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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Informal one-day meeting
Tuesday, 30 September 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS THERETO

Provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General

1. Opening of the informal meeting.
2. Implementation of Commission decision 2000/109.
3. Round-up of the meeting.

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the informal meeting

1. The meeting will be opened by the Chairperson of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission. A statement will also be made by the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Item 2. Implementation of Commission decision 2000/109

Legislative authority

2. At its fifty-sixth session, in decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000, entitled “Enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights”, the Commission requested the Chairperson to convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly.

3. In the same decision, the Commission decided to approve and implement comprehensively and in its entirety the report of its intersessional open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission (E/CN.4/2000/112). The attention of the Commission is drawn to paragraphs 33 and 34 of the above-mentioned report, which read as follows:

“The cycle of meetings (the Commission session in spring; the United Nations General Assembly in autumn) is such that the Third Committee of the General Assembly is well placed to consider developments in the interim since the Commission session. Given the significant overlap both in agenda and in attendance between the Commission and the Third Committee, the Working Group considers that there is scope for a more dynamic sense of connection between the two. In particular, the Group recognizes the rationale for some form of enhanced preparation in Geneva so as to ensure that all delegations have relevant information available to them in their preparations for the Third Committee.

“The Working Group therefore recommends that the Chairperson of the Commission should convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year specifically to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly. The meeting, which would not have a formal outcome, would have an agenda comprising those issues which had been dealt with at the previous Commission session and which were also on the provisional agenda for the Third Committee. Each item would be focused on briefly, with information from the Secretariat on any developments since the Commission session, and an opportunity for comment by government representatives, including any indication of intentions for tabling resolutions in the Third Committee.”

Background information concerning the work of the Third Committee

4. According to preliminary information* provided by the secretariat of the Third Committee, the Committee will begin its work on [29 September 2003], at which time it will approve its draft programme of work. The Third Committee will begin consideration of human rights items on [17 October 2003] with the item on the promotion and protection of the rights of children. General discussion on human rights items will conclude on [17 November 2003]. It is proposed that the Acting High Commissioner will present his report on [10 November 2003].
5. The human rights items to be allocated to the Third Committee by the General Assembly this year are as follows:

Item [115]. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Item [116]. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's
Indigenous People

* As the dates of the relevant meetings of the Third Committee and the numbers of agenda items are still subject to change, they are put in square brackets.

- Item [117]. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:
- (a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination;
 - (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item [118]. Right of peoples to self-determination
- Item [119]. Human rights questions:
- (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
 - (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
 - (d) Comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
 - (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Proposed organization of work

6. A draft timetable for the informal one-day meeting prepared by the secretariat will be placed on the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) once it has been considered by the Expanded Bureau of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

Documentation

7. The following documentation has been prepared by OHCHR and by special rapporteurs and representatives, pursuant to pertinent General Assembly resolutions and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, for consideration by the Third Committee: *

Item [115]. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/58/282)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 44/25; 57/190.

Item [116]. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/58/289)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 48/163; 57/192.

Item [117]. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/195 (A/58/...)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/195;

- (b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/58/18)*)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 2106A (XX);

* The documents may be consulted on the OHCHR web site either in their final form or as unedited advance versions.

- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/58/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/195; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/30; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/246;
 - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/195 (A/58/80-E/2003/71) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/195; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/30; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/246.
- (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/58/324) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/266; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/30.

Item [118]. Right of peoples to self-determination

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur 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 (A/58/115) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/196;

- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/58/180)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/197.

Item [119]. Human rights questions:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

- (a) Report of the Human Rights Committee (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/58/40)*)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the 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/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/144;
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 46/122;
- (d) Report of the Committee against Torture (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/58/44)*)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 39/46, 57/200;
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 36/151, 57/200;
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 36/151, 57/200;

- (g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/58/120)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/200; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/32; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/248;
 - (h) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/58/221)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/201;
 - (i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fifteenth annual meeting (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 49/178, 57/202.
- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on 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 (A/58/185)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/203;
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/204;
 - (c) Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/58/257)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/205;

- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights education and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/58/318)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 57/206, 57/212;
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/208;
Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/54; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/252;
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/209;
Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/64; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/255;
- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/58/121)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/218;
- (h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/58/275)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/218; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/46;
- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/219;
Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/68; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/256;

- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/58/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/160; Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/37;
- (k) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and coercive measures (A/58/279) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/222;
- (l) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/58/276) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/223;
- (m) Report of the Secretary-General on the 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/58/268) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/225;
- (n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia (A/58/317) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/225;
- (o) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/58/330) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 57/226; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/25; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/244;
- (p) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/58/261) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/158;
- (q) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic,

Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/58/...)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/162;

- (r) Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (A/58/...)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/164;

Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/51;

- (s) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/58/186)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 56/166;

- (t) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of efforts to ensure the full recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities (A/58/181 and Add.1)

Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/61;

Economic and Social Council decision 2002/265.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/58/219)

Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/12;

Economic and Social Council decision 2003/239;

- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/58/...)

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/232;

Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/84; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/262;

- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/233;
Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/15; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/240;
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the mission of the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and of a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (A/58/127)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/233;
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/234;
Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/77; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/257;
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (A/58/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/77;
Economic and Social Council decision 2003/257;
- (g) Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel (A/58/218)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/8;
Economic and Social Council decision 2003/238;

- (h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/58/...) Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/16; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/241;
 - (i) 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 (A/58/...) Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/80; Economic and Social Council decision 2003/259;
 - (j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/58/...) Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/28.
- (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/58/36)*) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 48/141; 48/121.

Item 3. Round-up of the meeting

8. Final remarks will be made by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights.
