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SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its thirty-first session

Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mr. Abdul Sattar**

* Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 entitled “Human Rights Council”, all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights, including the Sub-Commission, were assumed, as of 19 June 2006, by the Human Rights Council. Consequently, the symbol series E/CN.4/Sub.2/_, under which the Sub-Commission reported to the former Commission on Human Rights, has been replaced by the series A/HRC/Sub.1/_ as of 19 June 2006.

** The annexes are being circulated in the original language.

Summary

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery held its thirty-first session from 8 to 11 August 2006. The session was attended by representatives of Member States as well as participants supported by the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and non-governmental organizations.

At its thirty-first session, the Working Group devoted priority attention to the human rights dimensions of prostitution, in particular the impact on human rights of different national responses to this phenomenon, with particular attention to initiatives to emphasize criminalization of demand, or legalization of prostitution in order to regulate it. The Working Group agreed that a group of several experts should be designated, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and States, to undertake an in-depth study on the human rights dimension of prostitution, taking into account its transnational dimensions, particularly trafficking, irregular migration and financial aspects, including money laundering.

The Working Group also considered at length various alternatives for ensuring that the future Human Rights Council expert advice mechanism will effectively address contemporary forms of slavery, in the light of Human Rights Council decision 2006/102. The Working Group's conclusions will contribute to the report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, by giving its own vision and recommendations for future expert advice to the Council. Taking note of the unique platform that the Working Group provides for non-governmental organizations and victims of slavery and slavery-like practices to appear before an international forum, and the value of its contributions to international awareness and debate concerning all forms of slavery, the report proposes a number of possibilities for future reform, including: maintaining the Working Group in its present form; reinforcing its monitoring mandate, and/or creating a special procedure linked to a permanent agenda item in the future expert advice mechanism of the Human Rights Council.

CONTENTS

| | <i>Paragraphs</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Introduction | 1 - 2 | 4 |
| I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION | 3 - 7 | 4 |
| A. Opening and organization of the session | 3 - 4 | 4 |
| B. Documentation | 5 | 5 |
| C. Election of the Chairperson-Rapporteur | 6 | 5 |
| D. Adoption of the agenda | 7 | 5 |
| II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY | 8 - 11 | 5 |
| III. PRIORITY THEME: HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS OF PROSTITUTION | 12 - 19 | 6 |
| IV. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY | 20 - 23 | 7 |
| V. IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DECISION 2006/102 | 24 - 32 | 8 |
| VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION | 33 | 10 |
| Annexes | | |
| I. Agenda | | 13 |
| II. List of observers | | 14 |

Introduction

1. In its decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Sub-Commission to establish a five-member working group to review developments in the fields of slavery, the slave trade and slavery-like practices, of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, as defined in the 1926 Slavery Convention, the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, and the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established in 1975 and, by decision of the Council, has met regularly before each session of the Sub-Commission until 2005.

2. By General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 the Human Rights Council replaced the Commission on Human Rights. On 30 June 2006 the Human Rights Council adopted its decision 2006/102 by which it extended exceptionally for one year, subject to the review to be undertaken by the Council in conformity with Assembly resolution 60/251, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The Sub-Commission was requested to produce at its final session a report giving its own vision and recommendations for future expert advice to the Council, to which the working groups of the Sub-Commission were specifically asked to contribute. In this context, the Working Group held its thirty-first session from 8 to 11 August 2006, in conjunction with the fifty-eighth session of the Sub-Commission.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and organization of the session

3. The thirty-first session of the Working Group was opened by Ibrahim Wani, Chief, Research and Right to Development Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), who referred to the fact that the session of the Working Group was taking place at a critical juncture for the universal human rights system. He emphasized that the session provided a unique opportunity for the Working Group to elaborate its thoughts on the best possible ways for the Human Rights Council and its future expert advice mechanism to effectively address contemporary forms of slavery. In this respect it was noted that the Working Group already had, during its thirtieth session, the opportunity to reflect extensively on its achievements, including its contribution to the development of relevant new standards and the adoption of new mechanisms of protection for violations related to violence against women, systematic rape and sexual slavery in armed conflict, and trafficking in persons, to name only a few. The review of achievements could serve as useful food for thought when reflecting on the best ways to continue fighting against traditional forms of slavery that still persisted and against more contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices.

4. The members of the Working Group at its thirty-first session were: Emmanuel Decaux, Iulia-Antoanella Motoc, Ibrahim Salama, Marilia Sardenberg Zelner and Abdul Sattar. The full list of participants attending the session as observers is found in annex II.

B. Documentation

5. The Working Group had before it a number of background documents relating to the issues being discussed, as well as documents prepared for the session. A provisional draft timetable for the session was distributed at the first meeting.

C. Election of the Chairperson-Rapporteur

6. At the first meeting, the Working Group appointed Mr. Sattar Chairperson-Rapporteur of its thirty-first session. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Sattar stressed the challenging task of contributing effectively to the reflection on the future expert advice mechanism of the Human Rights Council in order to ensure that persistent contemporary forms of slavery continued to be effectively addressed. The Chairperson-Rapporteur also referred to the need to draw lessons from the Working Group's experience over 30 years of existence and to reflect on how key issues should be addressed in the future. Last year's stocktaking of the working methods and achievements of the Working Group had clearly demonstrated its value as think tank and forum for information-sharing and debate. The Chairperson-Rapporteur recalled that the Working Group had in fact been the first mechanism to bring a number of particularly pertinent issues such as child prostitution, sale of children and child labour to the human rights agenda.

D. Adoption of the agenda

7. At the first meeting, the Working Group adopted a revised agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/2006/1), adding "Implementation of Human Rights Council decision 2006/102" as a new item on its agenda. The agenda as adopted is found in annex I.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

8. The Working Group had before it the report of the Secretary-General containing the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its eleventh session (E/CN.4/2006/76).

9. Mr. José de Souza Martins, member of the Board of Trustees, presented a general and financial update on the Voluntary Trust Fund. Recalling that the purpose of the Fund was to extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims whose human rights had been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery through project and travel grants, he informed the Working Group that in 2006 the Board had recommended the allocation of a total of 47 project grants, totalling US\$ 590,300, to assist non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 22 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. This amounted to more than double the amount allocated in past years.

10. Mr. de Souza Martins informed the Working Group that the Board had recommended 12 travel grants to representatives to the present session, although due to the rescheduling of the session some beneficiaries were unable to attend. Having taken into account

the thematic focus of the Working Group at its thirty-first session, the Board selected beneficiaries to bring first-hand testimony from their work and experience in Argentina, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Niger.

11. Mr. de Souza further welcomed the possibility of being able to participate in the discussions regarding the shape and nature of future expert advice to the Human Rights Council with respect to contemporary forms of slavery. He emphasized the need to find a way to ensure that the voices of victims and grass-roots organizations were heard at the international level in the future.

III. PRIORITY THEME: HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS OF PROSTITUTION

12. At its thirtieth session, the Working Group decided to select as its thematic focus for its thirty-first session the human rights dimensions of prostitution, which was noted by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in its resolution 2005/29 of 11 August 2005. The Working Group further requested one of its members to draft a working paper examining the feasibility of a study on the human rights dimension of prostitution, taking into account the latest developments in this matter, and taking stock of the human rights impact of different national responses to this phenomenon, with particular attention to initiatives to emphasize criminalization of demand or legalization of prostitution in order to regulate it.

13. Due to time constraints and given the period of transition as a result of the creation of the Human Rights Council, instead of submitting a working paper, the topic was introduced by Mr. Salama. He emphasized that prostitution constituted one of the most flagrant and fundamental violations of human dignity, although the applicability of existing human rights standards to some of the issues at hand needed additional clarification outside the notion of exploitation. In the light of the dialogue established with a range of Governments and NGOs, it had become clear that this highly complex issue called for increased attention in the future. One of the challenges to an in-depth study of the human rights dimensions of prostitution came from the fact that information from States was not always available or forthcoming.

14. Various participants presented information on the impact of legalization or criminalization of prostitution in a range of countries. Citing examples from the Netherlands, Australia, Germany and Slovenia where prostitution had been legalized and from Sweden and Japan, where the exploitation and use of prostitution had been criminalized, NGOs underlined that, contrary to general assumptions that legalization would mean better protection for sex workers, those examples had shown an increase in child prostitution and exploitation of illegal or marginalized migrants, as well as in prostitution in those countries where it had been legalized. Increased prostitution in connection with the recent World Cup in Germany was used as an example to illustrate the negative effects of legalization.

15. In response to a statement from an NGO, the observer for Slovenia declared that the decriminalization of prostitution in the country in 2003 had not, contrary to what had been indicated, led to an increase in prostitution. Rather, decriminalization had led to an increase in reports of abuse and exploitation by prostitutes, who previously had feared filing formal complaints. Therefore, the authorities had more means to effectively address such illegal practices as forced prostitution and trafficking.

16. The majority of the NGOs taking the floor welcomed the approach, adopted over the years by the Working Group, not to distinguish between voluntary and coerced prostitution. In this context, it was reiterated by several non-governmental speakers that legalization of prostitution would clearly be in contradiction to the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, as it would indirectly legalize and legitimize exploitation of prostitution, regardless of consent. Various studies mentioned during the session showed that persons who voluntarily engaged in prostitution had often been exploited and abused in the past, which cast doubt on the validity of their consent in this context.

17. Working Group members and non-governmental participants highlighted a number of issues which would need to be examined in any future in-depth study on the subject. Those included the transnational dimensions of prostitution, including trafficking, irregular migration and use of the Internet, and financial aspects, such as money laundering, but also the involvement of mafias and organized crime and the related drug and arms trades. Working Group members emphasized that the application of existing human rights standards was not always clear, particularly as the standards and obligations contained in the 1949 Convention focused on exploitation rather than prostitution per se. They insisted that a comprehensive inventory of existing international, regional and national legislation related to legalization and criminalization of prostitution would be needed to address the protection gap that existed both at the normative and monitoring levels.

18. The discussion highlighted that a holistic view is needed to combat prostitution. Not only must root causes, such as poverty, violence against women and irregular migration, be addressed, but focus must also be placed on rehabilitation and reintegration of sex workers, in order to enable young girls and women to leave prostitution. Several speakers highlighted that even in countries where sex work per se was not illegal, prostitutes might hesitate to report abuse or give evidence against exploiters since their presence on the territory was often illegal and approaching authorities could lead to deportation.

19. In that context, several participants noted the importance of inter-agency coordination, including with human rights treaty bodies and other bodies monitoring implementation of relevant international instruments, to ensure that due account was taken of the obligations under the slavery conventions in the discharge of their respective mandates.

IV. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

20. Under item 4 (a) of its agenda, the Working Group had before it reports on the status of the conventions on slavery (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/2006/2 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/2006/3). Referring to the working paper he presented to the Working Group in 2004 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/2004/CRP.1) and the final study he submitted to the Sub-Commission on the universal application of human rights instruments (A/HRC/Sub.1/58/5/Add.1), Mr. Decaux reiterated his concern about the “orphan” slavery conventions, which lacked a monitoring mechanism. In this context, he supported the idea of a stronger monitoring mandate for the Working Group, inspired by the working methods of human rights treaty bodies and the ILO Committee of Experts, so as to enable the Working Group to examine the application of conventions related to slavery in direct dialogue with States parties.

21. In the absence of an effective monitoring mechanism, it would be particularly important to invite States to provide information on their implementation of the human rights standards enshrined in the 1949 Convention and the 1956 Supplementary Convention, as well as to recommend wide dissemination of such information in order to facilitate constructive dialogue at the national level.

22. One NGO representative recalled that in 2000, the Working Group had recommended that the draft of a new protocol be prepared for the three slavery conventions so as to provide a monitoring mechanism. Others, however, including Working Group members, emphasized that the development of such a protocol did not seem realistic under the current circumstances, and pointed out that the mandate of the Working Group enabled it to undertake monitoring functions.

23. Under item 4, the Working Group also had before it a report containing information on slavery-related issues provided by States, United Nations bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (A/HRC/Sub.1/58/AC.2/4). Statements made during the session focused on child labour, including the recruitment of child soldiers, trafficking, domestic violence and gender-related enslavement. Testimonies were heard in relation to slavery practices in the northern pastoralist regions of the Niger and the “Triangle de la Honte”, and slavery-like conditions of children working in gold mines in the Niger and its linkages with trafficking of child labour in West Africa. The Working Group also heard testimonies regarding children working in slavery-like conditions in Argentina; the persisting human rights violations experienced by Dalits in India and the purchase of girls and young women for domestic labour, or contract labour for sexual purposes; as well as the use of the Internet in Cameroon as a means of “recruiting” girls and young women abroad, including for prostitution or forms of marriage amounting to slavery.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DECISION 2006/102

24. Under item 5 of its revised agenda, the Working Group considered various alternatives for ensuring that the future Human Rights Council expert advice mechanism would effectively address contemporary forms of slavery, in the light of Human Rights Council decision 2006/102. It was expected that the Working Group’s conclusions would contribute to the report of the Sub-Commission, by giving its own vision and recommendations for future expert advice to the Council. Members and participants generally agreed that any reform of the current structure must take into account the achievements of, and the lessons learned by, the Working Group over more than 30 years of existence.

25. From the start, the Working Group had focused on the examination of the implementation of the 1926 Slavery Convention; slavery-like practices such as apartheid and colonialism; and various manifestations of slavery and slavery-like practices. In 1954, a member of the Working Group visited a country which was regularly mentioned by participants in the Working Group sessions as facing many slavery problems. That visit started a process of dialogue that afterwards evolved into informal meetings between members of the Working Group and representatives of States who voluntarily agreed to debate the reasons for those States failing to ratify the Slavery Convention. Open discussions in the sessions of the Working Group

also provided a platform to strengthen cooperation between participating States and civil society organizations on questions involving slavery-like practices - an innovation both necessary and invaluable in the absence of a treaty body to monitor compliance with the Slavery Convention.

26. Between 1988 and 1998, the Working Group pursued its efforts to identify and incorporate slavery-like practices into its work so that those questions would receive appropriate attention from the human rights mechanisms. Functioning as an innovative think tank, the Working Group drew the attention of other human rights bodies to such issues as the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, violence against women, children in armed conflicts, traditional practices affecting the health of girls and women, migrant workers and trafficking in persons.

27. The Working Group was the first human rights mechanism to examine the issue of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It drafted the Programme of Action that was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in 1992. The Working Group also advocated and drafted the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour and Debt Bondage, and was also among the very few human rights mechanisms to address the exploitation suffered by migrant workers. It was the main voice calling attention to the suffering of the victims of trafficking and the need to protect their rights. It prepared the draft of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, which was approved by the Commission on Human Rights in 1996. Since 1998 OHCHR had given priority to the issues of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Under the agenda item on violence against women, the Working Group had devoted particular attention to the consideration of harmful traditional practices ranging from genital mutilation to child marriages, forced marriages, early pregnancies, sale of wives, crimes of honour and other malpractices, as well as to the settlement of the issue of so-called comfort women.

28. Since 1998, the Working Group had continued to highlight slavery-like practices by facilitating participation in its session of former victims of prostitution and trafficking in persons and NGOs working to assist victims, which had demonstrated the immediacy of the problems and the necessity of preventing them.

29. In view of the above, and after soliciting the ideas of participating NGOs, the Working Group discussed the most efficient mechanism to address contemporary forms of slavery, in the context of the reform of the human rights system. It also considered the thematic priorities that should be taken up by such a mechanism.

30. It was generally agreed that the main strengths of the Working Group would need to be preserved and enhanced in the course of the ongoing reform. Such strengths included its collegial nature and its having become a unique forum for the exchange of information and views with NGOs, as well as for addressing issues of mutual interest. It was also emphasized that the Working Group had over time been in a position to adapt its focus in the light of new emerging forms of slavery or slavery-like practices, including in the context of globalization. While acknowledging the Working Group's strengths, it was also pointed out that measures needed to be taken to address its main weaknesses, including its limited impact on States and other key actors, as well as its cost. It was also noted that, to a certain extent, the difficulties

experienced by the Working Group were a result of its success as an innovative mechanism. It should be recalled that it had brought to the human rights agenda certain contemporary forms of slavery which today were covered by more recently established mechanisms, including special procedures of the former Commission on Human Rights and treaty bodies.

31. The representative of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund noted that in comparison with the Working Group's focus on issues such as trafficking and prostitution, too little attention was devoted to contemporary forms of slavery that affected developing countries and were linked to economic globalization and market liberalization processes that subjected many workers to slavery or slavery-like working conditions. It was suggested that in order to ensure that its work would have a greater impact, the Working Group would need to find ways to engage with key actors, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other major global economic decision makers. A forum where NGOs could raise the relevant issues was considered to remain necessary.

32. The discussion proved fruitful, as a number of suggestions for future reform were forthcoming, both from Working Group members and from participants from NGOs. The suggestions covered a wide spectrum of alternatives, ranging from preserving and reinforcing the Working Group in its present form, to entrusting it with stronger monitoring powers to strengthen its examination of State compliance with the slavery conventions, and to creating a new special procedure of the Human Rights Council to address contemporary forms of slavery in close cooperation with the future expert advice mechanism of the Council. Some participants opposed the creation of a special procedure.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

33. **Recalling the recommendations adopted at its previous sessions, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery decided at its thirty-first session to draw attention, in particular, to the following conclusions and recommendations.**

General

1. **The Working Group recalls that slavery, in all its forms and practices, is a crime against humanity and reaffirms that every woman, man and child has a fundamental right to be free from all forms of slavery and servitude.**

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

2. **The Working Group invites the Board of Trustees of the Fund to continue to promote the participation at the annual sessions of the Working Group, or the future expert advice mechanism, of individuals and organizations from as large a number of countries as possible and to contribute to projects implemented at the grass-roots level that directly assist victims of contemporary forms of slavery. Noting that not all approved travel grants have been used for its thirty-first session, the Working Group hopes that the grants can be used to complement participation at its next session.**

3. **The Working Group welcomes the contribution made by many States and others, and recalls and urges all States to consider the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund. In addition, it recommends that a member of the Working Group, designated by it, be invited to participate in the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, in order to increase synergy between the two bodies.**

Human rights dimensions of prostitution

4. **The Working Group reaffirms that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and constitutes a source of serious violations of human rights and that all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation and exploitation of the prostitution of others are prohibited under international law.**

5. **The Working Group recommends that the Sub-Commission or the future expert advice mechanism request a group of several experts (in order to ensure appropriate geographic and cultural diversity and representation of all legal systems), in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and States, to undertake an in-depth study on the human rights dimension of prostitution, taking into account its transnational dimensions, particularly trafficking, irregular migration and financial aspects, including money laundering. The study should pay particular attention to the human rights impact of the criminalization of demand, or of legalization and regulation of prostitution. Such a study should be based on empirical evidence, highlight root causes of prostitution and its links to other phenomena, and provide a comparative inventory of existing national and regional legislation, in order to analyse the problem and formulate recommendations on the need for the international human rights system to address it effectively.**

Implementation of Human Rights Council decision 2006/102

6. **Taking note of the consensus view expressed by non-governmental organizations during the Working Group session about the importance of its continuation, the Working Group recalls that it undertook, at its thirtieth session, a review and assessment of its activities since its establishment, and draws attention to all the relevant recommendations it adopted, including on its future work (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/34, para. 36, recommendations 1-16).**

7. **The Working Group recommends that the Sub-Commission emphasize in the paper requested by the Human Rights Council that the sessions of the Working Group provide a unique platform for non-governmental organizations and victims of slavery and slavery-like practices to appear before an international forum, and acknowledge the value of their contributions to international awareness and debate concerning all forms of slavery. It also recommends that the Sub-Commission emphasize the importance of more active participation of States and United Nations agencies, to enhance the role of the Working Group.**

8. **The Working Group recommends that, building on its own achievements, specific consideration continue to be given to priority thematic issues such as trafficking in persons, the exploitation of prostitution, the exploitation of domestic workers, forced marriages, domestic violence, forced and bonded labour, and working conditions amounting to slavery or near slavery, including in the context of economic globalization.**

9. **The Working Group recommends that the Sub-Commission recommend to the Human Rights Council to request the Secretary-General to continue to invite States to provide and disseminate information, and to facilitate constructive dialogue regarding their implementation of the human rights standards enshrined in the 1949 Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery.**

10. **The Working Group recommends that consideration be given in the review of the system of expert advice of the Human Rights Council to the following alternatives, which alone or in combination would ensure that contemporary forms of slavery are appropriately addressed by the human rights system:**

(a) **Maintaining the Working Group in its current form, in order to preserve its nature as a unique platform for non-governmental organizations and victims of slavery and slavery-like practices to appear before an international forum, and enable it to facilitate coordination of its work with that of all human rights mechanisms and United Nations bodies and agencies working on contemporary forms of slavery;**

(b) **Entrusting a stronger monitoring mandate to the Working Group, inspired by the working methods of human rights treaty bodies and the ILO Committee of Experts, to enable its examination of State compliance with conventions related to slavery, in direct dialogue with States parties;**

(c) **Creation by the Human Rights Council of a mandate of special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, whose reports would be discussed with the new expert advice mechanism, under a permanent agenda item. The deliberations of the expert advice mechanism, on the basis of such reports, should provide information for the universal periodic review procedure in order to ensure that issues relating to contemporary forms of slavery are highlighted and appropriately addressed at the national level. The new mandate could be established through the revision, expansion or merging of existing special procedures mandates that deal with related issues, such as the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; or the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.**

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, including introduction of beneficiaries.
3. Priority theme: Human rights dimension of prostitution - legalization/criminalization and exploitation of prostitution.
4. Review of implementation of human rights standards on contemporary forms of slavery:
 - (a) Status of the conventions on slavery and other related instruments; analysis of national policies;
 - (b) Economic exploitation:
 - (i) Forced and bonded labour;
 - (ii) Rights of migrant workers including domestic workers;
 - (c) Trafficking in persons;
 - (d) Forced marriages;
 - (e) Domestic violence.
5. Implementation of Human Rights Council decision 2006/102.
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its thirty-first session to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Annex II

LIST OF OBSERVERS

Member States

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Timor-Leste, United States of America.

Non-member State

Holy See.

Non-governmental organizations

Association of World Citizens, Coalition against Trafficking In Women, European Federation of Unpaid Parents and Carers At Home, Franciscans International, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Educational Development, Inc., International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education, International Service for Human Rights, Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation, Mouvement pour l'abolition de la prostitution et de la pornographie et de toutes formes de violences sexuelles et de discriminations sexistes, Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples, Penal Reform International, World Movement of Mothers.

Other organizations

Association of Humanitarian Lawyers, Association Timidria (Fraternité-Solidarité), Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil para la Reinserción Escolar, Initiative d'entraide aux libertés idéal international, Ligue des droits et libertés, Organisation pour la prévention du travail des enfants au Niger, Sarvadeshik Arya Yuwak, Social and Economic Assistance for Rural and City Habitant.
