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Advisory Committee

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Agenda item 3(b)

Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to

Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007:

Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities

**Mr. José Antonio Bengoa Cabello, Mr. Shiqiu Chen, Ms. Chinsung Chung,
Mr. Emmanuel Decaux, Mr. Héctor Felipe Fix Fierro, Mr. Wolfgang Stefan Heinz,
Mr. Latif Hüseyinov, Mr. Vladimir Kartashkin, Mr. Shigeki Sakamoto,
Mr. Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Ms. Mona Zulficar: draft recommendation**

4/... The human rights of older persons

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

Recalling the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982), the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (1991), the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), General Assembly resolutions 46/91 of 16 December 1991 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009, the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,¹ and the report of the expert group meeting on the rights of older persons organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, held in Bonn, Germany, from 5 to 7 May 2009,²

Bearing in mind that the elderly population is the fastest growing segment of society in both developing and developed countries,

Noting that millions of older persons across the world face unequal treatment or denial of their basic rights, particularly in the form of chronic poverty, unemployment, violence and abuse, limited access to justice and lack of social and political participation, and are neglected in disease-prevention or disaster-assistance programmes,

Considering that the impact on older persons of such treatment differs according to their gender, geographic location, socio-economic status and physical and mental abilities,

¹ A/64/127.

² Available from www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/.

Considering further that women tend to outlive men and that older women are more susceptible to poverty and more vulnerable to abuse and violence, and thus require special care,

Recognizing that efforts are being made to protect the human rights of older persons at the domestic, regional and international levels by Governments, civil society organizations and international organizations, including the United Nations,

Reaffirming that the human rights of older persons should be addressed in all mechanisms for the monitoring and implementation of human rights, including the treaty-monitoring bodies of the United Nations and the universal periodic review process,

Convinced of the need for a more effective mechanism to protect the rights of older persons, in the form of an international instrument,

Welcoming the working paper submitted by Ms. Chin-Sung Chung to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on “The necessity of a human rights approach and effective United Nations mechanism for the human rights of the older person”,³

Mindful of the Advisory Committee’s role in suggesting research proposals, within the scope of the work set out by the Human Rights Council, for the latter’s consideration and approval, as set out in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,⁴

1. *Expresses the hope* that the Human Rights Council will consider entrusting the Advisory Committee with the preparation of a study on the application to older persons of existing United Nations human rights instruments and on any possible gaps in the current legal framework.

³ A/HRC/AC/4/CRP.1.

⁴ Annex, part III, sect. C, para. 77.