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Organizational and procedural matters

**ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA FOR THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL***

Note by the Secretary-General

* Late submission.

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1. Organizational and procedural matters

Date and venue of the session

1. In accordance with its annual programme of work, as considered on 19 June 2008 at the organizational meeting for the third cycle of the Human Rights Council, the Council is scheduled to hold its ninth session from 8 to 26 September 2008 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
2. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Council, as contained in section VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the organizational meeting for the ninth session is scheduled for 22 August 2008.

Agenda of the session

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

Composition of the Human Rights Council

4. The composition of the Council at its ninth session is as follows:¹ Angola (2010); Argentina (2011); Azerbaijan (2009); Bahrain (2011); Bangladesh (2009); Bolivia (2010); Bosnia and Herzegovina (2010); Brazil (2011); Burkina Faso (2011); Cameroon (2009); Canada (2009); Chile (2011); China (2009); Cuba (2009); Djibouti (2009); Egypt (2010); France (2011); Gabon (2011); Germany (2009); Ghana (2011); India (2010); Indonesia (2010); Italy (2010); Japan (2011); Jordan (2009); Madagascar (2010); Malaysia (2009); Mauritius (2009); Mexico (2009); Netherlands (2010); Nicaragua (2010); Nigeria (2009); Pakistan (2011); Philippines (2010); Qatar (2010); Republic of Korea (2011); Russian Federation (2009); Saudi Arabia (2009); Senegal (2009); Slovakia (2011); Slovenia (2010); South Africa (2010); Switzerland (2009); Ukraine (2011); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2011); Uruguay (2009); Zambia (2011).

Bureau of the Human Rights Council

5. The composition of the Bureau of the Council for its third year, until 18 June 2009, is as follows: President of the Council, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi (Nigeria); Vice-Presidents, Erlinda F. Basilio (Philippines), Alberto J. Dumont (Argentina) and Marius Grinius (Canada); Vice-President and Rapporteur, Elchin Amirbayov (Azerbaijan).

Annual programme of work

6. In accordance with rule 8 (a) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, as contained in section VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the annual programme of work for the third year of the Council was considered at the organizational meeting held on 19 June 2008.

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

Review, rationalization and improvement of mandates

7. At its ninth session, the Council will continue the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates as commenced during its sixth session.

Selection and appointment of mandate-holders

8. In accordance with paragraph 47 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and the requirements set out in Council decision 6/102, the consultative group composed of Alejandro Artucio (Uruguay), Petko Draganov (Bulgaria), Javier Garrigues Flórez (Spain), Dayan Jayatileka (Sri Lanka) and Babacar Carlos Mbaye (Senegal), shall propose to the President of the Council a list of candidates for the mandates for which a new mandate-holder is to be appointed at the ninth session: two members for the Working Group on People of African Descent, one from the Asian group region and one from the Eastern European group region; one member for the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances from the group of Western and other States; and the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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

Conference facilities and financial support for the Human Rights Council

10. In its resolution 8/1 of 18 June 2008, the Council reaffirmed the need to ensure the provision of necessary financial resources to the Council and its working groups in order to discharge its mandate fully, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 60/251 and implemented by Council resolution 5/1. In the same resolution, the Council expressed its concern at the delays in the submission of documents to the Council, including those relating to the universal periodic review, and in particular the delays in the translation of documents into the six official languages of the United Nations, and in this context requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Conference Services Division at the United Nations Office at Geneva to make an assessment of the situation and to report back to the Council at its ninth session with proposals for adequate measures.

11. In resolution 8/1, the Council also reaffirmed that it would consider favourably the adoption of a decision on the webcasting of all public proceedings of its various working groups, taking into account the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-selectivity and, in this context, requested the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Office at Geneva to make an assessment of the situation and to report back to the Council at its ninth session with proposals for adequate measures, including by identifying the necessary resources to establish a permanent capacity for webcasting.

12. The Council will have before it the above-mentioned report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Conference Services Division (A/HRC/9/18) and the report of the Department of Public Information (A/HRC/9/19).

2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General²

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

13. In its resolution 6/7 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Member States and to seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations, and to submit a report thereon to the Council as appropriate, in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/9/2) at its ninth session under agenda item 3.

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

14. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/79, and in accordance with the note by the Secretariat (A/HRC/7/48), the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/9/8) at its ninth session under agenda item 3 (see also paragraph 48 below).

Indigenous issues

15. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/49, and in accordance with the note by the Secretariat (A/HRC/7/65), the Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/9/9) at its ninth session under agenda item 3 (see also paragraphs 26 and 49 below).

Conscientious objection to military service

16. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2004/35, and in accordance with the note by the Secretariat (A/HRC/7/73), the Council will consider the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/9/24) at its ninth session under agenda item 3.

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children

17. In its resolution 8/12 of 18 June 2008, the Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Council, at its ninth session, a report on the latest developments in the United Nations relating to combating trafficking in persons as well as on the activities of the Office on this issue, including by

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

presenting the recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking developed by the Office. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report of the Office of the High Commissioner at its ninth session under agenda item 3 (A/HRC/9/29).

World Programme for Human Rights Education

18. In its resolution 6/24 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council at its last 2008 session on progress made towards the implementation of that resolution. The Council will consider the report of the Office of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/9/4) at its ninth session under agenda item 8.

Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system

19. In its resolution 6/30 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report in 2008 on the obstacles and challenges to the implementation of that resolution encountered by the Council and to make concrete recommendations for action to address such obstacles and challenges. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/9/6) at its ninth session under agenda item 8 (see also paragraph 59 below).

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination

20. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission resolution 2005/64, and in accordance with the note by the Secretariat (A/HRC/7/43), the Council will consider the progress report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the implementation of relevant recommendations made at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at its ninth session (A/HRC/9/5) under agenda item 9.

Combating defamation of religions

21. In its resolution 7/19 of 27 March 2008, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the implementation of that resolution and to submit a study compiling relevant existing legislations and jurisprudence concerning defamation of and contempt for religions to the Council at its ninth session. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/9/7) and the study by the High Commissioner (A/HRC/9/26) at its ninth session under agenda item 9 (see also paragraph 63 below).

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

22. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraphs 13 to 17 will be considered under agenda item 3.

(a) Economic, social and cultural rights

Global food crisis

23. In its resolution S-7/1 entitled “The negative impact of the worsening of the world food crisis on the realization of the right to food for all”, adopted by the Council on 22 May 2008 at its seventh special session, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to present a report to the Council at its ninth session, inviting comments from States and other relevant actors on the impact of the global food crisis on the protection of the right to food and the required remedies from a human rights perspective. The Council also requested the Special Rapporteur to continue reporting on further developments on this issue to the Council, and decided to remain seized of the implementation of that resolution. The Council will consider the above-mentioned report of the Special Rapporteur, Olivier de Schutter (A/HRC/9/23), at its ninth session.

Human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation

24. In its resolution 7/22 of 28 March 2008, the Council decided to appoint an independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and invited him/her to submit a report, including conclusions and recommendations, to the Council at its tenth session. The Council will consider the report of the independent expert, to be appointed at the ninth session, at a future session.

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

Children and armed conflict

25. In its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, the General Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the Human Rights Council on the progress achieved and the remaining challenges on the children and armed conflict agenda. The Council will consider the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at its ninth session (A/HRC/9/3).

Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

26. In its resolution 6/12 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to submit a report on the implementation of his or her mandate to the Council, in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, James Anaya (A/HRC/9/11) (see also paragraphs 15 above and 49 below).

Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

27. In its resolution 7/13 of 27 March 2008, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to submit a report on the implementation of his/her mandate to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Najat M'jid Maala (A/HRC/9/21).

Missing persons

28. In accordance with its resolution 7/28 of 28 March 2008, the Council decided to hold a panel discussion on the question of missing persons at its ninth session and to invite experts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, delegates of Governments and non-governmental organizations as well as national human rights institutions and international organizations to participate therein, and requested the High Commissioner to prepare a summary of the panel's deliberations with a view to subsequently charging the Advisory Committee, at the same session, with the preparation of a study on best practices in the matter. The Council will hold the above-mentioned panel discussion at its ninth session.

(c) Right to development

Human rights and international solidarity

29. In its resolution 7/5 of 27 March 2008, the Council requested the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity to continue work on the preparation of a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity and to submit a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Council at its ninth session, unless otherwise decided by the Council. The Council will consider the report of the independent expert, Rudi Muhammad Rizki (A/HRC/9/10), at its ninth session.

Working Group on the Right to Development

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

31. In the same resolution, the Council also decided to review the progress of the implementation of the resolution as a matter of priority in its future sessions. At its ninth session, the Council will consider the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/9/17) which is scheduled to hold its ninth session from 18 to 22 August 2008.

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

Contemporary forms of slavery

32. In its resolution 6/14 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, to replace the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The Council requested the Special Rapporteur to submit annual reports on the activities of the mandate to the Council together with recommendations on measures that should be taken to combat and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices and to protect the human rights of victims of such practices. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Gulnara Shahinian (A/HRC/9/20), at its ninth session.

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

33. In accordance with its resolution 5/1, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, Okechukwu Ibeanu (A/HRC/9/22), at its ninth session.

Human rights voluntary goals

34. In its resolution 6/26 of 14 December 2007, the Council decided to initiate an open-ended intergovernmental process in order to elaborate, on a consensual basis, a set of human rights voluntary goals, to promote the realization and implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in accordance with States' international human rights obligations and commitments, to be launched on 10 December 2008, during the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Council also decided to consider the results of the open-ended intergovernmental process in elaborating a set of human rights voluntary goals to be submitted to the Council, on a consensual basis, through a draft resolution, by its session in September 2008.

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

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

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

36. In its resolution 7/16 of 27 March 2008, the Council decided to review the situation of human rights in the Sudan at its ninth session.

37. In accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/9/13) at its ninth session (see also paragraphs 35 and 36 above, and 38 to 42 below).

Follow-up to the fourth special session of the Council

38. In its decision S-4/101, adopted on 13 December 2006 at its fourth special session, the Council decided to dispatch a high-level mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of the Sudan in that regard, comprising five highly qualified persons, to be appointed by the President of the Council following consultation with the members of the Council, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. In its resolution 4/8, the Council took note of the report of the High-Level Mission on the situation of human rights in Darfur (A/HRC/4/80).

39. In its resolution 4/8 of 30 March 2007, the Council also decided to convene a group to be presided over by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, composed of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The Council requested the group to work with the Government of the Sudan and the appropriate human rights mechanisms of the African Union, and to consult closely with the Chairman of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, to ensure effective follow-up and to foster the implementation of resolutions and recommendations on Darfur, as adopted by the Council, the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations human rights institutions, as well as to promote the implementation of relevant recommendations of other United Nations human rights mechanisms, taking into account the needs of the Sudan in this regard, to safeguard the consistency of these recommendations and to contribute to monitoring the human rights situation on the ground. In accordance with resolution 4/8, the group reported to the Council at its fifth session (A/HRC/5/6).

40. In accordance with Council resolution OM/1/3, adopted on 20 June 2007, the group of experts continued its work for six months and submitted an update to the Council at its sixth session in September 2007 (A/HRC/6/7) and a final report at its resumed sixth session in December 2007 (A/HRC/6/19).

41. In its resolution 6/34 of 14 December 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan to ensure effective follow-up and to foster the implementation of the remaining short-term and medium-term recommendations identified in the first report of the group of experts (A/HRC/5/6) through an open and constructive dialogue with the Government of the Sudan, taking into account the final report of the group of experts (A/HRC/6/19) and the replies of the Government thereto, and to include information in that regard in her report to the Council at its ninth session.

42. In accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions, the Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/9/13/Add.1) at its ninth session (see also paragraphs 35 to 37 above).

5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

(a) Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

43. By its resolution 5/1, the Council, in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251, established the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. At its seventh session, the Council elected the 18 members of the Advisory Committee: José Antonio Bengoa (Chile), Ansar Ahmed Burney (Pakistan), Shiqiu Chen (China), Chinsung Chung (Republic of Korea), Emmanuel Decaux (France), Héctor Felipe Fix Fierro (Mexico), Wolfgang Stefan Heinz (Germany), Latif Hüseyinov (Azerbaijan), Baba Kura Kaigama (Nigeria), Vladimir Kartashkin (Russian Federation), Miguel Alfonso Martínez (Cuba),

Bernards Andrews Nyamwaya Mudho (Kenya), Purificacion Quisumbing (Philippines), Shigeki Sakamoto (Japan), Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius), Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco), Jean Ziegler (Switzerland) and Mona Zulficar (Egypt). The first session of the Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held from 4 to 15 August 2008.

(b) Complaint procedure

44. In its resolution 5/1, the Council established the complaint procedure as contained in section IV of the annex to that resolution. In paragraph 98 of the annex to that resolution, the Working Group on Situations was requested, on the basis of the information and recommendations provided by the Working Group on Communications, to present the Council with a report on consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to make recommendations to the Council on the course of action to be taken.

45. The Working Group on Communications met from 14 to 18 April 2008. The Working Group on Situations met from 23 to 27 June 2008.

46. At its ninth session, the Council will consider issues relating to the complaint procedure in two closed meetings.

(c) Social Forum

47. In its resolution 6/13 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to preserve the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including grass-roots organizations. The Council also decided that the Social Forum should continue meeting every year for three days, and requested that the next meeting be held in 2008, in Geneva. The Council invited the 2008 Social Forum to submit to the Council a report that included a proposal of possible themes for the 2009 Social Forum. The Council decided that it would continue consideration of this issue under the relevant agenda item when the report of the 2008 Social Forum was submitted to the Council. In December 2007, Mousa Burayzat (Jordan) was appointed Chairperson-Rapporteur for the 2008 Social Forum. The Social Forum is scheduled to meet from 1 to 3 September 2008.

(d) Forum on minority issues

48. In its resolution 6/15 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to establish a forum on minority issues to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and which should provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the independent expert on minority issues. The Council decided that the Forum should meet annually for two working days allocated to thematic discussions. The Council also decided that the independent expert on minority issues should guide the work of the Forum and prepare its annual meetings, and invited that person to include in his or her report thematic recommendations of the forum and recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the Council. In June 2008, Viktória Mohácsi (Hungary) was appointed Chairperson of the Forum. The Forum on Minority Issues is scheduled to meet on 15 and 16 December 2008.

(e) Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples

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

50. At its eighth session, the Council appointed the following five members of the expert mechanism: Catherine Odimba Kombe (Congo), José Mencio Molintas (Philippines), Jannie Lasimbang (Malaysia), José Carlos Morales Morales (Costa Rica) and John Henrikson (Norway). The expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples is scheduled to meet from 1 to 3 October 2008.

6. Universal periodic review

51. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review held its first session from 7 to 18 April 2008 and its second session from 5 to 16 May 2008. The third session of the Working Group is scheduled to be held from 1 to 12 December 2008.

52. The Council will proceed to establish the order of review for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Working Group on the universal periodic review by the drawing of lots. The following order of review for the third session of the Working Group was established on 21 September 2007 by the drawing of lots: Botswana, Bahamas, Burundi, Luxembourg, Barbados, Montenegro, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Liechtenstein, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu (A/HRC/6/22, annex VII).

53. The Council will also proceed to the selection of troikas for the third, fourth and fifth sessions of the Working Group, in accordance with paragraph 18 (d) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and the established modalities (A/HRC/6/22, annex V).

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

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

Follow-up to special sessions

54. In its resolution S-1/1 of 6 July 2006, the Council decided to dispatch an urgent fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the

Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. In its resolution S-3/1 of 15 November 2006, the Council decided to dispatch urgently a high-level fact-finding mission, to be appointed by the President of the Council, to travel to Beit Hanoun.

55. In its resolution OM/1/2, adopted at its first organizational meeting on 20 June 2007, the Council called for the implementation of resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1, including the urgent dispatching of the fact-finding mission. In accordance with resolution 6/18 of 28 September 2007, the President and the High Commissioner reported to the Council, at its seventh session, on their efforts to implement Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 and on the compliance of Israel, the occupying Power, with those resolutions.

56. In accordance with resolution S-3/1 of 15 November 2006, the Council will consider the report of the high-level fact-finding mission to Beit Hanoun (A/HRC/9/28), which was conducted from 26 to 30 May 2008 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Christine Chinkin.

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

57. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above will be considered under agenda item 8.

World Programme for Human Rights Education

58. In accordance with its resolution 6/24 of 28 September 2007, the Council will consider the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/9/4) (see also paragraph 18 above).

Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system

59. In its resolution 6/30 of 14 December 2007, the Council decided to incorporate into its programme of work sufficient and adequate time, at minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss the human rights of women, including measures that could be adopted by States and other stakeholders, to address human rights violations experienced by women.

60. In the same resolution, the Council decided to incorporate into its programme of work an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms, including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced. The Council will hold the above-mentioned discussion at its ninth session.

61. The Council decided to continue its consideration of both the rights of women and the integration of a gender perspective in accordance with its programme of work.

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

62. While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the reports referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above will be considered under agenda item 9.

Combating defamation of religions

63. In its resolution 7/19 of 27 March 2008, the Council invited the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to continue to report on all manifestations of defamation of religions, and in particular on the serious implications of Islamophobia, on the enjoyment of all rights to the Council at its ninth session. The report (A/HRC/9/12) will be presented by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Githu Muigai, who will replace the previous mandate-holder Doudou Diène on 1 August 2008 (see also paragraph 21 above).

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

64. In its resolution 1/5 of 30 June 2006, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action for a further period of three years. In its decision 3/103 of 8 December 2006, the Council recommended that the Working Group should convene the second part of its fifth session in September 2007 and that that session should mark the conclusion and closure of the Working Group's debates and deliberations on the question of complementary standards. The first part of the sixth session of the Working Group was held from 21 January to 1 February 2008. The dates for the second part of the sixth session of the Working Group are to be confirmed.

65. In its decision 3/103, the Council established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee should convene annual sessions of 10 working days to draw up the requisite legal instruments and hold its first session before the end of 2007, subject to the Working Group having completed its task on complementary standards by that date, and to report regularly to the Council on progress in the actual progress of the elaboration of complementary standards.

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

Durban Review Conference

67. In its resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006, the Council decided that the Preparatory Committee should elect, at its organizational sessions, on the basis of equitable geographic representation, a bureau for the Preparatory Committee and that, at the same session, the Preparatory Committee should decide on all the relevant modalities for the Review Conference in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, including deciding on the objectives of the Conference, the level at which the Conference should be convened, regional preparatory activities, date and venue. The Council also decided that the review would concentrate on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including further actions, initiatives and practical solutions for combating all the contemporary scourges of racism. The Council decided to retain this priority issue on its programme of work. At its eighth session, the Council heard an oral report on the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, which was held from 21 April to 2 May 2008. The second substantive session is scheduled for 6 to 17 October 2008.

10. Technical assistance and capacity-building

Advisory services and technical assistance for Burundi

68. In its resolution 6/5 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to extend by one year the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi. The Council also asked the independent expert to submit a final report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures applied in practice to the Council, at its ninth session. The Council will consider the report of the independent expert, Akich Okola (A/HRC/9/14).

Advisory services and technical assistance for Liberia

69. In its resolution 6/31 of 14 December 2007, the Council invited the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia to submit a final report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures applied in practice to the Council, at its ninth session. The Council will consider the report of the independent expert, Charlotte Abaka (A/HRC/9/15).

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

70. In its resolution 7/35 of 28 March 2008, the Council requested the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia to submit a report to the Council at its sessions in September 2008 and March 2009. The Council will consider the report of the independent expert, Shamsul Bari, at its ninth session (A/HRC/9/16) and the subsequent report at its tenth.
