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## Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee

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22-26 February 2016

Agenda item 5

Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session

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

Geneva, 22-26 February 2016

*Rapporteur:* Karla Hananía de Varela

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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 sixteenth session

### 16/1. Activities of vulture funds and the 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 fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee, in its action 15/1, recommended that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work and that the Committee be requested to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session, in September 2016, instead of at its thirty-first session, in March 2016,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling further* that, at its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mohamed Bennani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Mikhail Lebedev, Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair) and Jean Ziegler (Rapporteur),

1. *Takes note* of the draft progress report submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;<sup>2</sup>

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

*7th meeting  
26 February 2016*

[Adopted without a vote.]

### 16/2. 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 it would identify areas, reasons and cases where this issue arises in the world, and the ways in which human rights are threatened and violated, and makes 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,

*Recalling also* that, at its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mario Luis Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Hoda Elsadda, Karla Hananía de Varela (Rapporteur), Obiora Chinedu Okafor,

<sup>1</sup> See A/HRC/31/67.

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.1.

Katharina Pabel, Anantonia Reyes Prado (Chair) and Changrok Soh, as well as Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi, who joined the drafting group at the current session,

1. *Takes note* of the preliminary study submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work, inter alia, by taking into account the work currently under way by the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is scheduled to be finalized at the end of 2016, and that the Advisory Committee be requested to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session and a final report at its thirty-sixth session;

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

The Human Rights Council decides to take note of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the progress of work on the report on the research based-study on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights and to request the Advisory Committee to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session and a final report at its thirty-sixth session.

7th meeting  
26 February 2016

[Adopted without a vote.]

### **16/3. 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 reviews 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 Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session,

*Recalling also* that, at its fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, currently composed of Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Mario Luis Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Kaoru Obata (Chair), Changrok Soh, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Rapporteur) and Yishan Zhang, as well as Obiora Chinedu Okafor, who subsequently joined the drafting group,

1. *Takes note* of the preliminary report on the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;

2. *Requests* the drafting group to recirculate the questionnaire to seek the views and input of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, including

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.3.

treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant special procedures, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, and to seek information on the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates that did not respond to the questionnaire, in order to allow for better informed work, considering that, given the particular nature of the mandate, namely implementation of the already adopted principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, the replies of States and national human rights institutions would be especially welcome;

3. *Also requests* the drafting group to submit a progress report to the Advisory Committee at its seventeenth session, with a view to submitting it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session, taking into account the replies to the questionnaire that will be recirculated after the sixteenth session of the Committee.

*7th meeting  
26 February 2016*

[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 sixteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 22 to 26 February 2016. The session was opened by the Chair of the fifteenth session, Obiora Chinedu Okafor.
2. The President of the Human Rights Council, Choi Kyonglim, addressed the Advisory Committee at its first meeting, on 22 February 2016.
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 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:<sup>4</sup> Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi (Saudi Arabia, 2018); Mohamed Bennani (Morocco, 2017); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (France, 2017); Mario Luis Coriolano (Argentina, 2018); 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, 2018); Anantonia Reyes Prado (Guatemala, 2017); Changrok Soh (Republic of Korea, 2017); Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Pakistan, 2017); Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Ethiopia, 2018); Yishan Zhang (China, 2016); Jean Ziegler (Switzerland, 2016).

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<sup>4</sup> Years in parentheses indicate the expiry of the terms of office (terms of office end on 30 September).

### **C. Attendance**

6. The session was attended by members of the Advisory Committee and observers for States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as an academic friend of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Elsadda and Ms. Pabel were unable to attend the session.

### **D. Meetings and documentation**

7. At its sixteenth session, the Advisory Committee held seven plenary meetings and six closed meetings. The drafting groups on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights and on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights also held closed 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 were elected by acclamation at the first meeting of the sixteenth session, held on 22 February 2016:

Chair:	Ahmer Bilal Soofi
Vice-Chairs:	Laura-Maria Crăciunean Karla Hananfa de Varela Imeru Tamrat Yigezu Jean Ziegler
Rapporteur:	Karla Hananfa de Varela

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

9. At its first meeting, on 22 February 2016, the Advisory Committee adopted its agenda (A/HRC/AC/16/1).

### **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**

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

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

11. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2016, 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,

presented the draft progress report (A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.1). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and two observers for States (see annex I). Thereafter, the Rapporteur made concluding remarks.

12. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, the Chair of the drafting group on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, Mr. Soofi, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/16/L.1) sponsored by all the members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see sect. I, action 16/1, above).

## **2. Global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights**

13. At its 2nd and 3rd meeting, on 23 February 2016, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/12, held a discussion on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Ms. Hananía de Varela, presented the draft report (A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.2). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and two observers for States (see annex I). Thereafter, the Rapporteur made concluding remarks.

14. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, the Chair of the drafting group on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights, Ms. Reyes Prado, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/16/L.2) sponsored by all the members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see sect. I, action 16/2, above).

## **3. Elimination of discrimination against persons with leprosy**

15. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February 2016, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/5, held a discussion on the elimination of discrimination of persons affected by leprosy and their family members. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Mr. Yigezu, presented the draft report (A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.3). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and an observer for a State (see annex I). Thereafter, the Rapporteur made concluding remarks.

16. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, the Chair of the drafting group on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, Mr. Obata, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/16/L.3) sponsored by all the members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see sect., action 16/3, above).

# **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**

17. On 24 February 2016, the Advisory Committee held a closed meeting to discuss its methods of work and ways and means to improve its procedural efficiency.

18. At the same meeting, the Advisory Committee interacted with one of its academic friends attending the sixteenth session.

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

19. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 25 February 2016, the Advisory Committee considered the reflection papers on its agenda and new priorities. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee, observers for States and an observer for a non-governmental organization (see annex I).

20. Following the discussions, a letter was sent by the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Human Rights Council (see annex III), by which the following research proposals were submitted to the Council: (a) regional human rights regimes; and (b) youth, human rights and social cohesion.

**V. Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session**

21. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee presented the draft report on the sixteenth session of the Committee. The Committee adopted the draft report ad referendum and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

22. At the same meeting, Ms. Boisson de Chazournes, Ms. Crăciunean, Ms. Reyes Prado, Mr. Soh and Mr. Yigezu made closing statements. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chair made final remarks and declared the sixteenth session of the Advisory Committee closed.



## Annex I

### List of speakers

<i>Agenda item</i>		<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions			
(a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee	(iv) Activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights	1st meeting 22 February 2016	Members: Mohamed Bennani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Imeru Tamrat Yigezu  State observers: Argentina, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
	(vi) Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights	2nd and 3rd meetings 23 February 2016	Members: Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Kaoru Obata, Jean Ziegler  State observers: China, Russian Federation
	(v) Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members	4th meeting 24 February 2016	Members: Mohamed Bennani, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Karla Hananía de Varela, Yishan Zhang  State observer: Ethiopia

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
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		
(b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities	5th and 6th meetings 25 February 2016	Members: Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi, Mohamed Bennani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Karla Hananía de Varela, Mikhail Lebedev, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Changrok Soh, Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair), Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, Jean Ziegler  State observers: El Salvador, Republic of Korea  Non-governmental organization: International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

## Annex II

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

#### Documents for general distribution

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/AC/16/1	2	Provisional agenda
A/HRC/AC/16/1/Add.1	2	Annotations to the provisional agenda
A/HRC/AC/16/2	5	Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session

#### Documents for limited distribution

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/AC/16/L.1	3 (a) (iv)	Activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights
A/HRC/AC/16/L.2	3 (a) (vi)	Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights
A/HRC/AC/16/L.3	3 (a) (v)	Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members

## Annex III

### **Letter dated 26 February 2016 from the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the President of the Human Rights Council**

As Chair of the Advisory Committee, and on behalf of all the Members of the Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to you and to the members of the bureau for our informal meeting held on 25 February on the margins of the sixteenth session of the Committee.

The Advisory Committee is extremely appreciative of the substantive discussion held during the meeting, which was an opportunity to have a frank and fruitful dialogue with you, the Council's bureau and the coordinators of the regional and political groups, in view, particularly, of the recurrent issue of lack of mandates that the Committee faces. We therefore support any step which would strengthen the interaction in this regard between the Human Rights Council and the Committee, and especially your suggestion to have formal and informal meetings with Member States, which was very well received by the Committee. Such meetings organized on a regular basis will indeed provide a more effective channel of communication with States, particularly the sponsors of resolutions, and help in fostering an informal dialogue on the mandates with which the Committee may be entrusted in the future.

Furthermore, on behalf of the Committee, I would also like to follow up on the suggestion you made during the meeting, notably the possibility for the Committee to identify in a memorandum addressed to the President and Bureau of the Council a list of specific research proposals for the consideration of the Council.

In responding to this proposal, and in line with paragraph 77 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the Committee discussed the issue of research proposals and new priorities, in both its private and public meetings, and I have the pleasure to transmit to you the following two priority research proposals for the consideration of the Council:

- Regional human rights regimes
- Youth, social cohesion and human rights

I would also like to inform you that, in addition to these two research proposals, the Committee also brainstormed on the following topics, which it intends to discuss further at its next session, in August, with a view to possibly submitting them as research proposals for the consideration of the Council:

- Destruction of cultural heritage and its effects on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights
- Climate-induced displacement and human rights
- Promotion of the rights to culture and social common heritage
- Assessment of the impact of the work of the Advisory Committee and its implementation

We look forward to your consideration of the above-mentioned two research proposals and to receiving feedback from the Human Rights Council.

*(Signed)*      **Ahmer Bilal Soofi**  
Chair

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

## Annex IV

### Research proposals

#### A. Regional human rights regimes

1. It took many years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the international community to identify the need for regional human rights regimes. In fact, the United Nations was initially not supportive of the idea of such regimes, as it believed that regional approaches to human rights may undermine internationally recognized human rights standards. Now, however, this position has largely given way to a more positive appreciation of the beneficial role of regional human rights regimes. Not only did the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977, appeal to Member States to consider agreements with a view to the establishment of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, but, in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.

2. To clarify, regional human rights regimes consist of regional instruments in the form of treaties and conventions and of regional mechanisms such as regional human rights commissions and courts. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) attributes the present positive appreciation for regional human rights regimes to the fact that they are in an ideal position to help tailor internationally agreed human rights standards to reflect regional needs and particularities, not to mention securing State compliance with these standards through regional coercion and pressure. Effective regional human rights regimes have also been found to make tools for the protection of rights more accessible to the people, help raise public awareness of regional human rights concerns and assist Governments in implementing their international human rights obligations. In other words, strong cooperation between regional human rights regimes greatly contributes to the consolidation of universal human rights.

3. At present, it is possible to identify five regional human rights mechanisms, which vary greatly. In Europe, the Americas and Africa, regional human rights regimes with commissions and/or courts have been established, while the Middle East and South-East Asia have more fledgling systems. Assessments of the results achieved by these regional human rights systems also differ significantly: while some have been commended as crucial actors for the promotion and protection of human rights in their region, others have been criticized for their inability to respond to flagrant violations, the lack of enforcement powers in the face of high State non-compliance and the want of independence and transparency.

4. Recognizing that such weaknesses must be overcome in order to foster human rights promotion and implementation in respective regions, United Nations agencies have adopted many resolutions calling upon OHCHR to take a larger role in the promotion and protection of human rights by bolstering regional human rights arrangements. Thus, since 2002, OHCHR has contributed to strengthening the existing regional human rights regimes by training staff of these regimes, assisting in the development of documentation systems and providing advisory services. It has also made efforts to promote the creation of regional regimes in areas where they have yet to be established by organizing numerous workshops. The United Nations has also encouraged all regions to further establish regional human

rights centres and offices and to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights at the local level.

5. Despite those efforts, however, there is still much room for improvement. When the United Nations started to develop and improve regional systems, the existent regional human rights regimes in Europe, the Americas and Africa faced common challenges such as establishing adequate legal frameworks, ensuring that regime bodies were equipped with appropriate tools to implement their mandates and dealing with non-compliance. Asia and the Pacific and Arab regions were only just beginning to move towards fully functional regional human rights regimes: after more than a decade of dedicated United Nations support, the situation remains more or less the same.

6. There is thus a pressing need to sum up the current obstacles preventing regional mechanisms from achieving their full potential and to clearly identify why the efforts made so far have failed to address them. On the basis of this analysis, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee can define ways to overcome those problems so as to better promote and protect universal human rights values through consolidated regional human rights regimes. The study should look into the roles of a comprehensive set of actors; it should cover not only the United Nations and its Member States but also various non-State actors. This is because a multi-track approach that involves actors from all levels is crucial in consolidating regional human rights regimes and in understanding the current contributions of and the interactions among those actors. Moreover, such an approach is useful in terms of suggesting ways in which regional regimes can be improved. Such a study will contribute to strengthening human rights at the regional level, thereby empowering universal human rights protection and enforcement around the world.

7. The draft timetable for the project is as follows: at its seventeenth session, in August 2016, the Advisory Committee would form the drafting group; at its eighteenth session, in February 2017, it would submit the preliminary report; at its nineteenth session, in August 2017, it would submit the progress report; and at its twentieth session, in February 2018, it would adopt the draft final report.

## **B. Youth, human rights and social cohesion**

8. In 2015, at the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, it was indicated that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 represent 18 per cent of the whole population. It is therefore important to multiply efforts to create development policies and programmes that are specifically aimed at young people in order to guarantee their protection (as they are exposed to situations that slow their development and hamper their schooling) and to promote their right to education. Such policies and programmes should also aim to guarantee to young people access to decent work, thereby lifting them out of poverty and enabling them to have an adequate standard of living, professional integration into the labour market, the right to health (by ensuring access to health services and to information, including on sexual education, AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health).

9. In several regions, the policies and programmes mentioned above refer to problems deeply rooted in human rights, especially the rights to education, employment and health.

10. Various international youth meetings have also highlighted situations that deserve special attention, for instance the fact that precarious living conditions and the lack of opportunities generate multiple risks for young people, especially young women, such as those linked with social and institutional violence, with young people in Latin America, Africa and Asia being particularly affected.

11. Young women are especially vulnerable because they are victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking and labour migration. In addition, even though homicide rates are higher among young males, the murders of young women have certain egregious features that do not appear in the statistics, such as sexual violence, physical violence and maltreatment before death.

12. The International Youth Parliament highlighted, as issues of concern, violence and insecurity. According to that organization, the situation of violence in the world prevents young people from developing their skills in a safe environment, which limits their access to education, their ability to complete their studies and their enjoyment of other rights, such as health and recreation. More than 130,000 minors worldwide are affected by armed conflict and other types of violence, for example that emanating from drug trafficking and organized crime. This indicates that young people are constantly exposed to the risk of becoming involved in gangs, which are often linked to criminal networks.

13. Given how widespread violence is, it is crucial that States strengthen the human rights-based approach in their policies, plans and security programmes in order to have a process that is in line with the definition provided by the United Nations Development Programme and that establishes, strengthens and protects democratic civil order. This will eliminate threats of violence among the population and make it possible to safeguard the human rights inherent to the person, especially the rights to life, personal integrity, inviolability of the home and freedom of movement, and in turn prevent crime, ensure access to an effective justice system and to an education system that is based on values, respect for the law and tolerance.

14. In addition, the right of youth to participate, not only in decisions that affect them directly but also in social, political, economic and cultural life, is a right that is increasingly being exercised and claimed in various national and international forums.

15. There are international and regional standards and repeated recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders that remain unimplemented because public policies and the institutions involved (the police, the judiciary and the penitentiary system) have neglected or despised human rights.

16. Ensuring respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of youth, defined by the Security Council in its recently adopted resolution 2250 (2015) as people whose age is between 18 and 29 years, and of children, defined in other treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as persons under the age of 18 years, is essential for the development not only of children and youth as human beings but also of humankind. Doing so will also contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. Similarly, ensuring the rights of young men and women will contribute to building the social cohesion that is so desperately needed in order to deal constructively with the lack of opportunities that underlies the social and institutional violence, which, in some regions, claims the precious lives of young people.

18. The proposed study will therefore examine this issue in its multiple aspects but, above all, in consultation and coordination with other agencies and departments of the United Nations system, seeking complementarity with regional human rights mechanisms such as the inter-American system of human rights. The study will thus aim to contribute to the search for concrete actions to promote the human rights of youth, while also ensuring the contribution of youth to human development.

19. The draft timetable for the project is as follows: At its seventeenth session, in August 2016, the Advisory Committee would form the drafting group; at its eighteenth session, in February 2017, it would submit the preliminary report; at its nineteenth session,

in August 2017, it would submit the progress report; and at its twentieth session, in February 2018, it would adopt the final report.

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