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ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION

Vice-President and Rapporteur: Mr. Alejandro Artucio (Uruguay)

Draft report of the Council*

* Resolutions and President's statements adopted by the Council at its seventh session are contained in document A/HRC/7/L.11.

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PART TWO: TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Human Rights Council held its seventh session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 3 to 28 March 2008. The President of the Human Rights Council opened the session.
2. At the opening, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the host country, addressed the plenary.
3. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedures of the Council, as contained in part VII of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the organizational meetings of the seventh session were held on 18 February and 28 February 2008.
4. The seventh session consisted of 43 meetings over 19 days (see paragraph 27 below).

B. Attendance

5. The session was attended by representatives of States members of the Council, observer States of the Council, observers for non-member States of the United Nations and other observers, as well as observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (see attendance list in an annex to the final report).

C. High-level segment

6. At the 1st to the 6th meetings of the seventh session, held from 3 to 5 March 2008, the Council held a high-level segment, at which 67 dignitaries addressed the plenary, including: 1 vice-president, 3 vice-prime ministers, 40 ministers, 20 vice-ministers, 2 secretaries-general and the High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations.
7. The following is a list of the dignitaries who addressed the Council during the high-level segment, in the order they spoke:

(a) At the 1st meeting, on 3 March 2008: Mr. Francisco Santos Calderón, Vice-President of Colombia; Mr. Dimitrij Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia; Mr. Felipe Pérez Roque, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba; Mr. Mofid Shehab, Minister for Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Councils of Egypt; Mr. Jean Asselborn, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Luxembourg; Mr. Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary-for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines; Mr. Manuel Miguel da Costa Aragão, Minister for Justice of Angola; Mr. Jorge Taiana, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina; Mr. Adrian Mihai Cioroianu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania; Mr. Abdelwahed Radi, Minister for Justice of Morocco; Mr. Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi, Minister and Special Secretary on Human Rights of Brazil;

(b) At the 2nd meeting on the same day: Ms. Kinga Göncz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary; Ms. Sahana Pradhan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal; Mr. Milan Ročen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro; and Mr. In-kook Park, Deputy Minister for International Organizations and Global Issues, Republic of Korea;

(c) At the 3rd meeting on the same day: Mr. Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations; Ms. Jadranka Kosor, Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia; Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; Mr. Ján Kubiš, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia; Ms. Julia Joiner, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union; Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs of India; Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway; Mr. Antonio Milošoski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia; Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights of Sri Lanka; Mr. Abdel Basit Sabdarat, Minister for Justice of the Sudan; Ms. Rama Yade, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights of France; Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Mr. Manuel Lobo Antunes, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal; and Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorenti Soliz, Vice-Minister for the Coordination of Social Movements and Civil Society of Bolivia;

(d) At the 4th meeting, on 4 March 2008: Mr. Ambros Dery, Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice of Ghana; Mr. Limam Ould Teguedi, Minister for Justice of Mauritania; Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Ms. Houda Ali Alban, Minister for Human Rights of Yemen; Mr. Mathias Meinrad Chikawe, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Maldives; Mr. Gustavo Jalkh, Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Ecuador; Mr. Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria; Mr. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia; Mr. Kabinga Pande, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia; Mr. Hussein Jasim Nasser Al-Zuhairi, Vice-Minister for Human Rights of Iraq; Ms. Dorothy Angote, Vice-Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Kenya; Mr. Witold Waszczykowski, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe;

(e) At the 5th meeting on the same day: Ms. Salamata Sawadogo, Minister for the Promotion of Human Rights of Burkina Faso; Mr. Marat Tazhin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan; Mr. Akmal Saidov, Director, National Centre for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Mr. Bechir Tekkari, Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Tunisia; Mr. Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy for the Security Council of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium; Mr. Rafet Akgünay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey; Mr. Miguel Angel Ibarra Gonzalez, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; Mr. Viktor Gaisenok, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus; Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Standing Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam; Mr. Volodymyr Khandogiy, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; and Mr. Valdrack Jaentschke, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua;

(f) At the 6th meeting, on 5 March 2008: Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Mr. Phandu T.C. Skelemani, Minister of Defence, Security and Human Rights of Botswana; Mr. Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; Mr. Per Stig Moeller, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Mr. Oskaras Jusys, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; Mr. Günter Nooke, Vice-Minister and Commissioner of the Federal Government for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of Germany; Mr. Zaid bin Abdul Muhsin Al-Hussain, Vice-Minister for Human Rights of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Patrick Anthony Chinamasa, Minister for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Zimbabwe; Mr. Aniceto Ebiaka Mohete,

Vice-Prime Minister in charge of Human Rights of Equatorial Guinea; Mr. Gianni Vernetti, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Italy; and Mr. Bernardino Leon Gross, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain.

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 3 March 2008, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of Algeria, in relation to the statement of Mr. Abdelwahed Radi, Minister for Justice of Morocco; and the representative of Morocco, in relation to the statement of the representative of Algeria. At the same meeting, a second right of reply was exercised by: the representative of Algeria, in relation to the statement of the representative of Morocco; and the representative of Morocco, in relation to the statement of the representative of Algeria.

9. At the 5th meeting, on 4 March 2008, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of Uzbekistan in relation to the statement of Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Mr. Manuel Lobo Antunes, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal; the representative of Greece, in relation to the statement of Mr. Antonio Milošoski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the representative of Albania, in relation to the statement of Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in relation to the statement of Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in relation to statements of Mr. Dimitrij Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mr. In-kook Park, Deputy Minister for International Organizations and Global Issues, Republic of Korea, and Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; the representative of Algeria, in relation to the statement of Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; the representative of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in relation to the statement of the representative of Greece; the representative of Japan, in relation to the statement of the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the representative of Zimbabwe, in relation to the statement of Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Mr. Manuel Lobo Antunes, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal; and by the representative of the Netherlands, in relation to the statements of the representatives of Uzbekistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Algeria and Zimbabwe.

10. A second statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in relation to the statement of the representative of Japan; the representative of Japan, in connection with the statement of the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the representative of Uzbekistan, in relation to the statement of the representative of the Netherlands; the representative of Algeria, in relation to the statement of the representative of the Netherlands; and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in relation to the statement of the representative of the Netherlands.

11. At the 6th meeting, on 5 March 2008, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of Sri Lanka, in relation to the statement of Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the representative of Uzbekistan, in relation to the statement of Mr. Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; the representative of Cuba, in relation to the statement of Mr. Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; the representative of Mauritius, in relation to the statement of Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in relation to the statements of Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Mr. Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; and the representative of Sweden, in relation to the statement of the representative of Cuba.

12. A second statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Cuba in relation to the statement of the representative of Sweden.

D. General segment

13. At the 8th and 9th meetings, on 5 and 6 March 2008, a general segment was held, during which the following delegations, and invited members of civil society, addressed the Council:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Uruguay;

(b) Observers for the following States: Australia, Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Greece, Iceland, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand, Oman, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for: Holy See;

(d) Other observer: Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(e) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: International Organization of la Francophonie;

(f) Observer for the United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(g) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

(h) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Ms. Angela Cristina Gouvea Collet, Mr. Oludare Ogunlana, Ms. Mandira Sharma and Mr. Musa Usman Ndamba (on behalf of Mr. Kumi Naidoo);

14. At the 9th meeting, on 6 March 2008, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of India, in relation to the statement of the representative of Pakistan; the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in relation to the statement of the representative of the United States of America; the representative of Morocco, in relation

¹ Observer of the Council speaking on behalf of States members and observer States.

to the statement of the representative of Algeria; the representative of Pakistan, in relation to the statement of the representative of India; and the representative of Algeria, in relation to the statement of the representative of Morocco.

15. At the same meeting, a second statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Algeria, in relation to the statement of the representative of Morocco, and the representative of Morocco, in relation to the statement of the representative of Algeria.

E. Agenda and programme of work of the session

16. At the 5th meeting, on 4 March 2008, the President outlined a proposal to advance consideration of agenda item 7, originally scheduled for 17 and 18 March 2008, to 6 March 2008. The subsequent agenda items would be considered in their original sequence, with a delay of approximately one day, except for the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants, which would be held as scheduled, on 7 March 2008.

17. At the 9th meeting, on 6 March 2008, the amended programme of work was adopted without a vote.

F. Organization of work

18. At the 5th meeting, on 4 March 2008, the President introduced a non-paper submitted by the co-sponsors outlining the modalities for the panel discussion on human rights voluntary goals, which would be as follows: 10 minutes for each statement from the panellists, 3 minutes for statements by States members of the Council and 2 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

19. At the 8th meeting, on 5 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for the general segment, which would be as follows: 5 minutes for statements by States members of the Council and 3 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including a representative of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and four senior representatives of civil society who had been invited to address the Council under the general segment.

20. At the 9th meeting, on 6 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for the general debate, which would be as follows: 5 minutes for statements by concerned countries, 5 minutes for statements by States members of the Council and 3 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

21. At the 10th meeting, on 6 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for consideration of draft resolutions, which would be as follows: 3 minutes for introduction of the draft resolution, 3 minutes for statements by concerned countries and for statements in explanation of vote before and statements in explanation of vote after the vote, and 3 minutes for statements by States members of the Council who refrained from making statements before the vote, to do so after the vote.

22. At the 13th meeting, on 9 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for the interactive dialogue with mandate-holders of special procedures, which would be as follows: 10 minutes for the presentation by the mandate-holder of the main report, with a further 2 minutes to present each additional report, 5 minutes for concerned countries, if any, and States members of the Council, 3 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, and 5 minutes for concluding remarks by the mandate-holder. Members and observer States wishing to take the floor could signal their intention by raising their nameplates. Other observers were requested to register their names on the list of speakers.

23. At the 23rd meeting, on 13 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for the interactive dialogue where the dialogue addresses a report by a single mandate-holder. The modalities would then be as follows: 10 minutes for the presentation by the mandate-holder of the main report, with a further 2 minutes to present each additional report, 5 minutes for concerned countries, if any, 3 minutes for statements by States members of the

Council, 2 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, and 5 minutes for concluding remarks by the mandate-holder.

24. At the 24th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates, which would be as follows: 8 minutes for statements by main sponsors of resolutions related to the mandate in question, 6 minutes for statements by mandate-holders, 5 minutes for statements by concerned countries, if applicable, 3 minutes for statements by States members of the Council, 2 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. The mandate-holder would be given 3 minutes to make final remarks and the main sponsors of the resolution related to the mandate would be given 5 minutes for conclusion of the debate.

25. At the 30th meeting, on 18 March 2008, the President outlined the modalities for the panel on intercultural dialogue, which would be as follows: 10 minutes for each statement from the panellists, 3 minutes for statements by States members of the Council, 2 minutes for statements by observers for non-member States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, and 5 minutes for each panellist to respond.

26. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the President proposed the modalities for voting on amendments to draft resolutions. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt made statements related to the proposed modalities. The President's ruling was adopted after a vote.

27. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, final comments were made by Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), India, China, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Groupe of Arab States), the Russian Federation, Solvenia (also on behalf of the European Union) and the Syrian Arab Republic.

G. Meetings

28. The Council held 43 fully serviced meetings during its seventh session.

H. Visits

29. At the 14th meeting, on 10 March 2008, the Minister for Justice of Timor-Leste, Lucia Maria Brandão F. Lobato, delivered a statement to the Council.

30. At the 24th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the Minister Delegate in charge of the Commonwealth, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, Joseph Dion Ngute, delivered a statement to the Council.

I. Review, rationalization and improvement of mandates

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

31. At the 25th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representative of Canada, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made a statement.

32. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk, made a statement.

33. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, on 14 March 2008, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Cuba, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Russian Federation;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Finland, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey;

(c) Observer for non-governmental organizations: World Muslim Congress, International Human Rights Association for American Minorities.

34. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur made her final remarks.

35. At the same meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representative of Canada made a concluding statement.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

36. At the 25th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine) and Japan, as the main sponsors of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made statements.

37. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vitit Muntarbhorn, made a statement.

38. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a statement as the concerned country.

39. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, China, Cuba, Malaysia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Republic of Korea;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

40. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur made his final remarks.

41. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union) made a concluding statement.

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

42. At the 25th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representative of Uruguay, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, made a statement.

43. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Juan Miguel Petit, made a statement.

44. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Malaysia, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Argentina, Morocco, United Republic of Tanzania;

(c) Observer for non-governmental organizations: International Save the Children Alliance (also on behalf of the International Alliance of Women, the International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation Terres des Hommes, Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation), Plan International Inc., SOS Kinderdorf International, the World Organization Against Torture, World Vision International).

45. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur made his final remarks.

46. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay made a concluding statement.

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

47. At the 25th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representative of Canada, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, made a statement.

48. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. Ambeyi Ligabo, made a statement.

49. During the ensuing discussion, at the 26th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Cuba, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Norway, United States of America;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: European Group of National Human Rights Institutions;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights Advocates Inc., Reporters Without Borders.

50. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur made his final remarks.

51. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada made a concluding statement.

Independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

52. At the 26th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representative of Cuba, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, made a statement.

53. At the same meeting, the independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho, made a statement.

54. During the ensuing discussion at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observer for the following State: Burkina Faso;

(c) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Centrist Democrat International.

55. At the same meeting, the independent expert made his final remarks.

56. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a concluding statement.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders

57. At the 26th meeting, on 14 March 2008, the representative of Norway, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, made a statement.

58. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee on the Special Procedures mandate-holders, Gay McDougall, made a statement on behalf of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, Hina Jilani.

59. During the ensuing discussion at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Canada, Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Switzerland;

(b) Observer for the following State: United States of America;

(c) Observer for national human rights institutions: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission of Rwanda, Senegalese Committee for Human Rights and Uganda Human Rights Commission);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (also on behalf of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and the World Organization Against Torture), Human Rights First (also on behalf of Amnesty International, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of

Human Rights Defenders, the International Service of Human Rights and the World Organization Against Torture), International Service for Human Rights and Nord-Sud XXI.

60. At the same meeting, the representative of Norway made a concluding statement.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

61. At the 28th meeting, on 17 March 2008, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, made a statement.

62. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, made a statement.

63. At the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the concerned country.

64. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, on 17 March 2008, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Argentina, Panama, Sudan, Sweden, United States of America;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) (also on behalf of Ain O Salish Kendro, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society, Law and Development, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Worldview International Foundation), Conectas Direitos Humanos.

65. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur made his final remarks.

66. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine) made a concluding statement.

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

67. At the 29th meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of France, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, made a statement.

68. At the same meeting, a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Darko Göttlicher, made a statement.

69. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine);

(b) Observers for the following States: Argentina, Chile, Morocco;

(c) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Amnesty International.

70. At the same meeting, the member of the Working Group made his final remarks.

71. At the same meeting, the representative of France made a concluding statement.

Independent expert on human rights and international solidarity

72. At the 29th meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of Cuba, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity, made a statement.

73. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee on the Special Procedures mandate-holders, Gay McDougall, made a statement on behalf of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity, Rudi Muhammad Rizki.

74. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

75. At the same meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of Cuba made a concluding statement.

Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

76. At the 29th meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of Cuba, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, made a statement.

77. At the same meeting, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, José Gomez del Prado, made a statement.

78. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Human Rights Advocates Inc.

79. At the same meeting, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group made his final remarks.

80. At the same meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of Cuba made a concluding statement.

Independent expert on minority issues

81. At the 29th meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of Austria, as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the independent expert on minority issues, made a statement.

82. At the same meeting, the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall, made a statement.

83. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observer for the following State: Turkey;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (also on behalf of Minority Rights Group International, the Asian Legal Resource Centre, the Islamic Human Rights Commission and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples).

84. At the same meeting, the independent expert made her final remarks.

85. At the same meeting, on 18 March 2008, the representative of Austria made a concluding statement.

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

86. At the 32nd meeting, on 19 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, made a statement.

87. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Doudou Diène, made a statement.

88. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, on 19 March 2008, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Azerbaijan, India, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Kenya, Turkey;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Becket Fund For Religious Liberty, Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos, the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, the Islamic Human Rights Commission (also on behalf of Islamic Centre), United Nations Watch.

89. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

90. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) made a concluding statement.

Independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

91. At the 34th meeting, on 20 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, made a statement.

92. At the same meeting, the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Titinga Frédéric Pacéré, made a statement.

93. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made a statement as a concerned country.

94. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, France, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, United States of America;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Amnesty International, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (also on behalf of World Organization Against Torture).

95. At the same meeting, the independent expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

96. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) made a concluding statement.

Independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia

97. At the 34th meeting, on 20 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), as the main sponsor of the resolution related to the mandate of the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia, made a statement.

98. At the same meeting, the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Ghanim Alnajjar, made a statement.

99. At the same meeting, the representative of Somalia, as a concerned country, made a statement.

100. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, Italy, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observer for the following State: Sudan;

(c) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Human Rights Watch.

101. At the same meeting, the independent expert made his final remarks.

102. At the same meeting, on 20 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) made a concluding statement.

J. Selection and appointment of mandate-holders

103. At the 38th meeting, on 26 March 2008, the Council appointed mandate-holders in accordance with Council resolution 5/1 (see list of mandate-holders appointed in an annex to the final report).

104. At the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bolivia, Brazil (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Canada, China (on behalf of the Group of Asian States), Egypt, India, Italy, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Uruguay;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Chile, Ecuador, Israel, Morocco, Palestine, Turkey, United States of America;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Nord-Sud XXI.

K. Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

105. At the 38th meeting, on 26 March 2008, the Council elected, pursuant to its resolution 5/1, 18 experts to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/HRC/7/64 and Corr.1) containing nominations of candidates for election, in accordance with decision 6/102, and the biographical data of the candidates.

106. The Council elected the following members by acclamation, following precedent, given that there was a “clean slate” of candidates in the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean States:

African States

Ms. Mona ZULFICAR	Egypt
Mr. Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya MUDHO	Kenya
Mr. Dheerajlal SEETULSINGH	Mauritius
Ms. Halima Embarek WARZAZI	Morocco
Mr. Baba Kura KAIGAMA	Nigeria

Asian States

Mr. Shiqiu CHEN	China
Mr. Shigeki SAKAMOTO	Japan
Mr. Ansar Ahmed BURNEY	Pakistan
Ms. Purificacion V. QUISUMBING	Philippines
Ms. CHUNG Chinsung	Republic of Korea

Latin American and Caribbean States

Mr. Miguel Alfonso MARTÍNEZ	Cuba
Mr. José Antonio BENGEOA CABELLO	Chile
Mr. Héctor Felipe FIX FIERRO	Mexico

107. The Council had before it a note by the secretariat and ballot sheets (A/HRC/7/Misc.1) and, at the same meeting, elected the following members by secret ballot:

Eastern European States

Mr. Vladimir KARTASHKIN	Russian Federation
Mr. Latif HÜSEYNOV	Azerbaijan

Western European and Other States

Mr. Jean ZIEGLER	Switzerland
Mr. Emmanuel DECAUX	France
Mr. Wolfgang Stefan HEINZ	Germany

108. At the same meeting, the Council decided, by the drawing of lots, the duration of the terms of office for each member of the Advisory Committee (for details, see an annex to the final report).

L. Adoption of the report of the session

109. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, the Rapporteur and Vice-President of the Council made a statement in connection with the draft report of the Council (A/HRC/7/L.10).

110. The draft report was adopted ad referendum.

111. The Council decided to entrust the Rapporteur with the finalization of the report.

112. At the same meeting, the President of the Council made a closing statement.

II. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REPORTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

A. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

113. At the 11th meeting, on 7 March 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in connection with her annual report (A/HRC/7/38).

114. At the same meeting, the representatives of Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal, Sri Lanka and the Sudan made statements, as concerned countries.

115. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 11th and 12th meetings, on 7 March 2008, statements were made by the following:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Haiti, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America;

(c) Observer for the following intergovernmental organization: African Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) (also on behalf of the Asian Legal Resource Centre and Pax Romana), Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, Nord-Sud XXI, United Nations Watch.

116. At the 13th meeting, on 7 March 2008, the High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

B. Reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General

117. At the 13th meeting, on 7 March 2008, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented reports prepared by the High Commissioner and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and a joint report of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

118. At the same meeting, the representatives of Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Nepal and Uganda made statements, as concerned countries.

119. During the ensuing general debate, at the same meeting, statements were made by the following:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Cuba, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Greece, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Turkey;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Europe-Third World Centre (also on behalf of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, the International Trade Unions Confederation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), World Federation of Trade Unions.

120. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cyprus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey. At the same meeting, a second statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Turkey.

121. At the 21st meeting, on 13 March 2008, the Deputy High Commissioner presented other reports, which were discussed under the relevant items (see chapters III and IX).

C. Consideration and action on draft proposals

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

122. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.8/Rev.1 sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, China, Mozambique and the Russian Federation joined the sponsors.

123. At the same meeting, the President informed the Council that Egypt had withdrawn its amendment (A/HRC/7/L.40) to the draft resolution.

124. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba orally revised the draft resolution by modifying operative paragraph 1.

125. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representative of Sri Lanka.

126. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada, Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Switzerland.

127. At the request of the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted, by 34 votes to 10, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland.

128. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the Republic of Korea.

129. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April, a general comment was made by the representative of Algeria in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

III. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

A. Panels

Panel on human rights voluntary goals and general debate

130. At the 7th meeting, on 5 March 2008, pursuant to resolution 6/26, a panel discussion on human rights voluntary goals was held, during which the following panellists made statements: Mr. Andrew Clapham; Mr. Abdelwahed Radi; Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe; Mr. Paulo Vannuchi; and Mr. Gianni Verneti.

131. In the ensuing general debate at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Republic of Korea, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Uruguay;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Singapore;

(c) Observer for a non-governmental organization: CIVICUS.

132. At the same meeting, Mr. Radi, Mr. Samarasinghe and Mr. Vannuchi made concluding remarks.

Panel on intercultural dialogue on human rights

133. At the 30th meeting, on 18 March 2008, a panel on intercultural dialogue on human rights was held. The following panellists addressed the plenary: Mr. Hamidou Dia; Mr. Jan Henningsson; Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad; Mr. Chandra Muzaffar; and Mr. Ömür Orhun. The panel was moderated by Professor Malcolm D. Evans.

134. In the ensuing general debate at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), India, Italy,

Nigeria, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America;

(c) Observer for: Holy See;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Comisión Jurídica Para El Autodesarrollo de Los Pueblos Originarios Andinos “CAPAJ”, Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, Interfaith International (also on behalf of the Al-Hakim Foundation), International Federation of University Women (also on behalf of Interfaith International, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and the Women’s Federation for World Peace International and Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children), International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Al Haq-Law in The Service of Man, the Anglican Consultative Council, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), the Baha’i International Community, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Conectas Derechos Humanos, Franciscans International, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Human Rights Watch, the International Association for Religious Freedom, the International Commission of Jurists, the Lutheran World Federation and Philippine Human Rights Information Centre (PHILRIGHTS)), Islamic Human Rights Commission, UNESCO Centre Basque Country (UNESCO EXTEA).

135. At the same meeting, the following panellists answered questions and made comments: Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, Mr. Henningsson, Mr. Muzaffar and Mr. Orhun. The moderator, Mr. Evans, then made his concluding remarks.

B. Interactive dialogue with special procedures

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

136. At the 13th meeting, on 7 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Jorge Bustamante, presented his report (A/HRC/7/12 and Add.1-2).

137. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement, as a concerned country.

138. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 13th and 14th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Sri Lanka, Russian Federation, Senegal;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Ecuador, Mauritania, Morocco, Turkey;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: American Civil Liberties Union, Association of World Citizens, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (also on behalf of Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs), Human Rights Advocates Inc. and Permanent Assembly for Human Rights.

139. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

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

140. At the 14th meeting, on 10 March 2008, 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, presented his report (A/HRC/7/21 and Add.1-3).

141. At the same meeting, the representatives of Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania made statements, as concerned countries.

142. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 14th and 15th meetings, on 10 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Nigeria, Russian Federation;

(b) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Advocates Inc., Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

143. At the 15th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

144. At the 14th meeting, on 10 March 2008, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Leila Zerrougui, presented her report (A/HRC/7/4 and Add.1-4).

145. At the same meeting, the representatives of Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Norway made statements, as concerned countries.

146. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 14th and 15th meetings, on 10 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Belarus, Iraq, Mauritania, Sudan;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Norwegian Centre for Human Rights;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (also on behalf of Action Canada for Population and Development, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, the Federation for Women and Family Planning and Human Rights Watch), Colombian Commission of Jurists, Federation of Cuban Women, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Interfaith International, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, Society for Threatened Peoples and World Organization Against Torture (also on behalf of the International Federation of Human Rights).

147. At the 15th meeting, on the same day, the Chairperson-Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

148. At the 16th meeting, on 11 March 2008, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Morocco.

Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

149. At the 14th meeting, on 10 March 2008, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, José Gomez del Prado, presented his report (A/HRC/7/7 and Add.1-5).

150. At the same meeting, the representatives of Chile and Peru made statements, as concerned countries.

151. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 14th and 15th meetings, on 10 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Chairperson-Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation;

(b) Observers for the following States: Colombia, Honduras, Iraq, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: African Union.

152. At the 15th meeting, on the same day, the Chairperson-Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

153. At the 15th meeting, on 10 March 2008, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Santiago Corcuera Cabezut, presented his report (A/HRC/7/2 and Add.1-2).

154. At the same meeting, the representatives of El Salvador and Honduras made statements, as concerned countries.

155. During the interactive dialogue, at the 16th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Chairperson-Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Morocco, Nepal, Thailand;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Mexican National Human Rights Commission;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Fellowship for Reconciliation (also on behalf of the Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Femmes Africa Solidarité, France Liberté: Fondation Danielle Mitterand, International Educational Development, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Pax Romana and Society for Threatened People), Union de l'action féminine.

156. At the 17th meeting, on the same day, the Chairperson-Rapporteur answered to questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

157. At the 15th meeting, on 10 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Juan Miguel Petit, presented his report (A/HRC/7/8 and Add.1-2).

158. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement, as a concerned country.

159. During the interactive dialogue, at the 16th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Malaysia, Palestine¹ (on behalf of Group of the Arab States), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Uruguay;

(b) Observers for the following States: Argentina, Belarus, Israel, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liechtenstein, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Tunisia, Sudan;

(c) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Jubilee Campaign.

160. At the 17th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

161. At the 15th meeting, on 10 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak, presented his report (A/HRC/7/3 and Add.1-7).

162. At the 15th and 16th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2008, the representatives of Indonesia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sri Lanka and Togo made statements, as concerned countries.

163. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 16th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, Mexico, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Sudan;

(c) Observers for a national human rights institution: National Human Rights Commission of Togo, National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Franciscan International, International Commission of Jurists, International League for the Rights and Liberation of

Peoples, Union de l'action féminine and World Organization Against Torture (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Forum for Women, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Law and Development).

164. At the 16th meeting, on 11 March 2008, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tunisia.

165. At the 17th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

166. At the 17th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Paul Hunt, presented his report (A/HRC/7/11, Corr.1 and Add.1-4).

167. At the same meeting, the representatives of Colombia, Ecuador, Sweden and Uganda made statements, as concerned countries.

168. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th and 18th meetings, on 11 and 12 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Peru, Qatar, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Belgium, Israel, Luxembourg, Morocco, New Zealand, Thailand;

(c) Observer for: Holy See;

(d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Population Fund;

(e) Observer for a national human rights institution: Uganda National Human Rights Commission.

169. At the 18th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

170. At the 17th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Jean Ziegler, presented his report (A/HRC/7/5 and Add.1-3).

171. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bolivia and Cuba made statements, as concerned countries.

172. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th and 18th meetings, on 11 and 12 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt (also on behalf of the Group of African States), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), South Africa, Uruguay;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lesotho, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: African Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Europe-Third World Centre (also on behalf of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterand and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples), Federation of Cuban Women, Food First Information and Action Network, Human Rights Advocates Inc., International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements.

173. At the 18th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered to questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

174. At the 17th meeting, on 11 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Ambeyi Ligabo, presented his report (A/HRC/7/14 and Add.1-3).

175. At the same meeting, the representatives of Azerbaijan and Ukraine made statements, as concerned countries.

176. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th and 18th meetings, on 11 and 12 March, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, India, Malaysia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Australia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, New Zealand, Norway;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Centrist Democratic International, International Humanist and Ethical Union, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and Reporters Without Borders.

177. At the 18th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

178. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Egypt, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

179. At the 19th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk, presented her report (A/HRC/7/6 and Add.1-5).

180. At the same meeting, the representatives of Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ghana made statements, as concerned countries.

181. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 19th and 20th meetings, on 12 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland and Zambia;

(b) Observers for the following States: Australia, Belgium, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Liechtenstein, Lithuania (on behalf of the Group of Nordic and Baltic States), Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Sweden, Turkey;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Population Fund;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Federation of Cuban Women and International Federation of Human Rights League (also on behalf of the World Organization Against Torture).

182. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered to questions and made her concluding remarks.

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

183. At the 19th meeting, on 12 March 2008, 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, Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho, presented his report (A/HRC/7/9 and Add.1).

184. At the same meeting, the representative of Burkina Faso made a statement, as a concerned country.

185. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 19th and 20th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: African Union;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: African Commission on Health Promoters and Human Rights, Europe-Third World Centre (also on behalf of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).

186. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living

187. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Miloon Kothari, presented his report (A/HRC/7/16 and Add.1-4).

188. At the same meeting, the representatives of Canada, South Africa and Spain made statements, as concerned countries.

189. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 20th and 21st meetings, on 12 and 13 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Peru and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observers for the following States: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nepal, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Population Fund;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Office of the Ombudsman of Spain.

190. At the 21st meeting, on 13 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Independent expert on minority issues

191. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall, presented her report (A/HRC/7/23 and Add.1-3).

192. At the same meeting, the representative of France made a statement, as a concerned country.

193. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 20th and 21st meetings, on 12 and 13 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the independent expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Sri Lanka;

(b) Observers for the following States: Austria, Bhutan, Estonia, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Latvia, Nepal, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), Baha'i International Community, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Human Rights Advocates Inc., Interfaith International, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development, Jubilee Campaign, Minority Rights Group International (also on behalf of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, the Islamic Human Rights Commission, the Lutheran World Federation and Pax Romana), World Muslim Congress.

194. At the 21st meeting, on 13 March 2008, the independent expert answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

C. Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders

195. At the 19th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, Hina Jilani, presented her report (A/HRC/7/28 and Add.1-4).

196. At the same meeting, the representatives of Indonesia, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia made statements, as concerned countries.

197. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 19th and 20th meeting, on 12 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Colombia, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Thailand, United States of America;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) (also on behalf of the Asian Legal Resource Centre, the Centre for Organization Research and Education, the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development and Pax Romana), Human Rights First, International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, International Service for Human Rights, World Organization Against Torture (also on behalf of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues).

198. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

199. At the same meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic and Zimbabwe.

D. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Prevention of Genocide

200. At the 27th meeting, on 17 March 2008, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng, made a statement and presented his report (A/HRC/7/37), pursuant to Council decision 4/104 of 28 September 2007.

201. At the 29th meeting, on 18 March 2008, the following made statements and asked the Special Adviser questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Sweden¹ (also on behalf of Benin, Botswana, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Iceland, Lesotho, Mali, Norway, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Armenia, Belgium, Ethiopia, Israel, Kenya.

202. At the same meeting, on 18 March 2008, the Special Adviser answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

203. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel. A statement in exercise of a second right of reply was exercised by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

E. Reports presented under agenda item 3 and general debate on that item

Reports prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and by the Secretary-General

204. At the 21st meeting, on 13 March 2008, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced reports prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and by the Secretary-General under item 3. The Deputy High Commissioner also presented reports under items 5 and 9.

General debate on item 3

205. At the 21st and 22nd meetings, on 13 March 2008, the Council held a general debate on the aforementioned reports and on item 3, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, France, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Senegal, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Russian Federation;

(b) Observers for the following States: Denmark (also on behalf of the Group of Nordic States), New Zealand, Norway (also on behalf of the Group of Nordic States), Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania;

(c) Observer for: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme du Maroc;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-Hakim Foundation, Asian Legal Resource Centre (also on behalf of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), Lawyers Rights Watch Canada and Pax Romana), Association of World Citizens, Baha'i International Community, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Franciscans International, Fraternité Notre Dame, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Human Rights Watch, Interfaith International, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (also on behalf of the Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network, the Asian Legal Resource Centre, Lawyer's Rights Watch Canada and Nord-Sud XXI), International Educational Development, International Federation of University Women (also on behalf of Femmes Africa Solidarité, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women's Federation of World Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Movement of Mothers, Women's World Summit Foundation, Worldwide Organization for Women and Zonta International), International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Humanist and Ethical Union (also on behalf of the Association for World Education), International Islamic Federation of Students Organization (also on behalf of the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities), International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, Nord-Sud XXI, Philippine Human Rights Information Centre (PHILRIGHTS), Society for Threatened Peoples, Union de

l'action féminine, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, World Federation of Trade Unions (also on behalf of the Europe-Third World Centre and the Federation of Cuban Women), World Muslim Congress.

206. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Belarus, Benin, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

F. Consideration and action on draft proposals

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

207. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.5 sponsored by Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement) and co-sponsored by Bolivia. Subsequently, China joined the sponsors.

208. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

Mandate of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

209. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.9, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Bolivia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda. Subsequently, Algeria, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Togo, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe joined the sponsors.

210. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

211. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Sri Lanka.

212. At the request of the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted, by 34 votes to 13, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland.

Mandate of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity

213. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.12, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Belarus, Bolivia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Bangladesh, China and Ecuador joined the sponsors.

214. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

215. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of Sri Lanka.

216. At the request of the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted, by 34 votes to 13, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Mandate of the independent expert on minority issues

217. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.17, sponsored by Austria and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Malta and Serbia joined the sponsors.

218. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

219. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

220. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, a general comment was made by the representative of Bhutan in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

221. At the 39th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.20, sponsored by Mexico and co-sponsored by Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, the United States of America and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

222. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

223. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

224. A general comment in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of Spain.

225. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, general comments were made by the representatives of Bhutan, Denmark, Spain and Turkey in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

Mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders

226. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Norway introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.23, sponsored by Norway and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay. Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Uganda joined the sponsors.

227. At the same meeting, the representative of Norway orally revised the draft resolution by modifying the title of the resolution and operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

228. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

229. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Pakistan and the Russian Federation.

230. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote.

Human rights of persons with disabilities

231. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representatives of Mexico and New Zealand introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.25, sponsored by Mexico and New Zealand and co-sponsored by Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia. Subsequently, Angola, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, India, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Panama, the Philippines, Serbia, the Republic of Korea and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

232. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico orally revised the draft resolution by modifying operative paragraph 3.

233. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

234. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote.

Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality

235. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.27, sponsored by the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by Belarus, Cuba, Serbia and Uzbekistan.

236. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

237. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Poland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.29, sponsored by Poland and co-sponsored by Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mali, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Serbia, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey joined the sponsors.

238. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

239. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba, India, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka.

240. The representative of Cuba made a request for a separate vote on amendments to the draft resolution, including modifications to preambular paragraph 6 and the deletion of the preambular paragraph 9. The amendments were rejected by 27 votes to 5, and 13 abstentions.

In favour: China, Cuba, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Zambia.

241. At the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted, by 41 votes, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Zambia.

Abstaining: Bolivia, China, Cuba, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka.

Enforced or involuntary disappearances

242. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of France introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.30, sponsored by France and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and Uruguay. Subsequently, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Serbia and Timor-Leste joined the sponsors.

243. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

244. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

245. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Uruguay introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.35, sponsored by Uruguay and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Maldives, Monaco, Morocco, Panama, Serbia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey joined the sponsors.

246. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay orally revised the draft resolution by modifying operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

247. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

248. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

The right to food

249. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.6/Rev.1, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Chile, Djibouti, Ecuador, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Pakistan, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey joined the sponsors.

250. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

251. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

252. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

253. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, a general comment was made by the representative of Algeria in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

Mandate of the working group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

254. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.7/Rev.1, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Bolivia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Qatar, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Belarus, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United Republic of Tanzania joined the sponsors.

255. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

256. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Sri Lanka.

257. At the request of the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted, by 32 votes to 11, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Switzerland, Ukraine.

Human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation

258. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representatives of Germany and Spain introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.16, sponsored by Germany and Spain and co-sponsored by Andorra, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste joined the sponsors.

259. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

260. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada, Nigeria and the Russian Federation.

261. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

262. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by Mexico.

Human rights and climate change

263. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of the Maldives introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.21/Rev.1, sponsored by the Maldives and co-sponsored by Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia. Subsequently, Australia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, El Salvador, the Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, the Seychelles, Sweden and Thailand joined the sponsors.

264. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka.

265. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

Elimination of violence against women

266. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Canada introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.22/Rev.1, sponsored by Canada and co-sponsored by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland,

Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Iceland, Guinea, Malta, Moldova, Nicaragua, Senegal and Serbia joined the sponsors.

267. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraph 7.

268. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

269. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) and the Russian Federation.

270. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

Prevention of genocide

271. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Armenia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.26/Rev.1, sponsored by Armenia and co-sponsored by Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Belarus, Brazil, France, Guatemala, Iceland, New Zealand and Rwanda joined the sponsors.

272. At the same meeting, the representative of Armenia orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraph 2.

273. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

274. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

275. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

276. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of France introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.31/Rev.1, sponsored by France and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Peru, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uruguay. Subsequently, Azerbaijan, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, Serbia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

277. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

Human rights and extreme poverty

278. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of France introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.32/Rev.1, sponsored by France and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zambia. Subsequently, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Mauritius, Moldova, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Turkey joined the sponsors.

279. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

280. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

Missing persons

281. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Azerbaijan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.33/Rev.1, sponsored by Azerbaijan and co-sponsored by Bahrain, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Subsequently, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Iraq, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Malaysia, Moldova, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Serbia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia joined the sponsors.

282. At the same meeting, the representative of Azerbaijan orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraph 4 and operative paragraphs 12 and 16, deleting operative paragraphs 3 and 13 and renumbering subsequent paragraphs.

283. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

284. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

Rights of the child

285. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Uruguay (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.34, sponsored by Uruguay and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia,

Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea, Ireland, New Zealand, the Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation joined the sponsors.

286. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay orally revised the draft resolution by modifying operative paragraphs 8, 9, 11, 14, 23 (a) and (c), 31 (a) and 34 (d); inserting a preambular paragraph 5, inserting a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 8, inserting a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 29, and a new operative paragraph 39.

287. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Egypt and Switzerland.

288. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

289. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Canada introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.24, sponsored by Canada and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, India, Ireland, Lithuania, Madagascar, Panama, Montenegro and Uganda joined the sponsors.

290. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) introduced draft amendment A/HRC/7/L.39 to the draft resolution.

291. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote in connection with the draft amendment were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, India, Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Sri Lanka.

292. At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment to the draft resolution. The amendment to the draft resolution (A/HRC/7/L.39) was adopted, by 27 votes to 17, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zambia.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Japan, Republic of Korea.

293. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote in connection with draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.24, as amended, were made by the representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, India, Guatemala, Mexico (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, Andorra, Australia, Monaco, New Zealand and the United States of America).

294. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced an oral amendment to the resolution by inserting preambular paragraph 10.

295. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada and China.

296. At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment of preambular paragraph 10 of the draft resolution. The oral amendment was adopted, by 29 votes to 15, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

- In favour:* Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zambia.
- Against:* Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.
- Abstaining:* Guatemala, Peru, Philippines.

297. At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as amended by the amendment to the draft resolution (A/HRL/L.39) and as amended by the oral amendment as adopted. The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted, by 32 votes, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

- In favour:* Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.
- Abstaining:* Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

298. At the same meeting, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,

Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay subsequently withdrew their sponsorship of the draft resolution as amended.

299. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, general comments were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Sri Lanka, the Sudan and the United States of America in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION

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

300. At the 23rd meeting, on 13 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vitit Muntarbhorn, presented his report (A/HRC/7/20).

301. At the same meeting, the observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the concerned country, made a statement.

302. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Cuba, Indonesia, Japan, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: New Zealand, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United States of America;

(c) Observer for the following non-governmental organization: Jubilee Campaign.

303. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

B. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

304. At the 23rd meeting, on 13 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, presented his annual report (A/HRC/7/18) as well as his report submitted in accordance with resolution 6/33 relating to follow-up to the fifth special session (A/HRC/7/24) as requested by the Council in its resolution S-5/1 of 2 October 2007.

305. At the same meeting, the observer for Myanmar, as the concerned country, made a statement.

306. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Czech Republic, New Zealand, Norway, People's Republic of Lao, Thailand, United States of America, Viet Nam;

(c) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Anti-Slavery International, Asian Legal Resource Centre, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (also on behalf of Ain O Salish Kendra, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), the Centre for Organization Research and Education and People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy), Reporters Without Borders, Worldview International Foundation (also on behalf of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues).

307. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

C. Situation of human rights in the Sudan

308. At the 27th meeting, on 17 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, Sima Samar, presented her report (A/HRC/7/22) submitted in accordance with resolution 6/34 of 14 December 2007.

309. At the 28th meeting, also on 17 March 2008, the representative of the Sudan made a statement, as the concerned country.

310. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Bahrain, Belgium, Kenya, Mauritania, New Zealand, Panama, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Yemen, Zimbabwe;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: African Union, League of Arab States;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Hawa Society for Women, Human Rights Watch, Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies, United Nations Watch, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Organization Against Torture (also on behalf of the International Federation for Human Rights).

311. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

D. General debate on agenda item 4

312. At the 23rd and 24th meetings, on 13 and 14 March 2008, the Council held a general debate on item 4, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Australia, Belgium, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, New Zealand;

(c) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Action contre la faim, Arab Lawyers Union, Asian Legal Resource Centre (also on behalf of Lawyers Watch Canada), Baha'i International Community, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Bischofliches Hilfswerk Misereor, B'nai B'rith International (also on behalf of the Coordination Board of Jewish Organization), Centrist Democratic International, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Espace Afrique International, Europe-Third Centre (also on behalf of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterand, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), Franciscans International (also on behalf of Pax Romana), Human Rights Watch, Interfaith International, International Commission of Jurists, International Educational Development Inc., International Fellowship for Reconciliation (also on behalf of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Interfaith International (Forum-Asia), International Educational Development Inc., the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, Liberation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Society for Threatened Peoples International and the Worldview International Foundation), International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, International Movement ATD Fourth World (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis, the International Council of Women and the International Federation of Social Workers), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Minority Rights Group International, Union de l'action féminine, Union of Arab Jurists, World Council of Churches, World Muslim Congress.

313. At the 24th meeting, on 14 March 2008, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, Colombia, Ethiopia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Nepal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

E. Consideration and action on draft proposals

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

314. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council and on behalf of Japan) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.28, sponsored by Japan and Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and co-sponsored by

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Australia, Iceland and Ireland joined the sponsors.

315. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovenia orally revised the draft resolution by deleting the preambular paragraph 4 and replacing it with: “Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on the institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate-holder shall discharge his/her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto.”

316. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

317. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada and Japan.

318. The observer for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, as the concerned country, made a statement in relation to the draft resolution.

319. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of China, Cuba, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Russian Federation.

320. At the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted, by 22 votes to 7, with 18 abstentions.

The voting was as follows:²

² The representative of Bangladesh subsequently stated that his delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

- In favour:* Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.
- Against:* China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Russian Federation.
- Abstaining:* Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zambia.

321. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Egypt, Pakistan and Malaysia.

322. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, a general comment was made by the representative of the United States of America in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

323. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of States members of the Group of African States that are members of the Council) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.38, sponsored by Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States that are members of the Council) and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union). Subsequently, Croatia, Japan, Moldova, Monaco, the Republic of Korea, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey joined the sponsors.

324. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada, Pakistan (on behalf of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that are members of the Council), Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

325. The observer for the Sudan, as the concerned country, made a statement in relation to the draft resolution.

326. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

327. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, general comments were made by the representatives of Australia, the Sudan and the United States of America in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

328. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.36, sponsored by Slovenia and co-sponsored by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Australia, Iceland, Moldova, Panama, Peru and the Republic of Korea joined the sponsors.

329. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 and operative paragraphs 2 and 5.

330. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka.

331. The observer for Myanmar, as the concerned country, made a statement in relation to the draft resolution.

332. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of India.

333. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

334. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, general comments were made by the representatives of Thailand and the United States of America in connection with the adoption of the resolution.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

335. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.37, sponsored by Slovenia and co-sponsored by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Australia, Iceland, Moldova, Panama, Peru and the Republic of Korea joined the sponsors.

336. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

337. The observer for Myanmar, as the concerned country, made a statement in relation to the draft resolution.

338. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

339. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by Canada.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND MECHANISMS

Complaint procedure

340. At the 27th and 35th meetings, on 17 and 25 March 2008, the Council held two closed meetings of the complaint procedure.

341. At the 35th meeting on 25 March 2008, the President made a statement on the outcome of the meetings, stating: “The Human Rights Council has in closed meetings examined the human rights situation in Turkmenistan under the Complaint Procedure established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007. The Human Rights Council has decided to keep the situation under review.”

Social forum

342. At the 37th meeting, on 26 March 2008, the President informed the Council that the social forum would be held from 1 to 3 September 2008.

Forum on minority issues

343. At the 37th meeting on 26 March 2008, the President informed the Council that the forum on minority issues would be held on 4 and 5 September 2008.

Expert mechanism on indigenous peoples

344. At the 37th meeting on 26 March 2008, the President informed the Council that the expert mechanism on indigenous peoples would meet from 1 to 3 October 2008.

VI. UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

345. At the resumed organizational meeting of the seventh session, held on 28 February 2008, the selection of the troika members for the universal periodic review was conducted in accordance with paragraph 18 (d) of Council resolution 5/1 (for the results of the selection of troikas, see the annex to the final report).

VII. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

A. Follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions S-1/1, S-1/3, S-3/1 and S-6/1

346. At the 9th meeting, on 6 March 2008, the President of the Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported 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, as requested by the Council in its resolution 6/18 of 28 September 2007. The High Commissioner also reported on her efforts to implement resolutions S-1/3 and S-6/1. The representatives for Israel, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements, as concerned countries or parties.

347. During the ensuing general debate on the follow-up to Council resolutions S-1/1, S-3/1 and S-6/1 on item 7, at the 9th and 10th meetings on the same day, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, China, Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Djibouti, Egypt (also on behalf of the Group of African States), France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Sri Lanka, Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Belarus, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Norway, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: African Union, League of Arab States;

(d) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man (also on behalf of Adalah - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights), Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, B'nai B'rith International (also on behalf of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations), Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Defence for Children International, Indian Movement Tupaj Amaru (also on behalf of the World Peace Council), International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Commission of Jurists, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of Arab Lawyers Union, General Arab Women Federation and the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), Nord-Sud XXI, United Nations Watch.

B. Consideration and action on draft proposals

Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the recent ones in the occupied Gaza Strip

348. At the 10th meeting, on 6 March 2008, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.1, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that are members of the Council) and Palestine¹ (on behalf of States members of the Group of Arab States that are members of the Council). Subsequently, Belarus, Cuba, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

349. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraphs 2 and 5, and by modifying operative paragraphs 2 and 3.

350. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay) and Jordan.

351. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the observers for Israel and Palestine, as concerned parties.

352. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada, the Netherlands, Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Switzerland.

353. A vote was taken by roll call and the resolution was adopted, by 33 votes to 1, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Canada.

Abstaining: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

354. At the 11th meeting, on 7 March 2008, statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by Brazil, Japan and Uruguay.

Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

355. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.3, sponsored by Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) and co-sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference).

Subsequently, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cuba, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

356. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution by modifying operative paragraph 1.

357. The observers for Israel and Palestine, as the concerned countries, made statements in relation to the draft resolution.

358. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council).

359. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote.

360. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of Canada.

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

361. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.4, sponsored by Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) and co-sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference). Subsequently, Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

362. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraph 8 and operative paragraph 1.

363. The observers for Israel, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic, as the concerned countries, made statements in relation to the draft resolution.

364. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada and Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council).

365. At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted, by 46 votes to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Canada.

366. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 April 2008, a general comment was made by the representative of the United States of America on the resolutions under item 7.

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

367. At the 41st meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.2, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) and Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), and co-sponsored by Belarus, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

368. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) orally revised the draft resolution by modifying operative paragraph 5.

369. The observers for Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, as the concerned countries, made statements in relation to the draft resolution.

370. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada and Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council).

371. At the request of the representative of Slovenia, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted, by 32 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Canada.

Abstaining: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

372. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, a statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by Canada.

VIII. FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

General debate on agenda item 8

373. At the 35th meeting, on 25 March 2008, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Olivier Belle, made a statement concerning the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 25 February to 7 March 2008.

374. At the 35th and 36th meetings on the same day, the Council held a general debate on item 8, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Angola, Argentina¹ (also on behalf of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Peru, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Norway, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Australia, Belgium, Chile, Finland, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, United States of America;

(c) Observers for national human rights institutions: Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme du Maroc, International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

(d) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (also on behalf of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, the Center for Organization Research and Education, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterand, International Fellowship for Reconciliation, Pax Romana, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and Society for Threatened Peoples), Association for World Education (also on behalf of

the International Humanist and Ethical Union), European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (also on behalf of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network), Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, Interfaith International, International Federation of University Women, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Reporters Without Borders, Society for Threatened Peoples.

375. At the 36th meeting, on 25 March 2008, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of China.

**IX. RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND
RELATED FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, FOLLOW-UP TO
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION
AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

A. Interactive dialogue with special procedures

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

376. At the 31st meeting, on 19 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Doudou Diène, presented his report (A/HRC/7/19, Corr.1 and Add.1-6).

377. At the same meeting, the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall, made a statement on the joint mission to the Dominican Republic conducted with the Special Rapporteur.

378. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Mauritania made statements, as concerned countries.

379. During the ensuing interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur at the same meeting, on 19 March 2008, the following made statements and asked questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Djibouti, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Palestine¹ (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Uruguay;

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Chile, Haiti, Israel, Morocco, Nepal;

(c) Observer for: Holy See;

(d) Observers for national human rights institutions: National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France, National Human Rights Commission of India;

(e) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Association of World Citizens, Baha'i International Community, B'nai B'rith International (also on behalf of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations and United Nations Watch), European Union of Jewish Students, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, World Jewish Congress.

380. At the same meeting, on 19 March 2008, the Special Rapporteur and the independent expert answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

381. At the 33rd meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Israel and Lithuania.

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

382. At the 31st meeting, on 19 March 2008, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Peter Kasanda, presented his report (A/HRC/7/36).

383. During the ensuing interactive dialogue with the Chairperson-Rapporteur at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Brazil, China, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Republic of Korea;

(b) Observer for the following State: Algeria;

(c) Observer for the following non-governmental organization: Association of World Citizens.

384. At the same meeting, on 19 March 2008, the Chairperson-Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

B. Reports presented under agenda item 9 and general debate on that item

Report prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights³

385. At the 21st meeting, on 13 March 2008, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted under agenda item 9.

Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and elaboration of Complementary Standards

386. At the 31st meeting, on 19 March 2008, Dayan Jayatilleka, in his capacity as Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, presented an oral report on the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group, held from 21 January to 1 February 2008.

387. At the 32nd meeting, on 19 March 2008, Idriss Jazaïry, in his capacity as Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, presented an oral report on the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee, held from 11 to 22 February 2008.

General debate

388. At the 37th meeting, on 26 March 2008, the Council held a general debate on the above-mentioned reports and on item 9, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Nigeria, Russian Federation, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Switzerland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Armenia, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Syrian Arab Republic;

³ See also chapter III.

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) (also on behalf of the Association of World Citizens and International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism), Association for World Education, Association of World Citizens, B'nai B'rith International (also on behalf of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations), Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, Franciscans International, Indian Council of South America (also on behalf of Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Interfaith International, International Educational Development Inc., the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, the International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development, the Union of Arab Jurists and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), Interfaith International, International Humanist and Ethical Union (also on behalf of Association for World Education), International Islamic Federation of Student Organization, Liberation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Nord-Sud XXI, Society for Threatened Peoples, UNESCO Centre Basque Country (UNESCO ETXEA), World Union for Progressive Judaism.

389. At the same meeting, on 26 March 2008, Mr. Jayatilleka and Mr. Jazaïry answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

390. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Algeria and Morocco. Second statements in exercise of the right of reply, in connection with the statements made in exercise of the right of reply, were made by the representatives of Algeria and Morocco.

C. Consideration and action on draft proposals

Combating defamation of religions

391. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.15, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference). Subsequently, one State joined the sponsors.

392. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia.

393. At the request of the representative of India and Slovenia, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted, by 21 votes to 10, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka.

Against: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea, Uruguay, Zambia.

394. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Brazil and Nigeria.

From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

395. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.14, sponsored by Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Belarus, Guinea, Indonesia and Nicaragua joined the sponsors.

396. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) orally revised the draft resolution by deleting preambular paragraphs 2 and 3 and replacing them with a new paragraph, deleting operative paragraph 1 and replacing it with a new paragraph, modifying operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, and inserting a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 3.

397. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implication of the draft resolution.

398. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council).

399. At the request of the representative of Slovenia (on behalf of members of the European Union), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted, by 34 votes, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Abstaining: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

400. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by Brazil.

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

401. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.18, sponsored by Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Bolivia and Cuba. Subsequently, Brazil, Colombia, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

402. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraphs 4 and 5 and operative

paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and subparagraphs 2 (a), (c), (d), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), 3 (d) and (e); and inserting new subparagraphs 2 (f) and (g) after subparagraphs 2 (f) and (g) respectively, deleting subparagraph 2 (h) and replacing it with new text.

403. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

404. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of India, Pakistan (on behalf of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that are members of the Council), Slovenia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Switzerland.

405. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

X. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

A. Interactive dialogue with special procedures

Democratic Republic of the Congo

406. At the 32nd meeting, on 19 March 2008, the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Titinga Frédéric Pacéré, presented his report (A/HRC/7/25).

407. The observer for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as the concerned country, made a statement on the report.

408. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the independent expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observers for the following States: Algeria, Belgium, Tunisia, United States of America;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Commission of Jurists, Pax Romana.

409. At the same meeting, the independent expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Cambodia

410. At the 33rd meeting, on 19 March 2008, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, Yash Ghai, presented his report (A/HRC/7/42).

411. The observer for Cambodia, as the concerned country, made a statement on the report.

412. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Japan, Malaysia, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Sweden, United States of America;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (also on behalf of Human Rights Watch).

413. At the same meeting, the Special Representative answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Liberia

414. At the 33rd meeting, on 19 March 2008, the independent expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia, Charlotte Abaka, presented her report (A/HRC/7/67).

415. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, the following made statements and asked the independent expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Ghana, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union);

(b) Observer for the following State: United States of America.

416. At the same meeting, the independent expert answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Somalia

417. At the 34th meeting, on 20 March 2008, the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Ghanim Alnajjar, presented his report (A/HRC/7/26).

418. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the independent expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Council: Canada, Djibouti, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Italy, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Observers for the following States: Ethiopia, Kenya, New Zealand, Sweden, United States of America, Yemen;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch.

419. At the same meeting, the independent expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

B. Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

420. At the 33rd meeting, on 19 March 2008, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, William Schabas, presented the report of the Secretary-General on advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights (A/HRC/7/74).

C. General debate on agenda item 10

421. At the 37th meeting, on 26 March 2008, the Council held a general debate on item 10, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representative of a State member of the Council: Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine);

(b) Observers for the following States: New Zealand, Norway, Sweden;

(c) Observer for the following non-governmental organization: Comisión Jurídica Para el Autodesarrollo de Los Pueblos Originarios Andinos (CAPAJ).

422. At the same meeting, on 26 March 2008, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

D. Consideration and action on draft proposals

Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

423. At the 40th meeting, on 27 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.13, sponsored by Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States).

424. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and operative paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, deleting operative paragraph 2 and inserting a new paragraph after operative paragraph 6.

425. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union) and Switzerland.

426. The observer for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as the concerned country, made a statement in relation to the draft resolution.

427. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote.

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

428. At the 42nd meeting, on 28 March 2008, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.19, sponsored by Egypt (on behalf of the African Group). Subsequently, Austria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

429. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States) orally revised the draft resolution by modifying preambular paragraph 12 and operative paragraphs 4, 7 and 10, deleting preambular paragraph 5 and replacing it with a new paragraph, and deleting operative paragraph 6.

430. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

431. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of Canada.

432. The observer for Somalia, as the concerned country, made a statement in relation to the draft resolution.

433. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

434. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of Japan.
