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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Advisory Committee
Third session
3-7 August 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its first session from 4 to 15 August 2008 (A/HRC/10/2-A/HRC/AC/2008/1/2) and its second session from 26 to 30 January 2009 (A/HRC/AC/2/2) at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At its tenth session, the Council took note of the above-mentioned reports of the Advisory Committee, as reflected in President's statement PRST/10/1.

Item 1. Election of officers

2. At the current meeting, and in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee will elect, from among its members, a Chairperson and its Bureau.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

3. The Advisory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/HRC/AC/3/1) proposed by the Secretary-General and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda.

Organization of work

4. Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee "shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item" (A/520/Rev.16). Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will have before it, for approval, a draft timetable prepared by the Secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment of its programme of work for the third session.

Composition of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

5. The composition of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and the term of membership of each expert¹ is as follows: Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez (Cuba - 2012); Mr. José Antonio Bengoa Cabello (Chile - 2010); Mr. Ansar Ahmed Burney (Pakistan - 2011); Mr. Shiqiu Chen (China - 2012); Ms. Chinsung Chung (Republic of Korea - 2010); Mr. Emmanuel Decaux (France - 2011); Mr. Hector Felipe Fix Fierro (Mexico - 2011); Mr. Wolfgang Stefan Heinz (Germany - 2010); Mr. Latif Huseynov (Azerbaijan - 2011); Mr. Baba Kura Kaigama (Nigeria - 2011); Mr. Vladimir Kartashkin (Russian Federation - 2010); Mr. Bernards Andrews Nyamwaya Mudho (Kenya - 2010); Ms. Purificacion V. Quisumbing (Philippines - 2011); Mr. Shigeki Sakamoto (Japan - 2010); Mr. Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius - 2011); Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco - 2012); Mr. Jean Ziegler (Switzerland - 2012); and Ms. Mona Zulficar (Egypt - 2010).

¹ The expiry of the term of membership is shown in parenthesis.

Item 3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions

(a) Human rights education and training

6. In its resolution 6/10, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training, and, to that end, to seek the views and inputs of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), national human rights institutions as well as civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, on the possible elements of the content of the declaration and to take into account existing relevant instruments.

7. At its first session, the Advisory Committee designated Mr. Decaux, Mr. Fix Fierro, Mr. Kartashkin, Ms. Quisumbing and Ms. Warzazi to constitute a drafting group of the Advisory Committee on human rights education and training. At its second session, the Advisory Committee continued its work on the issue by considering the working paper prepared by the rapporteur of the drafting group, Mr. Decaux (A/HRC/AC/2/CRP.1). Mr. Seetulsingh also joined the drafting group. At the end of March 2009, approximately 140 responses had been received from all relevant stakeholders to the questionnaires, seeking views and inputs from all relevant stakeholders, as prepared by the drafting group and disseminated by the Secretariat to all stakeholders in November 2008.

8. In resolution 6/10, the Council also requested the Advisory Committee to submit a progress report to the Council for its consideration at its tenth session, containing the elements of the draft declaration on human rights education and training. At its second session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 2/1, entitled “Drafting group on human rights education and training: progress report”.

9. In its resolution 10/28, the Council welcomed with satisfaction the above-mentioned progress report by the Advisory Committee, as well as the initiative of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training to organize a seminar with the participation of experts and specialists and the assistance and expertise of OHCHR and all interested parties, in order to further the reflection on elements to be included in the draft declaration. The expert seminar is scheduled to take place before the session. The Council further requested the Committee to submit the draft declaration on human rights education and training to the Council for consideration at its thirteenth session in March 2010.

(b) Right to food

10. In its resolution 7/14, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to consider potential recommendations for approval by the Council on possible further measures to enhance the realization of the right to food, bearing in mind the priority importance of promoting the implementation of existing standards.

11. At its first session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group consisting of Mr. Bengoa Cabello, Ms. Chung, Mr. Huseynov, Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Zulficar. Following the adoption of recommendation 1/8 on the right to food, the Committee continued its work on the

issue at its second session, taking into account the working paper prepared by Mr. Ziegler (A/HRC/AC/2/CRP.2). The Committee also adopted recommendation 2/7 on the right to food, in which it recommended that the Council consider entrusting the Advisory Committee with the task of preparing a study on the food crisis, the right to food, agricultural subsidies and the rights of peasants, as well as a study on the food crisis, the right to food and the new concept of “hunger refugees”.

12. In its resolution 10/12, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to undertake a study on discrimination in the context of the right to food, including identification of good practices of anti-discriminatory policies and strategies, and to report on it to the Council at its thirteenth session.

(c) Human rights of women

13. In its resolution 6/30, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to regularly and systematically integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate, including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against women, and to include in its reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls.

14. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/4, in which it requested Mr. Burney, Ms. Quisumbing, Mr. Sakamoto and Ms. Zulficar to prepare for the next session a set of draft guidelines on methods to operationalize gender mainstreaming, including action-oriented mechanisms that would facilitate the implementation of the Committee’s mandates.

15. At its second session, taking into account the working paper prepared by Ms. Zulficar, Ms. Chung, Ms. Quisumbing, Mr. Burney and Mr. Sakamoto (A/HRC/AC/2/CRP.4/Rev.2), the Committee adopted recommendation 2/4 entitled “Drafting group on gender mainstreaming”, in which it recommended that the Council consider authorizing the Advisory Committee to prepare draft guidelines on methods to enhance implementation of gender mainstreaming, including action-oriented mechanisms within the Council and all other relevant United Nations organs, specialized agencies, treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

16. In President’s statement PRST/10/1, the Council noted that the suggestion of the Advisory Committee with regard to gender mainstreaming may be addressed in the context of the work of the Council at its future sessions.

(d) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

17. In its resolution 8/5, the Council requested the human rights treaty bodies, OHCHR and the mechanisms of the Council and the Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation.

18. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/2 on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. At its second session, the Committee continued discussions on that matter.

(e) Missing persons

19. In its resolution 7/28, the Council decided to hold a panel discussion on the question of missing persons at its ninth session and to invite experts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, delegates of Governments and non-governmental organizations as well as national human rights institutions and international organizations to participate therein, and requested the High Commissioner to prepare a summary of the panel's deliberations with a view to subsequently charging the Advisory Committee, at the same session, with the preparation of a study on best practices in the matter. The panel discussion was held by the Council at its ninth session and summarized by OHCHR (A/HRC/10/10). At its ninth session, the Council also adopted decision 9/101, in which it requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the best practices in the matter of missing persons and to submit it to the Council at its twelfth session.

20. At its second session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 2/6, in which it took note of the results of the Council's panel discussion on the matter and entrusted a drafting group, composed of Mr. Alfonso Martinez, Mr. Burney, Ms. Chung, Mr. Heinz, Mr. Huseynov and Mr. Mudho, with the task of preparing the above-mentioned study. The drafting group is to submit the results of its work at the current session with a view to submitting them to the Council at its twelfth session.

(f) Human rights of persons with disabilities

21. In its resolution 7/9, the Council encouraged the Advisory Committee and other mechanisms of the Council to integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, in carrying out their work and in their recommendations so as to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council.

22. At its first and second sessions, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the issue.

(g) Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members

23. In its resolution 8/13, the Council requested OHCHR to collect information on the measures that Governments had taken to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and, if extrabudgetary funding was available, to hold a meeting to exchange views among relevant actors, including Governments, observers of the United Nations, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and programmes, non-governmental organizations, scientists, medical experts as well as representatives of persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and to transmit a report to the Council and the Advisory Committee (A/HRC/10/62). The Council also requested the Advisory Committee to examine the report and to formulate a draft set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and to submit it to the Council for its consideration by September 2009.

24. In its recommendation 1/5, the Advisory Committee designated Mr. Sakamoto to formulate the above-mentioned draft set of principles and guidelines. Mr. Sakamoto participated in the consultation organized on the issue by OHCHR on 15 January 2009 and briefed the Advisory

Committee thereon at its second session, at which the Committee adopted recommendation 2/3, in which it welcomed the working paper on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members prepared by Mr. Sakamoto (A/HRC/AC/2/CRP.5).

25. In President's statement PRST/10/1, the Council noted that the above-mentioned suggestion by the Committee had been addressed in the context of resolution 8/13. At the current session, the Advisory Committee will review the draft set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members for consideration by the Council at its twelfth session.

Item 4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 entitled "Human Rights Council Advisory Committee"

(a) Rules of procedure and methods of work

26. At its first session, the Advisory Committee established an open-ended drafting group on the rules of procedure, composed of Mr. Burney, Mr. Fix Fierro, Mr. Heinz, Mr. Huseynov and Ms. Zulficar.

27. At its second session, the Committee considered a working paper on the draft rules of procedure, prepared by Mr. Huseynov with contributions from Ms. Zulficar and Mr. Heinz (A/HRC/AC/2/CRP.3).

28. To facilitate the communication and work between Committee members in the intersessional period, the Secretariat has created an electronic platform for information-sharing, which is accessible on the Advisory Committee extranet only to members of the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.

(b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities

29. At the current session, the Advisory Committee is expected to discuss its annual programme of work (third and fourth sessions).

(c) Follow-up to Advisory Committee recommendation 1/11

30. In its recommendation 1/11, the Advisory Committee designated Mr. Bengoa and Ms. Quisumbing to follow the work of the Social Forum. At the second session, Mr. Bengoa briefed the Committee accordingly. In recommendation 1/11, the Advisory Committee also designated Ms. Zulficar and Mr. Alfonso Martinez to follow the work of the Forum on Minority Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, respectively. At the second session, the above-mentioned members briefed the Committee accordingly.

Item 5. Report of the Advisory Committee on its third session

31. The Advisory Committee will have before it for adoption a draft report on its third session, prepared by the Rapporteur.
