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Agenda item 5

Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirteenth session

Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirteenth session**

Geneva, 11–15 August 2014

Rapporteur: Laurence Boisson de Chazournes

* Reissued for technical reasons on 19 November 2014.

** Annexes II and III to the present report are circulated in the language of submission only.

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I. Action taken by the Advisory Committee at its thirteenth session

13/1 Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 22/16 of 21 March 2013, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations and to present a progress report thereon to the Council at its twenty-sixth session and the final report to the Council at its twenty-eighth session,

Recalling also that at its eleventh session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mr. Latif Hüseyinov, Mr. Kaoru Obata, Ms. Katharina Pabel, Ms. Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing, Ms. Anantonia Reyes Prado (Rapporteur), Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair), Mr. Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, as well as Ms. Karla Hananía de Varela, who joined the drafting group at the current session,

Recalling further that at its twelfth session, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work by recirculating the questionnaires to seek the views and inputs of the various stakeholders and request the Advisory Committee to submit a progress report to the Council at its twenty-seventh session and a final report at its twenty-eighth session,

Recalling also that the Human Rights Council, by its decision 26/116, granted the Committee's request to extend the time schedule,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, submitted to the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council;¹

2. *Requests* the drafting group to finalize its report to the Council in the light of the discussion held by the Advisory Committee at its current session after circulating it to all members of the Advisory Committee for approval electronically, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session.

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

13/2 The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 23/9 of 13 June 2013, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to submit a research-based report on the issue of the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council at its twenty-sixth session,

¹ A/HRC/27/57.

Recalling also that at its eleventh session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, which is currently composed of the following members: Mr. Al Faihani, Ms. Boisson de Chazournes, Mr. Coriolano, Ms. Elsadda, Mr. Hüseyinov, Mr. Karokora, Mr. Okafor, Ms. Pabel (Rapporteur), Ms. Quisumbing, Ms. Reyes Prado, Mr. Soofi and Mr. Yigezu (Chair),

Recalling further that at its twelfth session, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work, inter alia, by analysing the numerous recently received responses to the questionnaire, and request the Advisory Committee to submit an interim report to the Council at its twenty-sixth session and a final report at its twenty-eighth session,

Recalling also that the Human Rights Council, by its decision 26/117, granted the Committee's request to extend the time schedule,

1. *Takes note* of the draft report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;²

2. Requests the drafting group to finalize its report to the Council in the light of the discussion held by the Advisory Committee at its current session after circulating it to all members of the Advisory Committee for approval electronically, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session.

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

13/3 Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 24/1 of 26 September 2013, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them, bearing in mind both the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the value of good sporting example ... and to present a progress report thereon to the Council before its twenty-seventh session,

Recalling also that at its twelfth session the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mr. Al Faihani (Chair), Mr. Lebedev (Rapporteur), and Mr. Zhang, as well as Ms. Hananía de Varela, who joined the drafting group at the current session,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights, submitted to the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council;³

2. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council request the Advisory Committee to submit a final report to the Council at its thirtieth session;

3. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council consider adopting the following decision:

² A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.3.

³ A/HRC/27/58.

“The Human Rights Council requests the Advisory Committee to submit a final report on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them, bearing in mind both the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the value of good sporting example, to the Council at its thirtieth session.”

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

13/4 Local government and human rights

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 24/2 of 26 September 2013, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare, from within existing resources, a research-based report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services, with a view to compiling best practices and main challenges, and to present a progress report on the requested research-based report to the Council at its twenty-seventh session,

Recalling also that at its twelfth session the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mr. Coriolano, Ms. Elsadda, Mr. Hüseyinov, Ms. Reyes Prado and Mr. Yigezu, as well as Ms. Pabel, who joined the drafting group at the current session,

1. *Takes note* of the draft report that has been approved by the Advisory Committee as a progress report to be submitted to the twenty-seventh session of the Council;⁴

2. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council request the Advisory Committee to submit a final report to the Council at its thirtieth session;

3. *Recommends also* that the Human Rights Council consider adopting the following decision:

“The Human Rights Council requests the Advisory Committee to submit a final report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services, with a view to compiling best practices and main challenges, to the Council at its thirtieth session.”

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

⁴ A/HRC/27/59.

13/5 Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 24/14 of 27 September 2013, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report containing recommendations on a mechanism to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability, and to present a progress report of the requested research-based report to the Council at its twenty-eighth session,

Recalling also that at its twelfth session the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, and designated Mr. Lebedev, Mr. Okafor, Mr. Soofi, Mr. Yigezu (Rapporteur) and Mr. Ziegler (Chair) as members of the drafting group,

1. *Takes note* of the draft progress report containing recommendations on a mechanism to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;⁵

2. *Requests* the drafting group to recirculate the questionnaire to seek the views and inputs of the various stakeholders that did not respond to the questionnaire, in order to allow for better informed work;

3. *Also requests* the drafting group to finalize its progress report to the Council in the light of the discussion held by the Advisory Committee at its current session after circulating it to all members of the Advisory Committee for approval electronically, and to submit it to the Council at its twenty-eighth session.

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

13/6 Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 24/33, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism and to submit a report thereon to the Council at its twenty-eighth session,

Recalling also that at its twelfth session the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, and designated Mr. Al Faihani, Ms. Boisson de Chazournes (Rapporteur), Mr. Coriolano, Mr. Hüseyinov, Mr. Obata and Mr. Okafor (Chair) as members of the drafting group,

1. *Takes note* of the draft report on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;⁶

⁵ A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.2.

⁶ A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.1.

2. *Requests* the drafting group to finalize its report to the Council in the light of the discussion held by the Advisory Committee at its current session, as well as taking into account the outcome of the expert meeting to be organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie on 24 September 2014, after circulating it to all members of the Advisory Committee for approval electronically, and to submit it to the Council at its twenty-eighth session.

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

13/7 Research proposals

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling paragraph 77 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, as well as resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

1. *Decides* to propose for the Council's consideration and approval the following research proposals:

- (a) The impact of settler colonialism on human rights;
- (b) Whistle-blowing and human rights;
- (c) The activities of vulture funds and human rights;
- (d) Preserving international watercourses to protect the right to life and food;
- (e) Unaccompanied child migration and human rights.

2. *Decides also* to include, pursuant to rule 17 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the concept papers for the aforementioned research proposals in the annex to its report on its thirteenth session;

3. *Decides further* to resubmit the following research proposals that had been submitted to the Council at its previous sessions:

- (a) The possibility of establishing a universal human rights court: strengthening the current human rights protection system;⁷
- (b) Citizens' security and human rights;⁸
- (c) Youth and human rights.⁹

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

⁷ See annex IV, section A, of the report of the Advisory Committee on its twelfth session (A/HRC/AC/12/2).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ See annex IV, section III, of the report of the Advisory Committee on its ninth session (A/HRC/AC/9/6).

13/8 Review of methods of work

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling paragraph 82 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, as well as paragraph 35 of resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

Recalling also its meeting of 13 August 2014 with the Human Rights Council bureau and regional and political coordinators, as well as its meeting of 14 August 2014 with non-governmental organizations,

1. *Decides* to hold private meetings in the framework of each of its session with:

- (a) Non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives;
- (b) The Human Rights Council bureau;
- (c) The regional and political coordinators.

2. *Decides also* that at its subsequent plenary meeting, the Chair of the Committee will inform the plenary of the main issues discussed at such private meetings;

3. *Decides further* to continue the practice of resorting to expertise, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations, academics and other relevant stakeholders, in order to inform the Advisory Committee's deliberations and work.

*9th meeting
15 August 2014*

[Adopted without a vote]

II. Officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its thirteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 15 August 2014. The session was opened by the Chair of its thirteenth session, Mario Luis Coriolano.

2. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Maurizio Enrico Serra, addressed the Advisory Committee at its first meeting, on 11 August 2014.

3. At the same meeting, the Director of the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement on behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner.

4. Also at the same meeting, participants observed a minute of silence for the victims of human rights violations around the world.

B. Composition of the Advisory Committee

5. The membership of the Advisory Committee is as follows:¹⁰ Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani (Bahrain, 2015); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (France, 2014); Mario Luis Coriolano (Argentina, 2015); Hoda Elsadda (Egypt, 2016); Karla Hananía de Varela (El Salvador, 2016); Latif Hüseyinov (Azerbaijan, 2014); Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora (Uganda, 2016); Mikhail Lebedev (Russian Federation, 2016); Kaoru Obata (Japan, 2016); Obiora Chinedu Okafor (Nigeria, 2014); Katharina Pabel (Austria, 2015); Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing (Philippines, 2014); Anantonia Reyes Prado (Guatemala, 2014); Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Pakistan, 2014); Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Ethiopia, 2015); Yishan Zhang (China, 2016); Jean Ziegler (Switzerland, 2016).

6. Following his election as member of the Human Rights Committee in June 2014, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh resigned from the Advisory Committee.

C. Attendance

7. The session was attended by members of the Advisory Committee and observers for States Members of the United Nations, other organizations and non-governmental organizations. Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing was unable to attend.

D. Meetings and documentation

8. At its thirteenth session, the Advisory Committee held nine plenary meetings and seven closed meetings. In addition, private meetings were held by the drafting groups on the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, local government and human rights, and human rights and unilateral coercive measures.

E. Election of officers

9. In accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the Advisory Committee, the following officers, elected by acclamation at the first meeting of the twelfth session of the Advisory Committee, held on 24 January 2014, also served as officers at the thirteenth session.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Chair: | Mario Luis Coriolano |
| Vice-Chairs: | Laurence Boisson de Chazournes Latif Hüseyinov Ahmer Bilal Soofi |
| Rapporteur: | Laurence Boisson de Chazournes |

10. Further to the resignation of Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, the Committee elected the following officer by acclamation at the 1st meeting of the thirteenth session, on 11 August 2014:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Vice-Chair: | Hoda Elsadda |
|-------------|--------------|

¹⁰ Years in parentheses indicate expiry of terms of office (terms of office end on 30 September).

F. Adoption of the agenda

11. Also at its 1st meeting, on 11 August 2014, the Advisory Committee adopted its revised agenda (see annex I).

G. Organization of work

12. At the same meeting, the Advisory Committee adopted the draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat.

III. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions**A. Requests currently under consideration by the Committee****1. Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations**

13. At its 1st meeting, on 11 August 2014, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/16, held a discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations. Anantonia Reyes Prado, Rapporteur of the drafting group, made a presentation on the research-based progress report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations (A/HRC/27/57). During the same meeting, statements were made by members of the Committee and an observer for a non-governmental organization (see annex II). The representative of Uruguay took the floor as the main sponsor of resolution 22/16. At the 2nd meeting, the Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

14. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Chair of the drafting group on the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.1), sponsored by all the Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/1, above.

2. The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights

15. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 August 2014, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/9, held a discussion on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Katharina Pabel, presented the draft research-based report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights (A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.3). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and two observers for a non-governmental organization (see annex II). The representative of Morocco also took the floor on behalf of Austria, Indonesia and Poland, as the main sponsors of resolution 23/9. The Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

16. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, Chair of the drafting group on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.2), sponsored by all the Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/2, above.

3. Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

17. At its 4th meeting, on 12 August 2014, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/1, held a discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Mikhail Lebedev, presented the progress report on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic Ideal to promote human rights, which will be presented at the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/27/58). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee, government observers and an observer for a non-governmental organization (see annex II). The representatives of Greece and of the Russian Federation also took the floor as part of the main sponsors of resolution 24/1. The Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

18. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Chair of the drafting group on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.3), sponsored by all Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/3, above.

4. Local government and human rights

19. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 13 August 2014, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/2, held a discussion on local government and human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Latif Hüseyinov, presented the preliminary research-based progress report on local government and human rights (A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.4). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee (see annex II). The representative of the Republic of Korea also took the floor, on behalf of Chile, Egypt and Romania, as the main sponsors of resolution 24/2. The Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

20. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Latif Hüseyinov, Rapporteur of the drafting group on local government and human rights, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.4), sponsored by all the Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted together with oral revisions thereto. The draft text as orally revised was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/4, above.

5. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

21. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 13 and 14 August 2014, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/14, held a discussion on human rights and unilateral coercive measures. In this context, a member of the Advisory Committee, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, gave a summary of the workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected population, in particular their socioeconomic impact on women and children, in States targeted. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, presented the research-based progress report on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.2). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by other members of the Advisory Committee and government observers (see annex II). The Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

22. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Jean Ziegler, Chair of the drafting group on human rights and unilateral coercive measures, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.5), sponsored by all Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/5, above.

6. Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism

23. At its 7th meeting, on 14 August 2014, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/33, held a discussion on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, presented the preliminary study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism (A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.1). A representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights gave a presentation on the issue. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by other members of the Advisory Committee (see annex II). The representative of Ethiopia also took the floor, on behalf of the African Group, as the main sponsor of resolution 24/33. The Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks. The representative of the Office of the High Commissioner also made concluding remarks.

24. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Chair of the drafting group on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.6), sponsored by all the Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/6, above.

B. Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Human Rights Council**1. Right to food**

25. At the 8th meeting, on 14 August 2014, the Chair informed the Advisory Committee that, in its resolution 21/19, the Human Rights Council had taken note of the draft declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, which had been drawn up by the Committee, and had decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group with a mandate to negotiate, finalize and submit to the Council a draft United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants. The working group held its first session from 15 to 19 July 2013 and will hold its second session from 10 to 14 November 2014.

2. Promotion of the right of peoples to peace

26. At the same meeting, the Chair informed the Advisory Committee about the second session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, which took place from 30 June to 4 July 2014. The mandate of the working group is to progressively negotiate a draft United Nations declaration on the right to peace. The working group recommended that a third session should be held in 2015. Statements were made by a member of the Advisory Committee and observers for a non-governmental organization (see annex II).

IV. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011**A. Review of methods of work**

27. At its 8th meeting, on 14 August 2014, the Advisory Committee held a discussion on enhancing its procedural efficiency. Statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and an observer for a non-governmental organization (see annex II).

28. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, Mario Luis Coriolano, Chair of the Advisory Committee, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.8), sponsored by all the Advisory Committee members. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Latif Hüseyinov, Kaoru Obata, Yishan Zhang and Jean Ziegler. The draft text was adopted without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/8, above.

B. Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities

29. At its 8th meeting, on 14 August 2014, Hoda Elsadda gave a presentation on a research proposal on the impact of settler colonialism on human rights (see annex IV. A).

30. At the same meeting, Katharina Pabel gave a presentation on a research proposal on whistle-blowing and human rights (see annex IV. B).

31. Also at the same meeting, the Committee considered the research proposal on the activities of vulture funds and human rights. Karla Hananía de Varela presented the research proposal on behalf of Jean Ziegler.

32. At the same meeting, in accordance with paragraph 77 of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Committee decided to propose for the Council's consideration and approval the three aforementioned research proposals, as contained in annex IV.

33. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to resubmit the following research proposals that had been submitted to the Council at its previous sessions:

(a) The possibility of establishing a universal human rights court: strengthening the current human rights protection system;¹¹

(b) Citizens' security and human rights;¹²

(c) Youth and human rights.¹³

34. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee (see annex II).

35. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, the Chair introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/13/L.7), sponsored by all the Advisory Committee members. The draft text was adopted as orally revised without a vote. For the text as adopted, see section I, action 13/7, above.

C. Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications

36. Pursuant to paragraphs 91 and 93 of annex IV to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee is to appoint five of its members to constitute the Working Group on Communications, with a mandate of three years, renewable once only. Further to the resignation of one member of the Working Group of Communications, namely Mr. Seetulsingh, the Committee decided, at its 8th meeting on 14 August 2014, to appoint Mr. Yigezu as member of the Working Group to serve until the end of his term as member of the Committee (see paragraph 5 above).

¹¹ See annex IV, section A, of the report of the Advisory Committee on its twelfth session (A/HRC/AC/12/2).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ See annex IV, section III, of the report of the Advisory Committee on its ninth session (A/HRC/AC/9/6).

37. As the term of membership of two members of the Working Group, Mr. Hüseyinov and Ms. Quisumbing, expires on 30 September 2014, the Committee also decided, at its 8th meeting, on 14 August 2014, to appoint Mr. Lebedev and Mr. Al Faihani as members of the Working Group to serve until the end of their respective terms as members of the Committee (see paragraph 5 above).

V. Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirteenth session

38. At the 9th meeting, on 15 August 2014, the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, presented the draft report on the thirteenth session of the Committee. The Committee adopted the draft report *ad referendum* and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

39. At the same meeting, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela, Latif Hüseyinov, Mikhail Lebedev, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Ahmer Bilal Soofi and Jean Ziegler made closing statements. The Secretary of the Advisory Committee made some closing remarks on behalf of the Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chair made closing remarks and declared the thirteenth session of the Advisory Committee closed.

Annexes

Annex I

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Election of officers.
3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions:
 - (a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee:
 - (i) Integration of a gender perspective;
 - (ii) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;
 - (iii) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities;
 - (iv) Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations;
 - (v) The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights;
 - (vi) Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal;
 - (vii) Local government and human rights;
 - (viii) Human rights and unilateral coercive measures;
 - (ix) Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism.
 - (b) Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Human Rights Council:
 - (i) Right to food;
 - (ii) Promotion of the right of peoples to peace;
 - (iii) Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights.
4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011:
 - (a) Review of methods of work;
 - (b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities;
 - (c) Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications.
5. Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirteenth session.

Annex

[English only]

List of speakers

| <i>Agenda item</i> | | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
|--|---|--|---|
| 3. Requests to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions | | | |
| (a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee | (iv) Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations | 1st and 2nd meetings 11 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela, Anantonia Reyes Prado (Rapporteur), Kaoru Obata, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair) Government observers: Uruguay Observers for non-governmental organizations: Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights |
| | (v) The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights | 3rd meeting 12 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Mario Luis Coriolano, Karla Hananía de Varela, Latif Hüseyinov, Mikhail Lebedev, Katharina Pabel (Rapporteur), Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Jean Ziegler Government observers: Morocco, on behalf of Austria, Indonesia and Poland Observer for non-governmental organizations: Transparency International, Penal Reform International |

| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
|--|---|--|
| (vi) Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal | 4th meeting 12 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani (Chair), Mario Luis Coriolano, Karla Hananía de Varela, Mikhail Lebedev (Rapporteur) Government observers: Greece, Russian Federation Observer for non-governmental organizations: Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights |
| (vii) Local government and human rights | 5th and 6th meetings 13 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani (Chair), Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Mario Luis Coriolano, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela, Latif Hüseyinov (Rapporteur), Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Katharina Pabel, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Yishan Zhang Government observers: Republic of Korea, on behalf of Chile, Egypt and Romania |
| (viii) Human rights and unilateral coercive measures | 6th and 7th meetings 13–14 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Hoda Elsadda, Mikhail Lebedev, Hoda Elsadda, Latif Hüseyinov, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Rapporteur), Jean Ziegler (Chair) Government observers: Ethiopia, Cuba |
| (ix) Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism | 7th and 8th meetings 14 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (Rapporteur), Mario Luis Coriolano, Karla Hananía de Varela, Latif Hüseyinov, Kaoru Obata, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Yishan Zhang Government observers: Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group, Burundi |

| <i>Agenda item</i> | | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| (b) Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Human Rights Council | (i) Right to food: <i>Rights of peasants</i> | 8th meeting 14 August 2014 | |
| | (ii) Promotion of the right of peoples to peace | 8th meeting 14 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani Observer for non-governmental organizations: FIAN International; Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights |
| 4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 | | | |
| (a) Review of methods of work | | 8th meeting 14 August 2014 | Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Karla Hananía de Varela, Kaoru Obata, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu Observer for non-governmental organizations: Iuventum |
| (b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities | The impact of settler colonialism on human rights | 8th meeting 14 August 2014 | Members: Mario Luis Coriolano, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela, Latif Hüseyinov, Katharina Pabel, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Ahmer Bilal Soofi |
| | Whistle-blowing and human rights | | |
| | The activities of vulture funds and human rights | | |

| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
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| (c) Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications | 8th meeting 14 August 2014 | Members: Hoda Elsadda, Latif Hüseyinov, Yishan Zhang |

Annex III

[English only]

List of documents issued for the thirteenth session of the Advisory Committee

Documents issued in the general series

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| A/HRC/AC/13/1 | 1 | Provisional agenda |
| A/HRC/AC/13/1/Add.1 | 1 | Annotations to the provisional agenda |
| A/HRC/AC/13/2 | 4 | Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirteenth session |

Documents issued in the limited series

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.1 | 3 | Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.2 | 3 | The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.3 | 3 | Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.4 | 3 | Local government and human rights |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.5 | 3 | Human rights and unilateral coercive measures |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.6 | 3 | Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.7 | 3 | Research proposals |
| A/HRC/AC/13/L.8 | 4 | Review of methods of work |

Annex IV

[Original: English/French]

Research proposals: concept papers

A. The impact of settler colonialism on human rights

The impact of settler colonialism on native communities over the course of history has been acknowledged to be one of the most harmful forms of colonization. Unlike other forms of colonization, which primarily exploit labour and resources, settler colonizers aim to displace the native communities living on their own land in order to build new settler societies in their place. Consequently, native communities have been eliminated by direct violence, by starvation, by the confiscation of their land and property, by isolation in reservations, as well as by the implementation of policies and practices aimed at eradicating their cultures.

Despite the widespread belief that settler colonialism is a thing of the past, settler colonial projects continue to be implemented in several regions of the world in the twenty-first century. This reality has grave implications for the human rights of native communities. Settler colonization constitutes one of the most severe violations of human rights.

Information and research are scarce on the negative impact of settler colonialism on human rights. The Advisory Committee proposes to undertake a research-based study on this issue and submit a report with recommendations to the Human Rights Council.

The following are some of the issues that will be addressed:

(a) Violations of the human rights of native communities are invariably the effect of settler colonialism. Societies targeted by settler colonizers often suffer from high infant mortality rates, high imprisonment rates, low development rates and high levels of physical and mental abuse;

(b) Settler societies are characterized by discriminatory practices inscribed in laws, in economic activities and in political rights.

The proposed study has not been attempted within United Nations organizations and will therefore constitute a valuable contribution to knowledge about methods for redressing human rights violations in settler colonial situations.

B. Whistle-blowing and human rights

When preparing the report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, as requested by the Human Rights Council in resolution 23/9, the Advisory Committee also addressed the topic of whistle-blowing. Whistle-blowers play a crucial role in disclosing cases of corruption and corruptive structures to the public. Bringing cases of corruption to the knowledge of the public is of the utmost importance for taking effective measures against corruption.

In parallel, the importance of whistle-blowing is not limited to the issue of corruption. It is a valuable endeavour to bring any kind of grievance — either in the public or the private sector — to the knowledge of the public.

The Advisory Committee proposes to develop a research-based study on the issue of “Whistle-blowing and human rights”. The role of whistle-blowers has been highlighted in several United Nations documents, especially in relation to corruption. What seems to be missing is a comprehensive study on the issue of whistle-blowing and human rights. This study could address two main aspects:

(a) Whistle-blowers exercise human rights when bringing grievances to the knowledge of the public, especially the right to freedom of expression. States are under an obligation to protect the human rights of whistle-blowers in cases where they are disclosing grievances to the public;

(b) Whistle-blowers are often threatened or even attacked when informing on grievances. They suffer from severe violations of human rights, including the violation of their right to life. States are under an obligation to protect the human rights of whistle-blowers against any attacks.

The proposed study could elaborate in a comprehensive and detailed manner on the human rights obligations of States vis-à-vis whistle-blowers, giving due consideration to the work already undertaken on strengthening the protection of whistle-blowers as an instrument for exposing grievances and facilitating their settlement effectively.

C. The activities of vulture funds and human rights

Several over-indebted States periodically negotiate a reduction in their external debt (or a part thereof) with their creditors.

Individual speculators known as “vulture funds” buy up the unpaid debt at very low prices. They then go to court to win recognition of the full value of the debt. For instance, Argentina became the target of vulture funds in August 2014. These attacks and their consequences infringe on the right to development of the populations concerned, as well as the economic and social rights of the citizens of those States.

This is a complex and highly relevant issue that requires thorough research.

D. Preserving international watercourses to protect the right to life and food

International watercourses mean large water bodies and rivers that are shared by two or more countries or flow through more than one country. There is a general obligation to conserve the water resource flowing through any State – and in particular under the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, which has entered into force just recently. However, there is a need to highlight the obligation on the riparian States — both upper and lower — to use the shared resource and also to conserve it as a common interest from a human rights’ perspective.

Water and its scarcity directly affect the right to life and right to food and several other associated rights like the right to clean drinking water, the right to environment and marine life and the right to health. It can further lead to water wars that can, in turn, threaten international peace and security.

Therefore, it will be useful to prepare a report on the human rights aspect of the obligation to preserve water resources by all the States as a common interest for all those who are its actual and potential users.

The report could include details of dependency for food on the shared water resources and further how the human rights obligation, both under treaty and under custom,

make a compelling case for taking measures in all the States concerned to prevent wastefulness and preserve the shared water resource in order to protect the related human rights (e.g. right to life, food, environment, health, marine life and drinking water).

E. Unaccompanied child migration and human rights

The last decade has seen an alarming increase in the number of unaccompanied children trying to cross borders. Child trying to join their migrant parents suffer from high levels of abuse and exploitation. This phenomenon constitutes a humanitarian crisis in several regions of the world.

To give just one example: since 2009, the number of South and Central American unaccompanied children trying to reach the United States of America has significantly increased. In 2014, with more than 60,000 children at the United States border waiting for a decision on their fate, this matter is clearly a humanitarian crisis.

When child migrants arrive at the United States border, they have already survived a long and perilous journey through Mexico, where extortion, kidnapping, rape and murder are common. Many survive these horrors, only to die crossing the United States desert. Often the children make the journey north not by choice but because they face daily violence and life-threatening poverty. Some are literally running for their lives. In a study by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, almost 40% of the Guatemalan children interviewed who had entered the United States unaccompanied and undocumented raised international protection concerns due to social violence or abuse in the home; and close to 30% spoke of deprivation.

The root causes of forced migration are linked to a complex set of factors that include rampant violence, acute poverty, corruption and high rates of impunity.

The child migrant crisis is mainly the result of the wish of migrant mothers and fathers to be reunited with their children, as well as being due to the fact that the parents see no end to the growing levels of violence threatening their children in countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala or Honduras. Some countries in South America have the same problem. The parents believe they have but one option, to resort to using so-called *coyotes*.

As most of the children are taken by *coyotes* — people who are paid for the service of illicit transfer — according to international treaties, each of these cases would qualify as a case of “trafficking”.

The Advisory Committee proposes to develop a research-based study on the issue of “Unaccompanied Child Migration and Human Rights”, taking into account the priority that States have given to the protection of children through having signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other related international treaties.

The study seeks to identify cases in the world where this phenomenon occurs, to establish which human rights are threatened and violated and make recommendations to the Human Rights Council for the protection of this population.

The results of the study should be useful to the Human Rights Council in their important task of ensuring the human rights of the weakest and vulnerable groups – in this case, children.