenda item 8.

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination

70. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/64, the Council will have before it the note by the Secretariat on the efforts made by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/HRC/7/40), as well as the note by the Secretariat on the report of the High Commissioner containing a draft basic document on the development of a racial equality index (A/HRC/7/41) and the note by the Secretariat on the progress report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the implementation of relevant recommendations of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/HRC/7/43). The Council will consider the above-mentioned notes under agenda item 9 (see also paragraphs 132-140 below).

Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

71. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraphs 36 to 60 will be considered under agenda item 3.

(a) Economic, social and cultural rights

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

72. In its resolution 6/2 of 27 September 2007, the Council invited the Special Rapporteur ending the fulfilment of his mandate to submit to the Council in 2008 a comprehensive final report on his findings, conclusions and recommendations, after more than six years as mandate-holder on the right to food. The Council requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of its resolution 6/2 to the Council in 2008, in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Jean Ziegler (A/HRC/7/5 and Add.1-3).

Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

73. In its resolution 6/29 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report to the Council on its activities, findings, conclusions and recommendations. The Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur, Paul Hunt, (A/HRC/7/11 and Add.1-4).

74. In its decision 2/108 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, within his existing mandate, when presenting his report to the Council at any session after its fourth session, to include the possibility of identifying and exploring, bearing in mind the level of development of countries and from the perspective of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the key features of an effective, integrated and accessible health system. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be considered by the Council at a future session.

Effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

75. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Bernards Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho (A/HRC/7/9 and Add.1).

Human rights and extreme poverty

76. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, Arjun Sengupta, (A/HRC/7/15) (see also paragraph 37 above).

Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living

77. In its resolution 6/27 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living to submit a report to the Council in 2008, in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council also invited the outgoing Special Rapporteur to submit to the Council at its seventh session a comprehensive final report on his findings, conclusions and recommendations. The Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur, Miloon Kothari (A/HRC/7/16 and Add.1-4).

Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights

78. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, Okechukwu Ibeanu (A/HRC/7/21 and Add.1-3).

Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

79. In its resolution 1/3 of 29 June 2006, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a period of two years and requested the Chairperson of the Working Group to prepare a first draft optional protocol. The Council also requested the Working Group to meet for 10 working days each year and to report to the Council. The first part of the fifth session of the Working Group was held from 4 to 8 February 2008. The second part of the fifth session of the Working Group is scheduled for 31 March to 4 April 2008. The report of the Working Group on its fifth session will be considered by the Council at a future session.

(b) Civil and political rights

Enforced or involuntary disappearances

80. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances (A/HRC/7/2 and Add.1-2).

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

81. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak (A/HRC/7/3 and Add.1-7).

Arbitrary detention

82. In its resolution 6/4 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to present an annual report on its activities, findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Council. The Council will consider the reports of the Working Group (A/HRC/7/4 and Add.1-4).

Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief

83. In its resolution 6/37 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to submit the outstanding reports to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work and the next annual report in 2009. The Council also decided to remain seized of this question under the same agenda item and to continue consideration of measures to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Special Rapporteur, Asma Jahangir (A/HRC/7/10 and Add.1-4).

Freedom of opinion and expression

84. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Ambeyi Ligabo (A/HRC/7/14 and Add.1-3).

(c) Rights of peoples, and specific groups and individuals

Violence against women, its causes and consequences

85. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk (A/HRC/7/6 and Add.1-5) (see also paragraphs 43 above).

Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

86. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Juan Miguel Petit (A/HRC/7/8 and Add.1-2).

Human rights of migrants

87. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Jorge A. Bustamante (A/HRC/7/12 and Add.1-2).

Minority issues

88. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall (A/HRC/7/23 and Add.1-4) (see also paragraph 41 above and paragraph 116 below).

Situation of human rights defenders

89. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, Hina Jilani (A/HRC/7/28 and Add.1-4).

Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

90. In its resolution 6/12 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to submit a report on the implementation of his/her mandate to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be considered by the Council at a future session.

Internally displaced persons

91. In its resolution 6/32 of 14 December 2007, the Council invited the Representative of the Secretary General to submit annual reports on the implementation of his/her mandate, making suggestions and recommendations regarding the human rights of internally displaced persons, including on the impact of measures taken at the inter-agency level. The Council also decided to continue its consideration of the question in conformity with its annual programme of work. The report of the Representative of the Secretary General will be considered by the Council at a future session.

(d) Right to development

Working Group on the Right to Development

92. In its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to renew the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development for a period of two years, and that the Working Group should convene annual sessions of five working days and present its reports to the Council. The ninth session of the Working Group was scheduled to take place from 25 to 29 February 2008. The Council also decided to renew the mandate of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development for a period of two years, and that the task force would convene annual sessions of seven working days and present its reports to the Working Group. The high-level task force convened its annual session from 7 to 15 January 2008.

93. In the same resolution, the Council also decided to review the progress of the implementation of resolution 4/4 as a matter of priority in its future sessions. The Council will consider the report of the Working Group at a future session (see also paragraph 56 above).

(e) Interrelation of human rights and human rights thematic issues

The use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

94. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/HRC/7/7 and Add.1-5).

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

95. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Sigma Huda, (A/HRC/7/13).

Human rights and international solidarity

96. In its resolution 6/3 of 27 September 2007, the Council decided to request the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity to continue his work in the preparation of a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity and to submit a report on the implementation of resolution 6/3 at its ninth session, unless otherwise decided by the Council.

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

97. In its resolution 4/5 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to consider this issue at a future session.

Contemporary forms of slavery

98. In its resolution 6/14 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, to replace the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The Council requested the Special Rapporteur to submit annual reports on the activities of the mandate to the Council together with recommendations on measures that should be taken to combat and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices and to protect the human rights of victims of such practices. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur at a future session.

Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

99. In its resolution 6/28 of 14 December 2008, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to report regularly to the Council. The Council decided to continue consideration of this question in conformity with the annual programme of work of the Council. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be considered by the Council at a future session (see also paragraph 53 above).

Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

100. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (A/HRC/7/18).

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

101. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vitit Muntarbhorn (A/HRC/7/20).

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

102. In its resolution 6/34 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan to submit her outstanding annual report to the Council at its seventh session and her following report to the Council at its ninth session in September 2008. The Council will consider the outstanding annual report of the Special Rapporteur, Sima Samar (A/HRC/7/22).

Follow-up to the fifth special session of the Council

103. In its resolution S-5/1, adopted on 2 October 2007 by the Council at its fifth special session, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to assess the current human rights situation and to monitor the

implementation of resolution S-5/1, including by seeking an urgent visit to Myanmar, and to report to the Council at its resumed sixth session. The Council considered the report of the Special Rapporteur,⁵ at its resumed sixth session in December 2007.

104. In its resolution 6/33 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to conduct, in this regard, a follow-up mission to Myanmar at his earliest convenience. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (A/HRC/7/24).

Follow-up to the fourth special session of the Council

105. In its decision S-4/101 adopted on 13 December 2006 by the Council at its fourth special session, the Council decided to dispatch a High-level Mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of the Sudan in this regard, comprising five highly qualified persons, to be appointed by the President of the Council following consultation with the members of the Council, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. In its resolution 4/8, the Council took note of the report of the High-level Mission on the situation of human rights in Darfur.⁶

106. In its resolution 4/8 of 30 March 2007, the Council also decided to convene a group to be presided over by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, composed of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The Council requested the group to work with the Government of the Sudan and the appropriate human rights mechanisms of the African Union, and to closely consult with the Chairman of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, to ensure effective follow-up and to foster the implementation of resolutions and recommendations on Darfur, as adopted by the Council, the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations human rights institutions as well as to promote the implementation of relevant recommendations of other United Nations human rights mechanisms, taking into account the needs of the Sudan in this regard, to safeguard the consistency of these recommendations and to contribute to monitoring the human rights situation on the ground. In accordance with resolution 4/8, the group reported to the Council at its fifth session.⁷

⁵ A/HRC/6/14.

⁶ A/HRC/4/80.

⁷ A/HRC/5/6.

107. In resolution OM/1/3 adopted on 20 June 2007, at its first organizational meeting, the Council welcomed the report of the group of experts⁷ and requested the group to continue its work for six months and to submit an update to its session in September 2007 and a final report to the following one.⁸

108. In its resolution 6/34 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan to ensure effective follow-up and to foster the implementation of the remaining short-term and the medium-term recommendations identified in the first report of the Group of Experts⁷ through an open and constructive dialogue with the Government of the Sudan, taking into account the final report of the group of experts⁸ and the replies of the Government thereon, and to include information in this regard in her report to the Council at its ninth session.

Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

109. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraphs 61 to 64 will be considered under agenda item 5.

(a) Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

110. By its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council, in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251, established the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. In the same resolution, the Council declared that it would decide at its sixth session on the most appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Groups on Indigenous Populations; on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; on Minorities; and the Social Forum (resolution 5/1, annex, para. 84) (see also paragraphs 98 above and paragraphs 115-117 below).

111. Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the annex of its resolution 5/1, the Council decided to establish and approve technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures for members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee at its sixth session, with the aim to ensure that the best possible expertise is made available to the Council. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102, which contains the above-mentioned technical and objective requirements. Election of the 18 members of the Advisory Committee will take place during the seventh session (see paragraphs 20-23 above).

United Nations declaration on human rights education and training

112. In its resolution 6/10 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training. The Council also requested the Advisory Committee to seek the views and inputs of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, national human rights institutions and civil society

⁸ A/HRC/6/7 and A/HRC/6/19, respectively.

organizations, including non-governmental organizations, on the possible elements of the content of the declaration and to take into account existing relevant instruments. The Council requested the Advisory Committee to present a progress report containing the elements of the draft declaration on human rights education and training to the Council at its 2009 main session.

(b) Complaint procedure

113. In its resolution 5/1, the Council established the complaint procedure as contained in part IV of the annex of that resolution. In accordance with paragraph 98 of the annex of this resolution, the Working Group on Situations is requested, on the basis of the information and recommendations provided by the Working Group on Communications, to present the Council with a report on consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to make recommendations to the Council on the course of action to be taken. The report of the Working Group on Situations will be considered by the Council at the seventh session in two separate closed meetings.

114. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/101, by which, as a transitional measure, it requested the members of the former Working Group on Communications to act as members of the Working Group on Communications of the new Complaint Procedure operating within the parameters of the new procedure until such time as the new Working Group is established. The next session of the Working Group will take place from 14 to 18 April 2008.

(c) Social Forum

115. In its resolution 6/13 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to preserve the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including grass-roots organizations. The Council also decided that the Social Forum should continue meeting every year for three days, and requested that the next meeting be held in 2008, in Geneva. The Council invited the 2008 Social Forum to submit to the Council a report including a proposal of possible themes for the 2009 Social Forum. The Council decided that it would continue consideration of this issue under the relevant agenda item when the report of the 2008 Social Forum was submitted to the Human Rights Council.

(d) Forum on minority issues

116. In its resolution 6/15 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to establish a forum on minority issues to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and which should provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the independent expert on minority issues. The Council decided that the forum should meet annually for two working days allocated to thematic discussions. The Council also decided that the independent expert on minority issues should guide the work of the forum and prepare its annual meetings, and invited that person to include in his/her report thematic recommendations of the forum and recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the Council (see also paragraphs 41 and 88 above).

(e) Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples

117. In its resolution 6/36 of 14 December 2007, the Council decided to establish a subsidiary expert mechanism to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples in the manner and form requested by the Council. The Council decided that the expert mechanism shall consist of five independent experts, the selection of which shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established in paragraphs 39 to 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, and strongly recommended that, in the selection and appointment process, the Council give due regard to experts of indigenous origin. The Council also decided that, in order to enhance cooperation and avoid duplication of work, the expert mechanism should invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and a member of the Permanent Forum to attend and contribute to its annual meeting. The Council decided that the expert mechanism shall meet once annually three days in its first year and thereafter for up to five days, and that this mechanism shall report annually to the Council on its work. The Council will consider the report of the expert mechanism at a future session.

Item 6. Universal periodic review

118. In its resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the Council established the universal periodic review mechanism as contained in part I of the annex of that resolution. Paragraph 15 (a) of the annex of this resolution provides that general guidelines for the information prepared by the State concerned will be adopted by the Council at its sixth session. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102 containing the above-mentioned general guidelines. The Council also established the timetable for the consideration of the 192 States Members of the United Nations under the universal periodic review mechanism during its first cycle.

119. The first session of the Working Group on the universal periodic review is scheduled to take place from 7 to 18 April 2008, the second session from 5 to 16 May 2008 and the third session from 1 to 12 December 2008.

Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

120. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the report referred to in paragraph 65 will be considered under agenda item 7.

(a) Human rights violations and implications of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

121. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, John Dugard (A/HRC/7/17).

Follow-up to special sessions

122. In resolution S-1/1, adopted on 6 July 2006 at its first special session, the Council decided to dispatch an urgent fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. At its third special session, in its resolution S-3/1 of 15 November 2006, the Council decided to dispatch urgently a high-level fact-finding mission, to be appointed by the President of the Council, to travel to Beit Hanoun.

123. In its resolution OM/1/2, adopted at its first organizational meeting on 20 June 2007, the Council called for the implementation of resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1, including the dispatching of the urgent fact-finding mission. The Council also requested the President and the High Commissioner to report to the Council at the next session to be held in September 2007, on their efforts for the implementation of Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 and on the compliance of Israel, the occupying Power, with these two resolutions.

124. In its resolution 6/18 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the President and the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its seventh session on their efforts for the implementation of Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 and on the compliance of Israel, the occupying Power, with those resolutions.

125. In its resolution S-6/1, adopted on 24 January 2008 at its sixth special session, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council, at its next session, on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

Religious and cultural rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

126. In its resolution 6/19 of 28 September 2007, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the religious and cultural rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to allow Palestinian worshippers unfettered access to their religious sites. The Council also requested the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its seventh session on the implementation of resolution 6/19.

(b) Right to self-determination of the Palestinian people

127. This heading is included pursuant to the framework for the programme of work as contained in part V of the annex of Council resolution 5/1.

Item 8. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

128. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraphs 65 to 68 will be considered under agenda item 8.

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

129. In its resolution 6/20 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene in 2008 a workshop for an exchange of views on good practices, added value and challenges for such regional arrangements, with the participation of representatives of the relevant regional and subregional arrangements from different regions, experts and all interested States Members of the United Nations, observers, national human rights institutions and representatives of non-governmental organizations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights. The Council also requested the Office of the High Commissioner to present to the Council a summary of the discussions of the workshop, at a moment in conformity with the programme of work of the Council (see also paragraph 68 above).

World Programme for Human Rights Education

130. In its resolution 6/24 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council at its last 2008 session on progress made towards the implementation of resolution 6/24.

Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system

131. In its resolution 6/30 of 14 December 2007, the Council decided to incorporate into its programme of work sufficient and adequate time, at minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss the human rights of women, including measures that can be adopted by States and other stakeholders, to address human rights violations experienced by women. The Council also decided that the first such meeting should take place in the first half of 2008 and that it should include a discussion on violence against women, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006, inviting the Council to discuss, by 2008, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, and to set priorities for addressing this issue in its future efforts and work programme. The Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report in 2008 on the obstacles and challenges to the implementation of this resolution by the Human Rights Council and to make concrete recommendations for action to address such obstacles and challenges. The Council decided to continue its consideration of both the rights of women and the integration of a gender perspective in accordance with the programme of work of the Human Rights Council (see also paragraph 42 above).

**Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms
of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

132. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraph 70 will be considered under agenda item 9.

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

133. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Doudou Diène (A/HRC/7/19 and Add.1-6).

134. In its decision 2/106 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, within his mandate, when submitting his report to the Council at any session after its fourth session, to include the issue of political participation and representation of groups that are vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the decision-making process in national Governments, parties, parliaments and civil society in general, taking into consideration their possible contribution to reinforcing the anti-discrimination perspective in political and social life with a view to strengthening democracy. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be considered by the Council at a future session.

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

135. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council at the seventh session will have before it the report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its eighth session, which was held from 14 to 18 January 2008 (A/HRC/7/36).

Follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

136. In its resolution 1/5 of 30 June 2006, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action for a further period of three years. In its decision 3/103, the Council decided to recommend that the Working Group convene the second part of its fifth session in September 2007 and that this session mark the conclusion and closure of the Working Group's debates and deliberations on the question of complementary standards. The Council will hear an oral report on the sixth session of the Working Group, which was held from 21 January to 1 February 2008.

137. In its resolution 1/5, the Council also requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to select, in close consultations with the regional groups, five highly qualified experts to study the content and scope of the substantive gaps in the existing international instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In its decision 3/103, the Council welcomed the appointment by the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Five Experts on Complementary Standards and requested them to finalize their report before the end of June 2007. The following experts were appointed by the High Commissioner: Syafi'I Anwar, Jenny Goldschmidt, Tiyanjana Maluwa, Dimitrina Petrova and Waldo Luis Villalpando.

138. In its decision 3/103 of 8 December 2006, the Council decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards and recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee should convene annual sessions of 10 working days to draw up the requisite legal instruments and hold its first session before the end of 2007 subject to the Working Group having completed its task on complementary standards by that date, and to report regularly to the Council on progress in the actual progress of the elaboration of complementary standards.

139. In its resolution 6/21 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to convene the inaugural session of the Ad Hoc Committee in the first quarter of 2008 to commence its mandate, and also decided to allocate no more than two days at the beginning of the inaugural session of the Ad Hoc Committee to reflect on all contributions and studies presented by various stakeholders and the relevant mechanisms necessary for the realization of its mandate. The Council will hear an oral report on the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee, which was held from 11 to 22 February 2008.

Durban Review Conference

140. In its resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006, the Council decided that the Preparatory Committee should elect, at its organizational sessions, on the basis of equitable geographic representation, a bureau for the Preparatory Committee and that, at the same session, the Preparatory Committee should decide on all the relevant modalities for the Conference in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, including deciding on the objectives of the Review Conference, the level at which the Review Conference should be convened, regional preparatory activities, date and venue. The Council also decided that the review would concentrate on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including further actions, initiatives and practical solutions for combating all the contemporary scourges of racism. The Council decided to retain this priority issue on its programme of work.

Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

141. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Titinga Frédéric Pacéré (A/HRC/7/25).

Situation of human rights in Somalia

142. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Ghanim Alnajjar (A/HRC/7/26).

Situation of human rights in Cambodia

143. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, Yash Ghai (A/HRC/7/42) (see also paragraph 31 above).

Situation of human rights in Liberia

144. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia, Charlotte Abaka (A/HRC/7/67).

145. In its resolution 6/31, the Council invited the independent expert to submit a final report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures applied in practice to the Council at its ninth session.

Situation of human rights in Haiti

146. In the President's statement on the situation of human rights in Haiti as agreed upon by consensus on 28 September 2007, the Council encouraged the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General to consider the human rights situation in Haiti to continue his mission and report thereon to the Council at its eighth session.

Advisory services and technical assistance for Burundi

147. In its resolution 6/5 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to extend by one year the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi. The Council also asked the independent expert to submit a final report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures applied in practice to the Council at its ninth session.
