



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
9 September 2015

Original: English

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## Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee

Fifteenth session

10-14 August 2015

Agenda item 5

Report of the Advisory Committee on its fifteenth session

## Report of the Advisory Committee on its fifteenth session\*

Geneva, 10-14 August 2015

*Rapporteur:* Mikhail Lebedev

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\* The annexes 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 fifteenth session**

### **15/1. Activities of vulture funds and impact on human rights**

*The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,*

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 27/30, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, and to present a progress report thereon to the Council at its thirty-first session,

*Recalling also* that, at its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, and designated Mohamed Bennani, Mario Coriolano, Mikhail Lebedev, Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair) and Jean Ziegler (Rapporteur) as members of the drafting group,

1. *Takes note* of the draft progress report (A/HRC/AC/15/CRP.1), which took into account the replies to the questionnaire on the issue;
2. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work, and that the Advisory Committee be requested to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session;
3. *Also recommends* that the Human Rights Council consider adopting the following decision:

“The Human Rights Council takes note of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the progress of work on the report on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, and requests the Committee to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session.”

*9th meeting  
14 August 2015*

[Adopted without a vote.]

### **15/2. Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents**

*The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,*

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 29/12, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to develop a research-based study on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights, in which the Committee identified areas, reasons and cases where this issue arises in the world, and the ways in which human rights are threatened and violated, and made recommendations for the protection of the human rights of members of this population, and to submit it to the Council at its thirty-third session for its consideration,

1. *Designates* the Advisory Committee members Mario Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Katharina Pabel, Anantonia Reyes Prado and Changrok Soh as members of the drafting group;
2. *Notes* that the drafting group elected Ms. Reyes Prado as Chair and Ms. Hananía de Varela as Rapporteur;
3. *Also notes* that the drafting group and the full Advisory Committee held meetings to discuss the topic;

4. *Welcomes* the participation in the discussion of external experts, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and a representative from Terre des Hommes, and the very rich exchange of views, and notes that the discussion provided valuable input that will assist the task of the drafting group;

5. *Requests* the drafting group to submit a draft progress report to the Advisory Committee at its sixteenth session with a view to submitting the report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third session, taking into account the replies to the questionnaire distributed after the discussion at the fifteenth session of the Committee;

6. *Encourages* stakeholders to contribute to the work under way.

9th meeting  
14 August 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

### **15/3. Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**

*The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,*

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 29/5, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee, from within existing resources, to undertake a study which reviewed the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, together with the obstacles thereto, and to submit a report containing practical suggestions for the wider dissemination and more effective implementation of the principles and guidelines in order to eliminate discrimination and the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote, protect and respect the human rights of those affected by leprosy and their family members to the Council at its thirty-fifth session,

1. *Designates* the Advisory Committee members Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Mario Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Kaoru Obata, Changrok Soh, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu and Yishan Zhang as members of the drafting group;

2. *Notes* that the drafting group elected Mr. Obata as Chair and Mr. Yigezu as Rapporteur;

3. *Also notes* that the drafting group and the full Advisory Committee held meetings to discuss the topic;

4. *Welcomes* the active participation in the discussion of external experts and the very rich exchange of views, and notes that the discussion provided valuable input that will assist the task of the drafting group;

5. *Requests* the drafting group to submit a preliminary report to the Advisory Committee at its sixteenth session with a view to submitting the report to the Council at its thirty-fifth session, taking into account the replies to the questionnaire distributed after the discussion at the fifteenth session of the Committee;

6. *Encourages* stakeholders to contribute to the work under way.

9th meeting  
14 August 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

## 15/4. Review of methods of work

*The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,*

*Recalling* that, at its fourteenth session, it invited the secretariat to explore possible institutional arrangements with universities to provide research assistance to members of the Advisory Committee at no cost to the United Nations, and to report back in August 2015,

*Recalling also* that, at the same session, it invited the secretariat to draft a proposal for the establishment of a virtual platform to enable the members of the Advisory Committee to have fluid and frequent exchanges with non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights and to receive input from them in relation to the work of the Committee, and requested the secretariat to submit the draft proposal to the Committee during the intersessional period,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will dedicate an intern to assist in the work of the Advisory Committee;

2. *Encourages* members of the Advisory Committee to invite interested students and researchers at institutions in various States, at their own cost, to take part in the sessions of the Committee and to observe the proceedings of the Committee, and to continue their interest in the matter on return;

3. *Decides* to establish a network of academic friends of the Advisory Committee with the objective to work together collaboratively on the topics of the research-based reports of the Committee;

4. *Also decides* to make use of the United Nations Volunteers Online Volunteering Service for research assistance;

5. *Further decides* to open the Advisory Committee online discussion forum to representatives of non-governmental organizations and members of civil society to permit more frequent interactions and exchange;

6. *Appoints* Mario Coriolano as the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee to prepare a paper on the engagement with non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, and to report to the Committee at its sixteenth session.

*9th meeting  
14 August 2015*

[Adopted without a vote.]

## 15/5. Reflection papers

*The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,*

*Recalling* that the Committee at its fourteenth session decided to draft reflection papers for its own use at every session,

1. *Takes note* of the reflection papers presented by members of the Advisory Committee, and decides to continue their consideration at its next session;

2. *Requests* the following members of the Advisory Committee to prepare reflection papers and to present them to the Committee at its sixteenth session:

(a) “The impact of settler colonialism on human rights”, Hoda Elsadda and Karla Hananía de Varela;

- (b) “The non-material approach to social rights in the framework of sustainable development”, Mohamed Bennani;
- (c) “Youth and human rights: contribution to social cohesion”, Mario Coriolano, Ms. Hananía de Varela and Anantonia Reyes Prado;
- (d) “Improving the impact of the Human Rights Council: efficiency – efficacy – implementation – follow-up”, Mr. Coriolano, Ms. Hananía de Varela and Ms. Reyes Prado.

*9th meeting  
14 August 2015*

[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 fifteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 10 to 14 August 2015. The session was opened by the Chair, Obiora Chinedu Okafor.
2. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council Motushi Bruce Rabasha Palai, addressed the Advisory Committee at its first meeting, on 10 August 2015.
3. At the same meeting the Officer-in-charge of the Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), made a statement on behalf 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:\* Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani (Bahrain, 2015); Mohamed Bennani (Morocco, 2017); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (France, 2017); Mario Luis Coriolano (Argentina, 2015); Laura-Maria Crăciunean (Romania, 2017); Hoda Elsadda (Egypt, 2016); Karla Hananía de Varela (El Salvador, 2016); Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora (Uganda, 2016); Mikhail Lebedev (Russian Federation, 2016); Kaoru Obata (Japan, 2016); Obiora Chinedu Okafor (Nigeria, 2017); Katharina Pabel (Austria, 2015); Anantonia Reyes Prado (Guatemala, 2017); Changrok Soh (Republic of Korea, 2017); Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Pakistan, 2017); Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Ethiopia, 2015); Yishan Zhang (China, 2016); Jean Ziegler (Switzerland, 2016).

### **C. Attendance**

6. The session was attended by members of the Advisory Committee and observers for States Members of the United Nations, as well as other international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Reyes Prado was not able to attend the session.

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\* Years in parentheses indicate the expiry of the terms of office (terms of office end on 30 September).

## **D. Meetings and documentation**

7. At its fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee held nine plenary meetings and seven closed meetings. The drafting groups on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, discrimination against persons with leprosy, and the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights also held private meetings.

## **E. Election of officers**

8. 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 1st meeting of the fourteenth session, held on 23 February 2015, also served as officers at the fifteenth session:

Chair:	Obiora Chinedu Okafor
Vice-Chair:	Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani Mikhail Lebedev Katharina Pabel Anantonia Reyes Prado (absent)
Rapporteur:	Mikhail Lebedev

## **F. Adoption of the agenda**

9. At its 1st meeting, on 10 August 2015, the Advisory Committee adopted its agenda (see annex I).

## **G. Organization of work**

10. 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**

## **Requests currently under consideration by the Committee**

### **1. Activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights**

11. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 10 August 2015, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/30, held a discussion on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Jean Ziegler, gave a presentation and an overview of the draft progress report. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee, observers for States and non-governmental organizations (see annex II). The Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

12. At the 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, Mr. Ziegler, on behalf of the Chair of the drafting group on activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/15/L.1), sponsored by all the Advisory

Committee members. The draft text was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see sect. I, action 15/1 above).

**2. Local government and human rights**

13. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 August 2015, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/4, held a discussion on local government and human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Hoda Elsadda, presented the final report (A/HRC/30/49), transmitted to the Human Rights Council for its thirtieth session. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee, the observer for a State, and an observer for a non-governmental organization (see annex II).

**3. Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights**

14. At its 4th meeting, on 11 August 2015, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/12, held a discussion on unaccompanied migrant children and human rights. The Committee watched a video statement by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, and listened to presentations by representatives of Terre des hommes and OHCHR. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and an observer for a State (see annex II).

15. At its 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, the Rapporteur of the drafting group on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, Hananía de Varela, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/15/L.2), sponsored by all members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text as orally revised was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see sect. I, action 15/, above).

**4. Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**

16. At its 5th meeting, on 12 August 2015, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/5, held a discussion on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and their family members. Two external experts gave presentations on the topic, and the Committee watched a video by the Nippon Foundation on leprosy. During the ensuing discussion, Japan took the floor as one of the main sponsors of the resolution, and statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and an observer for non-governmental organizations (see annex II).

17. At its 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, the Chair of the drafting group on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, Kaoru Obata, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/15/L.3), sponsored by all members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see sect. I, action 15/3 above).

**5. Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal**

18. At its 6th meeting, on 12 August 2015, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/8, held a discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Mikhail Lebedev, gave an overview of the final report (A/HRC/30/50). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee and observers for States (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 Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011**

##### **A. Review of methods of work**

19. On 12 August 2015, the Advisory Committee held a private discussion on improving its procedural efficiency.

20. At its 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, the Chair of the Advisory Committee introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/15/L.4), sponsored by all members of the Committee. The draft text was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see sect. I, action 15/4 above).

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

21. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 13 August 2015, the Advisory Committee held a discussion on new priorities. Committee Members presented draft reflection papers to be considered by the Committee:

- Whistle-blowing and human rights in the context of corruption
- Climate-induced displacement and human rights
- Mainstreaming human rights in the post-2015 development agenda
- Regional human rights regimes (protection mechanisms)
- Global grievance forum for perceived defamation of religion

22. Also at its 8th meeting, on 13 August 2015, Mr. Obata, in accordance with the Advisory Committee action 14/4, introduced his preliminary draft report on possible thematic gaps in the work of the Human Rights Council.

23. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee, observers for States and an observer for non-governmental organizations (see annex II).

24. At its 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, the Chair of the Advisory Committee introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/14/L.5) sponsored by all members of the Committee. The draft text was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see sect. I, action 14/5 above).

##### **C. Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications**

25. 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. As the term of membership of one member of the Working Group, Mr. Al Faihani, expires on 30 September 2015, the Committee decided, at its 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, to appoint Mr. Zhang as member of the Working Group.

## **V. Report of the Advisory Committee on its fifteenth session**

26. At the 9th meeting, on 14 August 2015, the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee presented the draft report on the fifteenth session of the Committee. The Committee adopted the draft report ad referendum and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

27. At the same meeting, Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Karla Hananía de Varela, Katharina Pabel, Changrok Soh and Imeru Tamrat Yigezu made closing statements. The Officer in charge of the Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division of OHCHR also made closing remarks. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chair made closing remarks and declared the fifteenth session of the Advisory Committee closed.

## Annexes

*[English only]*

### Annex I

#### Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. 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) Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal;
    - (v) Local government and human rights;
    - (vi) Activities of venture funds and impact on human rights;
    - (vii) Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents;
    - (viii) Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and their family members.
  - (b) Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Human Rights Council:
    - (i) Promotion of the right of peoples to peace;
    - (ii) Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
    - (iii) Human rights and unilateral coercive measures;
    - (iv) Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism.
3. 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.
4. Report of the Advisory Committee on its fifteenth session.

## Annex II

### List of speakers

<i>Agenda item</i>		<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
2. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions			
(a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee	(iv) Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal	6th meeting 12 August 2015	Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani (Chair), Mohamed Bennani, Mikhail Lebedev (Rapporteur), Ahmer Bilal Soofi  State observers: Greece, Russian Federation
	(v) Local government and human rights	3rd meeting 11 August 2015	Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Mohamed Bennani, Hoda Elsadda (Rapporteur), Katharina Pabel (Chair), Changrok Soh  Observer State: Republic of Korea  Observer non-governmental organization: Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights
	(vi) Activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights	1st & 2nd meeting 10 August 2015	Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Mohamed Bennani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Hoda Elsadda, Mikhail Lebedev, Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair), Jean Ziegler (Rapporteur)  Observer States: Argentina, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ghana  Observer non-governmental organizations: International Organisation for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDE), Centre Europe Tiers Monde (CETIM)

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
(vii) Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents	4th meeting 11 August 2015	Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Mohamed Bennani, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Karla Hananía de Varela (Rapporteur), Mikhail Lebedev, Kaoru Obata, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Katharina Pabel, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, Yishan Zhang  Observer State: El Salvador
(viii) Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members	5th meeting 12 August 2015	Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Kaoru Obata (Chair), Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Rapporteur), Yishan Zhang  Observer non-governmental organization: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII
3. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011		
(b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities	7th and 8th meetings 13 August	Members: Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani, Mohamed Bennani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela, Kaoru Obata, Katharina Pabel, Changrok Soh, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, Yishan Zhang  Observer States/entities: European Union, Morocco, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America  Observer non-governmental organization: Arab Commission for Human Rights

## Annex III

### List of documents issued for the fifteenth session of the Advisory Committee

#### Documents issued in the general series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/AC/15/1	1	Provisional agenda
A/HRC/AC/15/1/Add.1	1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
A/HRC/AC/15/CRP.1	2	Draft progress report on activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights
A/HRC/30/49	2	Local government and human rights
A/HRC/30/50	2	Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal
A/HRC/AC/15/2	5	Report of the Advisory Committee on its fourteenth session

#### Documents issued in the limited series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/AC/15/L.1	2	The activities of vulture funds and their impact on human rights
A/HRC/AC/15/L.2	2	Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents
A/HRC/AC/15/L.3	2	Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members
A/HRC/AC/15/L.4	3	Review of methods of work
A/HRC/AC/15/L.5	3	Reflection papers

#### Documents issued in the non-governmental organizations series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/AC/15/NGO/1	3	Written statement submitted by Article 19, a non-governmental organization with consultative status
A/HRC/AC/15/NHRI/1	2	Written statement submitted by the Colombia Office of the Ombudsperson, a National human rights institution with “A”-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights