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Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee

Sixth session

17 - 21 January 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Annotations to the provisional agenda*

* Late submission.

1. The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its fifth session from 2 to 6 August 2010 (A/HRC/AC/5/3). It elected Purificación V. Quisumbing as Chairperson, Deejlall Seetulsingh, Wolfgang Stefan Heinz and Vladimir Kartashkin as Vice-Chairpersons and Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann as Rapporteur for its fifth and sixth sessions. In accordance with the annual programme of work for its fifth cycle (2010-11), at its sixteenth session, the Human Rights Council will have before it the reports of the Advisory Committee on its fifth and sixth sessions.

Item 1

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

2. The Advisory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/HRC/AC/6/1) proposed by the Secretary-General and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda.

Organization of work

3. 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 its consideration and 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 fifth session.

Composition of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

4. The composition of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and the term of membership of each expert¹ is as follows: José Antonio Bengoa Cabello (Chile – 2013); Ansar Ahmed Burney (Pakistan – 2011); Chen Shiqiu (China – 2012); Chung Chinsung (Republic of Korea – 2013); Emmanuel Decaux (France – 2011); Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua – 2012); Héctor Felipe Fix Fierro (Mexico – 2011); Wolfgang Stefan Heinz (Germany – 2013); Latif Hüseyinov (Azerbaijan – 2011); Baba Kura Kaigama (Nigeria – 2011); Vladimir Kartashkin (Russian Federation – 2013); Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora (Uganda – 2013); Purificación V. Quisumbing (Philippines – 2011); Shigeki Sakamoto (Japan – 2013); Dheerajlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius – 2011); Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco – 2012); Jean Ziegler (Switzerland – 2012); and Mona Zulficar (Egypt – 2013).

5. As the mandate of seven members elected in 2008 for a three-year term will expire in 2011, elections for these vacancies are scheduled to be held during the sixteenth session of the Council.

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

Item 2

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

(a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee

(i) Right to food

6. 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. In its resolution 10/12, the Council also 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 thereon to the Council at its thirteenth session.

7. At its first session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group consisting of Mr. Bengoa Cabello, Ms. Chung, Mr. Hüseyinov, Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Zulficar.

8. In its resolution 13/4, the Council acknowledged the work carried out by the Advisory Committee on the right to food and welcomed the submission to the Council of its preliminary study on discrimination in the context of the right to food (A/HRC/13/32). The Council also requested the Advisory Committee to continue to work on the issue of discrimination in the context of the right to food and, in that regard, to undertake a preliminary study on ways and means to further advance the rights of people working in rural areas, including women, in particular smallholders engaged in the production of food and/or other agricultural products, including from directly working the land, traditional fishing, hunting and herding activities, and to report thereon to the Council at its sixteenth session.

9. At its fifth session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 5/1, in which it assigned the conclusion of the study on discrimination in the context of the right to food and the preparation of the preliminary study on ways and means to further advance the rights of people working in rural areas to the above-mentioned drafting group, and requested it to report on both studies to the Committee at its sixth session.

(ii) Integration of a gender perspective

10. 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.

11. At its second and fourth sessions, the Committee held discussions on the matter.

(iii) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

12. In its resolution 8/5, the Council requested the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 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.

13. At its first, second and fourth sessions, the Committee held discussions on the issue.

(iv) Missing persons

14. Following a panel discussion held on the question of missing persons at its ninth session, the Human Rights Council 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.

15. In its recommendation 2/6, the Committee entrusted a drafting group, which included Mr. Burney, Ms. Chung, Mr. Heinz and Mr. Hüseyinov, with the task of preparing the above-mentioned study.

16. In its decision 12/117, the Council requested the Committee to submit the study to the Council at its fourteenth session. In order to continue its work on the above-mentioned study, the relevant drafting group of the Committee elaborated a questionnaire addressed to Governments, which was transmitted by a note verbale dated 2 November 2009 by the Secretariat.

17. At its fourth session, the Committee endorsed the progress report prepared on the issue by its drafting group (A/HRC/14/42), and transmitted it to the Council for its consideration at its fourteenth session. Members of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances participated in the discussions held on the issue at the fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee.

18. In its decision 14/118, the Council took note of the above-mentioned progress report and requested the Advisory Committee to finalize the study on the best practices in the matter of missing persons and to submit it to the Council at its sixteenth session.

19. At its sixth session, the Committee will have before it the study on the best practices in the matter of missing persons as prepared by the above-mentioned drafting group.

(v) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities

20. 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 in order to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council.

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

(vi) Human rights and international solidarity

22. In its resolutions 9/2 and 12/9, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare inputs to contribute to the elaboration by the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity of a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity, and to the further development of guidelines, standards, norms and principles with a view to promoting and protecting this right.

23. At its fifth session, Mr. Chen, as member of drafting group established to work on this issue, provided an outline of the work to be undertaken.

24. In its resolution 15/13, the Council reiterated its request to the Committee to prepare, in close cooperation with the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity, inputs to contribute to the elaboration of the draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity, and to the further development of guidelines, standards, norms and principles with a view to promoting and protecting this right.

(vii) Promotion of the right of peoples to peace

25. In its resolution 14/3, the Council took note with satisfaction of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the outcome of the workshop on the right of peoples to peace (A/HRC/14/38), and requested the Advisory Committee, in consultation with Member States, civil society, academia and all relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft declaration on the right of peoples to peace, and to report on the progress thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session.

26. At its fifth session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 5/2, in which it designated Ms. Chung, Mr. d'Escoto Brockmann, Mr. Heinz (Rapporteur) and Ms. Zulficar (Chairperson) as members of a drafting group entrusted to submit a draft progress report on the draft declaration on the right of peoples to peace at its sixth session. The drafting group was also requested to prepare a questionnaire to consult with Member States, civil society, academia and all relevant stakeholders, to be distributed after the discussion at the sixth session of the Committee.

(viii) Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

27. In its resolution 13/23, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to explore ways and means to enhance cooperation in the field of human rights, taking into account the views contained in the report of the High Commissioner on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights (A/HRC/13/19), and further views from States and relevant stakeholders, and to submit proposals thereon to the Council at its nineteenth session.

28. At its fifth session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 5/4, in which it designated Mr. Chen, Mr. Decaux (Rapporteur), Mr. Hüseyinov, Mr. Kartashkin, Ms. Quisumbing, Mr. Seetulsingh (Chairperson) and Ms. Warzazi as members of a drafting group to undertake preparatory work on the issue for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its sixth session.

(b) Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Human Rights Council:**(i) Human rights education and training**

29. In its resolution 6/10, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training. In its resolution 10/28, it also requested the Committee to submit the draft declaration to the Council for consideration at its thirteenth session.

30. At its fourth session, the Advisory Committee endorsed the draft declaration on human rights education and training prepared by its drafting group consisting of Mr. Decaux (Rapporteur), Mr. Fix Fierro, Mr. Kartashkin, Ms. Quisumbing and Ms. Warzazi (Chairperson), and transmitted it to the Council (A/HRC/13/41).

31. Pursuant to its decision 12/118, the Council held a high-level discussion on the draft declaration at its thirteenth session. In its resolution 13/15, the Council welcomed the submission of the draft declaration by the Advisory Committee, and decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group with the mandate of negotiating and submitting to the Council the draft declaration on the basis of the draft submitted by the Advisory Committee. The Council also requested its President to invite the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee drafting group on the draft declaration to participate in the meetings of the working group, which will convene in Geneva from 10 to 14 January 2011.

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

32. In its resolution 8/13, the Council requested OHCHR 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, on measures to eliminate leprosy-based discrimination, and to transmit a report thereon 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.

33. In its recommendation 1/5, the Advisory Committee designated Mr. Sakamoto to formulate the above-mentioned draft set of principles and guidelines. The Advisory Committee, in its recommendation 5/3, endorsed the draft set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and transmitted it to the Council (A/HRC/15/30) pursuant to Council resolution 12/7.

34. In its resolution 15/10, the Human Rights Council took note with appreciation of the Principles and Guidelines submitted by the Committee and invited the General Assembly to consider the issue, as appropriate. It also requested OHCHR to disseminate them, as appropriate.

Item 3

Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007

(a) Review of methods of work

35. At its third session, the Advisory Committee adopted the rules of procedure as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on its third session (A/HRC/AC/3/2, annex III).

36. At its fifth session, at two closed meetings, Advisory Committee members exchanged views on the review of the methods of work of the Committee in the context of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council. Members of the Committee also met in this regard with the President of the Council on 5 August 2010. Subsequently, on behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson, Ms. Quisumbing, submitted a written contribution² to the President of the Council on 17 September 2010. Mr. Decaux was designated by the Committee to provide a briefing on 26 October 2010 on the Committee at the first session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on the review, held from 25 to 29 October 2010.

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

37. In its resolution 15/22, the Council decided to hold a panel discussion at its eighteenth session on a thematic study to be prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with the assistance of OHCHR, on the realization of the right to health of older

² Available on the Extranet of the Human Rights Council.

persons. Members of OHCHR, the World Health Organization, the Advisory Committee and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies will participate in the panel discussion.

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

38. In its recommendation 2/2, the Advisory Committee designated some of its members to follow the work of other subsidiary bodies of the Council. However, since the Council did not take relevant action entailing budgetary implications when it considered the report of the Advisory Committee on its second session, the secretariat of the Advisory Committee was unable to implement the above-mentioned recommendation.

39. At its sixth session, the Advisory Committee may address this issue.

Item 5

Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixth session

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