



**International covenant
on civil and
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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Seventy-ninth session
Geneva, 20 October to 7 November 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The seventy-ninth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 October to 7 November 2003. The first meeting will be convened at the Palais Wilson, Ground Floor Conference Room, on Monday, 20 October 2003 at 10 a.m.
2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the seventy-ninth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.
3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6 which contains the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports during the seventy-ninth session. In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, representatives of States parties are expected to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

5. At its seventy-eighth session, the Committee decided that a working group, established under rule 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its seventy-ninth session from 13 to 17 October 2003. The first meeting of the Working Group will be convened at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais Wilson, Ground Floor Conference Room, on Monday, 13 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational and other matters:
 - (a) Report of the Chairperson/Rapporteur of the pre-session Working Group;
 - (b) Miscellaneous.
4. Consultation with representatives of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations.
5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.
6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.
7. Follow-up on concluding observations.
8. General comments of the Committee.
9. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General

The representative of the Secretary-General will open the seventy-ninth session of the Committee.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the first item on the agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, the Committee may revise the agenda during a session and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items.

3. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will (a) consider the report of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group; and (b) consider miscellaneous issues relevant to the Committee's business.

4. Consultation with representatives of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

At its seventy-eighth session, the Committee decided to hear representatives of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations during the first plenary meeting of the Committee. These consultations have accordingly been scheduled for the morning meeting on Monday, 20 October 2003.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A. Reports received

Apart from the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 6 below), the Secretary-General has received the periodic reports of Finland, Liechtenstein, Suriname and Serbia and Montenegro.

B. Reports due

For the situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant, reference is made to chapter III and annex IV of the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly for 2002 (see A/58/40, vol. I).

6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the seventy-ninth session, prepared in consultation with the Chairperson and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Philippines	Second periodic report (CCPR/C/PHL/2002/2)	Monday, 20 October 2003 p.m. Tuesday, 21 October 2003 a.m.
Russian Federation	Fifth periodic report (CCPR/C/RUS/2002/5)	Thursday, 23 October 2003 p.m. Friday, 24 October 2003 a.m.
Equatorial Guinea	Non-reporting State party (CCPR/C/78/L/GNQ)	Monday, 27 October 2003 a.m./p.m.
Latvia	Second periodic report (CCPR/C/LVA/2002/2)	Tuesday, 28 October 2003 p.m. Wednesday, 29 October 2003 a.m./p.m.
Sri Lanka	Fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/LKA/2002/4)	Friday, 31 October 2003 p.m. Monday, 3 November 2003 a.m.

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its seventy-ninth session. These States parties are the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Equatorial Guinea, Latvia and Sri Lanka.

The reports to be considered during the eightieth session are those of Colombia, Germany, Lithuania, Suriname and Uganda.

7. Follow-up on concluding observations

At its seventy-fourth session, the Committee adopted decisions governing the procedure for following up on concluding observations. During the seventy-fifth session, a Special Rapporteur for follow-up on concluding observations was appointed; he gave a first report on his activities during the seventy-sixth session. He will provide his fourth progress report on his activities during the seventy-ninth session.

8. General comments of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee may continue consideration of a draft general comment on article 2 (provision of effective remedies for violations of the Covenant) which was begun at the seventy-fourth session. During the seventy-seventh session the Committee completed the first reading of the draft general comment. The Rapporteur has revised the draft on the basis of the Committee's plenary discussion during the seventy-seventh session and the comments received from other treaty bodies and external partners.

9. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

Two hundred and fifty-nine communications are pending before the Committee. Pursuant to the Committee's new rules of procedure allowing the joint examination of admissibility and merits in most cases, the Committee's examination of these communications may result in the adoption of Views, or in decisions declaring the communications admissible or inadmissible.

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.
