

**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Fifty-eighth session**

**Informal one-day meeting**

**24 September 2002**

Excerpts from the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the  
provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly  
(A/57/100 of 14 June 2002)

Items 107 to 111 (e)

E/CN.4/IM/2002/Misc.2



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## **107.Promotion and protection of the rights of children**

### **Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

At its forty-fourth session, in 1989, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25). The Convention entered into force on 2 September 1990. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly adopted two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 54/263): one on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and one on children in armed conflict. The first protocol entered into force on 18 January 2002 and the second on 12 February 2002.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on the question of violence against children and to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the rights of the child, containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto (resolution 56/138).

#### *Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/138);
- (b) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Supplement No. 41 (A/57/41).

### **Protection of children affected by armed conflict**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly decided to request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit to the Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind the existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies (resolution 56/138).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights took note of the importance of the debate held by the Security Council, on 10 November 2001, on children and armed conflict, and of Council resolution 1379 (2001); noted the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in particular the inclusion therein, as a war crime, of conscription or enlisting children under the age of 15 years or using them to participate actively in hostilities in both international and non-international armed conflicts (Commission resolution 2002/92).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/138).

### **The girl child**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly stressed the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the need for universal ratification of those instruments. The Assembly also stressed the importance of integrating a gender perspective and of considering the needs and rights of the girl child in the work of the special session of the General Assembly on children (resolution 56/139).

**References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 115)**

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/56/203)

Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/56/342-S/2001/852)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the protection of children affected by armed conflict (A/56/453)

Note by the Secretary-General on the promotion and protection of the rights of children (A/56/488)

Summary records A/C.3/56/SR.18-24, 32, 45 and 47

Report of the Third Committee A/56/579

Plenary meeting A/56/PV.88

Resolutions 56/138 and 56/139

**108. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

**United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations**

The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, 50/156 of 21 December 1995, 53/130 of 9 December 1998 and 56/140 of 19 December 2001.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly appealed to all Governments and organizations to consider contributing to the Fund, if possible with a substantial increase in the level of contributions (resolutions 56/140). In accordance with its resolution 40/131, the General Assembly will have before it at its fifty-seventh session a biennial report of the Secretary-General on the decisions approved and travel grants paid with the resources of the Fund.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 40/131).

**Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995, relating to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157 on the programme of activities for the International Decade, an Advisory Group was established in April 1996 to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund.

At its seventh session, held from 8 to 12 April 2002, the Advisory Group of the Voluntary Fund made recommendations to the Secretary-General on project grants to indigenous communities and organizations as well as on programmes to be implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade (resolution 56/140). This report will include information on projects and programmes approved by the High Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary-General and financed by the Fund.

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (resolution 56/140).

#### **References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 116)**

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/56/206)

Summary records A/C.3/56/SR.24, 25, 30 and 34

Report of the Third Committee A/56/580

Plenary meeting A/56/PV.88

Resolution 56/140

### **109. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination**

#### **Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**

At its twentieth session, in 1965, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it reports concerning the state of ratifications of the Convention, which would be considered by the Assembly at its future sessions (resolution 2106 A (XX)). The Convention entered into force on 4 January 1969.

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly urged those States that had not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto as soon as possible; and decided to consider at its fifty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (resolution 55/81, sect. III).

As at 31 March 2002, 162 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 55/81, sect. III).

#### **Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Under article 9 of the Convention, the Committee reports annually, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly on its activities and may make suggestions and recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties to the Convention.

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to consider the report of the Committee further at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 55/81).

*Document:* Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions: Supplement No. 18 (A/57/18).

**Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite those State parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that were in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 55/81, sect. II).

At the same session, the Assembly decided to consider at its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the reports of the Committee on its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth and its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions and the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee (resolution 55/81, sect. III).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 55/81, sect. II).

**References for the fifty-fifth session (agenda item 112)**

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions: Supplement No. 18 and addendum (A/55/18 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/55/203)

Summary records	A/C.3/55/SR.26-30, 32, 37, 44, 52 and 54
Report of the Third Committee	A/55/600
Plenary meeting	A/55/PV.81
Resolution	55/81

**Third Decade to Combat Racism and the Convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**

At its fifty-third session, in 1998, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a report encompassing the final outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which was to be convened in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001 (resolution 53/132).

At its fifty-sixth session, in March 2002, the General Assembly took note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/56/481); recognized the need for adequate support and financial resources for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session further appropriate concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary sources; and requested the Secretary-General to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on

the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/265).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (resolutions 55/84 and 56/265), A/57/83-E/2002/72.

**Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-ninth to fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 49/147, 50/135, 51/79, 52/109, 53/133, 54/153 and 55/83).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary human and financial assistance to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to enable him to submit an interim report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/267).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 56/267).

**References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 117)**

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council: Supplement No. 3 (A/56/3/Rev.1)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Supplement No. 18 (A/56/18 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/56/481)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/56/228)

Report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, 31 August-8 September 2001 (A/CONF.189/12)

Summary records	A/C.3/56/SR.56-62 and A/C.5/56/SR.50-52
Report of the Third Committee	A/56/581
Report of the Fifth Committee	A/56/883
Plenary meeting	A/56/PV.97
Resolutions	56/265 to 56/268
Decision	56/466

## 110. Right of peoples to self-determination

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination was a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights; requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the question to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/141).

At the same session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training were causes for grave concern to all States; urged all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries; called upon all States that had not yet done so to consider signing or ratifying the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, as a matter of priority; urged all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination in the fulfilment of his mandate; and requested the Special Rapporteur to report, with specific recommendations, to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination (resolution 56/232).

*Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/141);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (resolution 56/232).

### References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 118)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/56/295)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/56/224)

Summary records A/C.3/56/SR.26-28, 30, 36, 41, 42, 47 and 50  
and A/C.5/56/SR.31

Report of the Third Committee A/56/582

Report of the Fifth Committee A/56/745 (items 123 and 118)Plenary meetings A/56/PV.88 and 92

Resolutions 56/141 and 56/232

## **111. Human rights questions**

### **(a) Implementation of human rights instruments**

#### **Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights**

At its thirty-eighth session, in 1983, the General Assembly considered problems relating to the reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations conventions on human rights and requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening a meeting of the chairmen of the bodies entrusted with the consideration of reports submitted under the relevant human rights instruments (resolution 38/117).

The General Assembly considered the question annually from its thirty-ninth to fifty-first sessions (resolutions 39/138, 40/117, 41/121, 42/105, 43/135, 44/135, 45/85, 46/111, 47/111, 48/120, 49/178, 50/170 and 51/87) and biennially thereafter (resolution 53/138).

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to submit the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at that session on measures taken to implement the resolution, on obstacles to its implementation and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the human rights treaty bodies (resolution 55/90).

#### *Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 55/90), A/57/56;
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirteenth meeting (resolution 55/90) (A/57/56);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fourteenth meeting (resolution 55/90);
- (d) Compilation of the rules of procedure for the treaty bodies (HRI/GEN/3).

#### **References for the fifty-fifth session (agenda item 114 (a))**

Report of the Human Rights Committee: Supplement No. 40 (A/55/40), vols. I and II

Report of the Committee against Torture: Supplement No. 44 (A/55/44)

Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council: Supplement No. 3 (A/55/3/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/55/278)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies on their twelfth meeting, held at Geneva from 5 to 8 June 2000 (A/55/206)



Summary records	A/C.3/55/SR.31, 32, 37, 39, 43, 47 and 53
Report of the Third Committee	A/55/602/Add.1
Plenary meeting	A/55/PV.81
Resolution	55/90

#### **Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly, recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, called upon all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question on torture in the performance of his or her task, to provide all necessary information requested by the Special Rapporteur, to respond appropriately and expeditiously to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteur and to give serious consideration to requests by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries, and urged them to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in following up his or her recommendations; and decided to consider the interim report of the Special Rapporteur at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/143).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 56/143).

#### **Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

At its thirty-ninth session, in 1984, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46, annex), and called upon all Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority (resolution 39/46). The Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention (resolution 56/143).

As at 15 April 2002, 129 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/143).

### **Report of the Committee against Torture**

In accordance with article 17 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Committee against Torture is composed of 10 experts. The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Peter Thomas Burns (Canada),\* Mr. Guibril Camara (Senegal),\* Mr. Sayed Kassem El Masry (Egypt),\*\* Ms. Felice Gaer (United States of America),\* Mr. Alejandro González Poblete (Chile),\* Mr. Andreas Mavrommatis (Cyprus),\* Mr. Fernando Marino Menéndez (Spain),\*\* Mr. Ole Vedel Rasmussen (Denmark),\*\* Mr. Alexander M. Yakovlev (Russian Federation)\*\* and Mr. Yu Mengjia (China).\*\*

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\* Term of office expires on 31 December 2003.

\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 2005.

The Committee against Torture held its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions in Geneva from 13 to 24 November 2001 and from 30 April to 17 May 2002, respectively. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee submits an annual report on its activities to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly welcomed the work of the Committee against Torture and took note of its report (resolution 56/143).

*Document:* Report of the Committee against Torture: Supplement No. 44 (A/57/44).

### **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture**

At its thirty-sixth session, in 1981, the General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 36/151) and requested the Secretary-General to report to it annually on the administration of the Fund. The Fund receives voluntary contributions for distribution to non-governmental organizations providing medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian or other forms of assistance to victims of torture and their relatives.

The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the Fund; appealed to all Governments and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, preferably by 1 March prior to the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, if possible with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, so that consideration might be given to the ever-increasing demand for assistance; requested the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Fund and to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds were pledged at the United Nations

Pledging Conference for Development Activities; also requested the Secretary-General to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its appeal for contributions and in its efforts to make better known the existence of the Fund and the financial means currently available to it and, in that effort, to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials (resolution 56/143).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/143).

### **Report of the Human Rights Committee**

At its twenty-first session, in 1966, the General Assembly adopted the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (resolution 2200 A (XXI)). The Covenant and the Optional Protocol thereto entered into force on 23 March 1976.

In accordance with article 28 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee is composed of 18 experts. The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia),\* Mr. Nisuke Ando (Japan),\* Mr. Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati (India),\* Ms. Christine Chanet (France),\* Mr. Maurice Glèlè Ahanhanzo (Benin),\*\* Mr. Louis Henkin (United States of America),\* Mr. Ahmed Tawfik Khalil (Egypt),\*\* Mr. Eckart Klein (Germany),\* Mr. David Kretzmer (Israel),\* Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius),\*\* Mrs. Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile),\*\* Mr. Rafael Rivas Posada (Colombia),\*\* Sir Nigel Rodley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland),\*\* Mr. Martin Scheinin (Finland),\*\* Mr. Ivan Shearer (Australia),\*\* Mr. Hipólito Solari Yrigoyen (Argentina),\* Mr. Patrick Vella (Malta)\*\* and Mr. Maxwell Yalden (Canada).\*\*

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\* Term of office expires on 31 December 2002.

\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 2004.

As at 10 April 2002, 149 States had ratified or acceded to the Covenant, 101 States had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol and 47 States had ratified or acceded to the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Committee submits to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, an annual report on its activities. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions and took note of General Comments Nos. 27, 28 and 29 adopted by the Committee (resolution 56/144).

*Document:* Report of the Human Rights Committee, Supplement No. 40 (A/57/40).

### **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

At its twenty-first session, in 1966, the General Assembly adopted the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights (resolution 2200 A (XXI)). This Covenant entered into force on 3 January 1976.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is composed of 18 experts. The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Mahmoud Samir Ahmed (Egypt),\* Mr. Clément Atangana (Cameroon),\* Mrs. Rocío Barahona Riera (Costa Rica),\*\* Mrs. Virginia Bonoan-Dandan (Philippines),\* Mr. Dumitru Ceausu (Romania),\*\* Mr. Abdessatar Grissa (Tunisia),\*\* Mr. Paul Hunt (New Zealand),\* Mr. Yuri Kolosov (Russian Federation),\* Mr. Georgio Malinverni (Switzerland),\*\* Mr. Jaime Marchan Romero (Ecuador),\* Mr. Sergei Martynov (Belarus),\*\* Mr. Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius),\*\* Mr. Kenneth Osborne Rattray (Jamaica),\*\* Mr. Eibe Riedel (Germany),\* Mr. Walid M. Sa'di (Jordan),\*\* Mr. Philippe Texier (France),\*\* Mr. Nutan Thapalia (Nepal)\* and Mr. Javier Wimer Zambrano (Mexico).\*

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\* Term of office expires on 31 December 2002.

\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 2004.

On 29 April 2002, at its resumed organizational session for 2002, the Economic and Social Council elected the following eight experts for a four-year term on the Committee beginning on 1 January 2003: Mr. Clément Atangana (Cameroon), Mrs. Virginia Bonoan-Dandan (Philippines), Ms. Maria Virginia Bras Gomes (Portugal), Mr. Azzouz Kerdoun (Algeria), Mr. Yuri Kolosov (Russian Federation), Mr. Jaime Marchan Romero (Ecuador), Mr. Eibe Riedel (Germany) and Mr. Alvaro Tirado Mejia (Colombia). The Council postponed to a future session the election of one member from Asian States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003 (decision 2002/201 B).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly welcomed the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twentieth and twenty-first sessions and on its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions and took note of General Comments Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14 adopted by the Committee (resolution 56/144).

#### **Status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991 for the purpose of assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance and to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights had been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of

Trustees. The Fund can receive voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (decision 56/429).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 46/122).

**References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 119 (a))**

Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council: Supplement No. 3 (A/56/3/Rev.1)

Report of the Human Rights Committee: Supplement No. 40 (A/56/40), vols. I and II

Report of the Committee against Torture: Supplement No. 44 (A/56/44)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture (A/56/156)

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/56/177)

Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/56/178)

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/56/179)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/56/181)

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/56/205)

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/56/603)

Summary records	A/C.3/56/SR.31, 32, 41, 45 and 47
Report of the Third Committee	A/56/583/Add.1
Plenary meeting	A/56/PV.88
Resolutions	56/143 to 56/146

**(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms<sup>1</sup>**

**Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification**

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, once again called upon all States to guarantee the universally recognized freedom of travel to all foreign nationals legally residing in their territory; and decided to continue the consideration of the question at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 55/100).

No advance documentation is expected.

### **Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances**

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly urged all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances, in keeping with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to take action to that end at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations, including through the provision of technical assistance; requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he took to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration and to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on the steps taken to implement the resolution; and decided to consider the question of enforced disappearances, and in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 55/103).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 55/103).

### **Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights**

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly, reaffirming that regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the different regions under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations; welcomed the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights; also welcomed the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights; further welcomed the appointment by the High Commissioner of four human rights personalities to serve as regional advisers; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the resolution (resolution 55/105).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 55/105).

### **Human rights and extreme poverty**

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to continue to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty; called upon States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty; and decided to consider the question further at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 55/106).

No advance documentation is expected.

### **Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly strongly condemned once again all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continued to take place throughout the world; demanded that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms; reaffirmed Economic and Social Council decision 1998/265 of 30 July 1998, in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/68, to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for three years; strongly urged all Governments, in particular those that had not yet done so, to respond without undue delay to the communications and requests for information transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and urged them and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that she might carry out her mandate effectively, including, where appropriate, by issuing invitations to the Special Rapporteur when she so requested; and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and her recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon (resolution 55/111).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 55/111).

### **References for the fifty-fifth session (agenda item 114 (b))**

Reports of the Secretary General:

Strengthening the rule of law (A/55/177)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/55/279)

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (A/55/289)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/55/288)

Summary records	A/C.3/55/SR.33-44, 50, 52-54 and 56
Report of the Third Committee	A/55/602/Add.2 and Corr.1
Plenary meeting	A/55/PV.81
Resolutions	55/99, 55/100, 55/103, 55/105, 55/106 and 55/111

#### **Human rights and unilateral coercive measures**

The General Assembly considered this item at its fifty-first to fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 51/103, 52/120, 53/141, 54/172 and 55/110).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly urged all States to refrain from adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments; requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give priority to the resolution in her annual report to the General Assembly; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect the views and information of Member States on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations and to submit an analytical report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/148).

#### *Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/148);
- (b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

#### **Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity**

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-fifth to fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 45/163, 46/129, 47/131, 48/125, 49/181, 50/174, 51/105, 52/131, 53/149, 54/174 and 55/102).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General and requested him to invite Member States to present practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, and to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/153).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/153).

#### **The right to food**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger; urged States to give adequate priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food; requested the Special



Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food to submit a comprehensive report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session and an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution; and invited Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies and non-governmental organizations to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate (resolution 56/155).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 56/155).

#### **Human rights and cultural diversity**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on human rights and cultural diversity, taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as the considerations in the resolution regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world, and to submit it to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/156).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/156).

#### **Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly welcomed the initiatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief, including the convening of the International Consultative Conference on School Education in relation to Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination in Madrid from 23 to 25 November 2001, in which Governments, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties were encouraged to participate actively; and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/157).

The Commission on Human Rights considered this question at its fifty-eighth session (resolution 2002/40).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 56/157).

#### **Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

The General Assembly considered this question at its fifty-third session, in 1998, at which it adopted the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (resolution 53/144).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly called upon all States to promote and give full effect to the Declaration; requested all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human

rights defenders in the implementation of her programme of activities; and decided to consider the question at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/163).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative (resolution 56/163).

### **Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights**

The General Assembly considered this question at its fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 54/165 and 55/102).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the preliminary report of the Secretary-General; and requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and to submit a comprehensive report on the subject to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/165).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/165).

### **United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights**

The General Assembly considered the question of a decade for human rights education at its forty-eighth session, in 1993 (resolution 48/127). At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 1995 the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and welcomed the Plan of Action as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (resolution 49/184). The Assembly also considered the question at its fiftieth to fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 50/177, 51/104, 52/127, 53/153, 54/161 and 55/94).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade (resolution 56/167).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (resolution 56/167).

### **Human rights of persons with disabilities**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; also decided that, prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee would hold at least one meeting; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee (resolution 56/168).

*Document:* Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/168).

### **References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 119 (b))**

Reports of the Secretary General:

Human rights and cultural diversity (A/56/204 and Add.1)

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/56/207 and Add.1)

Role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/230)

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/56/254 and Add.1)

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/255)

Right to development (A/56/256)

Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/56/292 and Add.1)

Protection of migrants (A/56/310)

Notes by the Secretary-General:

Transmitting the report of his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia (A/56/209)

Transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief (A/56/253)

Human rights of persons with disabilities (A/56/263)

Transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/56/271)

Transmitting the report of his Special Representative on human rights defenders (A/56/341)

Summary records	A/C.3/56/SR.31, 33-42, 45, 49-53 and 55 and A/C.5/56/SR.33
Report of the Third Committee	A/56/583/Add.2
Report of the Fifth Committee	A/56/746 (items 123 and 119 (b))
Plenary meetings	A/56/PV.88 and 92
Resolutions	56/148 to 56/153, 56/155 to 56/157, 56/163, 56/165, 56/167 to 56/170 and 56/230

**(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives<sup>1</sup>**

**Situation of human rights in Cambodia**

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-eighth to fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 48/154, 49/199, 50/178, 51/98, 52/135, 53/145, 54/171 and 55/95).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights and on the recommendations made by the Special Representative (resolution 56/169, sect. VIII).

The Commission on Human Rights considered this question at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 2002/89).

*Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/169, sect. VIII);
- (b) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia.

**Protection of migrants**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly expressed its support for the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants and requested her to take into account the recommendations contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the performance of her mandate, tasks and duties (resolution 56/170).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to submit a report of her activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (Commission resolution 2002/62).

Also at its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights considered the question of protection of migrants and their families (resolution 2002/59).

*Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 56/170);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (Commission resolution 2002/62).

**The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

At its fortieth session, in 1984, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Chairman to appoint a Special Representative of the Commission whose mandate would be to establish contacts with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to make a thorough study of the human rights situation in that country and to submit conclusions and appropriate suggestions to the Commission at its forty-first session (Commission resolution 1984/54). The mandate of the Special Representative has been renewed annually since then.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly welcomed the broad participation of the electorate in the presidential elections held in June 2001, as well as the process of legal reform under way in the Islamic Republic of Iran; expressed its concern at the continuing violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and decided to continue the examination of the question, including the situation of the Baha'is and other minority groups, at its fifty-seventh session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 56/171).

No advance documentation is expected.

**Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

At its fiftieth session, in 1994, the Commission on Human Rights invited its Chairman to appoint a Special Rapporteur mandated to

establish direct contact with the authorities and the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to gather information on the situation of human rights there, including information supplied by non-governmental organizations. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur has been renewed annually since then.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly called upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to comply fully with its obligations under international human rights law and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms; to fulfil its commitment to reform and restore the judicial system and, in particular to reform military justice, in conformity with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; urged all parties to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, to protect human rights and respect international humanitarian law; and requested the Special Rapporteur to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (resolution 56/173).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (Commission resolution 2002/14).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur (Assembly resolution 56/173 and Commission resolution 2002/14).

#### **The situation of human rights in Iraq**

At its forty-seventh session, in 1991, the Commission on Human Rights requested its Chairman to appoint a Special Rapporteur to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights committed by the Government of Iraq and to submit an interim report thereon to the General Assembly (Commission resolution 1991/74). The mandate of the Special Rapporteur has been renewed annually since then.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly called upon the Government of Iraq to cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit Iraq and allowing the stationing of human rights monitors throughout Iraq, to establish the independence of the judiciary and to abrogate all decrees prescribing cruel and inhuman punishment or treatment and all laws and procedures penalizing free expression, to respect the rights of all ethnic and religious groups; to cooperate with the Tripartite Commission to establish the whereabouts and resolve the fate of the remaining several hundred missing persons, to cooperate with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights for that purpose, to cooperate fully with international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance and monitoring in the northern and southern areas of the country and to cooperate in the identification of minefields in Iraq; and decided to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-seventh session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission (resolution 56/174).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session an interim report on human rights in Iraq and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session (Commission resolution 2002/15).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur (Commission resolution 2002/15).

#### **Situation of human rights in the Sudan**

The General Assembly has considered this question annually since its forty-seventh session, in 1992 (resolutions 47/142, 48/147, 49/198, 50/197, 51/112, 52/140, 54/182 and 55/116 and decision 53/433).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly urged all parties to the conflict to respect and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, to respect fully international humanitarian law, in particular the need to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian premises, and to ensure that those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law were brought to justice; called upon the Government of the Sudan to comply fully with its obligations under international human rights instruments to which the Sudan was a party and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law; encouraged the Government of the Sudan to continue its cooperation with the United Nations in the field of human rights; and decided to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-seventh session, in the light of further elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 56/175).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session (Commission resolution 2002/16).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur (Commission resolution 2002/16).

#### **Question of human rights in Afghanistan**

The General Assembly has considered this question annually since its fortieth session, in 1985 (resolutions 40/137, 41/158, 42/135, 43/139, 44/161, 45/174, 46/136, 47/141, 48/152, 49/207, 50/189, 51/108, 52/145, 53/165, 54/185 and 55/119).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly strongly condemned the widespread violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, mainly by the Taliban; recalled its invitation extended to the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to proceed to investigate fully reports of summary executions and of rape and cruel treatment in Afghanistan; invited the relevant bodies of the United Nations to offer, as appropriate, advisory services and technical assistance in the area of human rights; called upon the Afghan parties to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and all other special rapporteurs

who requested invitations to visit Afghanistan, and to facilitate their access to all sectors of society and to all parts of the country; and decided to keep the situation of human rights in Afghanistan under consideration at its fifty-seventh session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council (resolution 56/176).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested the Special Rapporteur to report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session (Commission resolution 2002/19).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur (Commission resolution 2002/19).

#### **The situation of human rights in Myanmar**

At its forty-eighth session, in 1992, the Commission on Human Rights decided to nominate a Special Rapporteur to establish direct contacts with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and lawyers, with a view to examining the situation of human rights in Myanmar and following any progress made towards the transfer of power to a civilian government and the drafting of a new constitution, the lifting of restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights in Myanmar, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1992/58). The mandate of the Special Rapporteur has been renewed annually since then. Following the resignation of Special Rapporteur Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius) in November 2000, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro (Brazil) was appointed Special Rapporteur in December 2000.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for his interim report and oral presentation; called upon the Government of Myanmar to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, to allow him further field missions, without preconditions, and to implement fully his recommendations; requested the Secretary-General to continue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government of Myanmar, to submit additional reports to the Assembly during its fifty-sixth session on the progress of those discussions and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 56/231).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session; and requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of all relevant parts of the United Nations system (Commission resolution 2002/67).

*Documents:*

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 56/231);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur (Commission resolution 2002/67).

**Situation of human rights in Burundi**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Burundi (decision 56/429).

At its fifty-first session, in 1995, the Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi pursuant to resolution 1995/90.

At its fifty-seventh session, in 2001, the Commission on Human Rights decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested her to submit an interim report on the human rights situation in Burundi to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session and to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session. The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the interim report on the human rights situation in Burundi, prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 2001/21 and Economic and Social Council decision 2001/256. In 2002, the Special Rapporteur presented her report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session.

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested her to submit an interim report on the human rights situation in Burundi to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session, giving her work a gender-specific dimension (Commission resolution 2002/12).

*Document:* Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (Commission resolution 2002/12).

**Situation of human rights in East Timor**

At its substantive session of 2001, the Economic and Social Council approved the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session (decision 2001/289).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in East Timor (decision 56/429).

At the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Commission issued a statement on 19 April 2002 on the situation of human rights in East Timor, in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was requested to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at



its fifty-seventh session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session.

*Document:* Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Sierra Leone**

At its fifty-fifth session, in 1999, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to apprise the Commission at its fifty-sixth session of the reports of the Secretary-General about violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sierra Leone, including, to the extent possible, references contained in reports submitted to the Commission on Human Rights (Commission resolution 1999/1).

At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, respectively, on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone, including with reference to reports from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (Commission resolutions 2000/24 and 2001/20).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone (decision 56/429).

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone, including with reference to reports from the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (Commission resolution 2002/20).

*Document:* Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 119 (c))**

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/56/505)

Note by the Secretary-General on the mission report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a Working Group member (A/56/220)

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting:

Report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Iran (A/56/278)

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone (A/56/281)

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/56/312)

Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/56/327)

Interim report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/56/336)

Interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in East Timor (A/56/337)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/56/340)

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/56/409 and Add.1)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/56/479)

Summary records	A/C.3/56/SR.31, 33-42 and 49-55 and A/C.5/56/SR.33 and 40
Report of the Third Committee	A/56/583/Add.3
Report of the Fifth Committee	A/56/748 (items 123 and 119 (c))
Plenary meetings	A/56/PV.88 and 92
Resolutions	56/171, 56/173 to 56/176 and 56/231
Decision	56/429

**(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly decided to take note of the report of the Third Committee on this sub-item (decision 56/430).

No advance documentation is expected.

**References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 119 (d))**

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Supplement No. 36 and corrigendum and addendum (A/56/36 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

Summary records	A/C.3/56/SR.31 and 33-42
Report of the Third Committee	A/56/583/Add.4
Plenary meeting	A/56/PV.88
Decision	56/430

**(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

At its forty-eighth session, in 1993, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and requested the High Commissioner to report annually to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly (resolution 48/141).

At its fiftieth session, in 1995, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first and subsequent sessions a sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" under the item entitled "Human rights questions" (decision 50/464).

At its resumed fifty-first session, in June 1997, the General Assembly approved the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mary Robinson (Ireland) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a four-year term (decision 51/322); at its

fifty-fifth session, the Assembly extended her term of office for a period of one year, ending on 11 September 2002 (decision 55/322).

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Third Committee (decision 56/431).

*Document:* Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Supplement No. 36 (A/57/36).

**References for the fifty-sixth session (agenda item 119 (e))**

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Supplement No. 36 and corrigendum and addendum (A/56/36 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

Summary records	A/C.3/56/SR.31 and 33-42
Report of the Third Committee	A/56/583/Add.5
Plenary meeting	A/56/PV.88
Decision	56/431

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