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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Réunion informelle d'une journée

Mardi 28 septembre 2004

Note du secrétariat

1. À l'issue de la soixantième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme, le Bureau élargi de la Commission a tenu plusieurs réunions d'après session et entrepris une série d'activités visant à améliorer les méthodes de travail de la Commission et sa coordination avec différentes parties, l'objectif étant de renforcer la participation et la contribution globales de ces dernières aux travaux de la Commission.
2. Donnant suite aux directives établies par le Conseil économique et social pour ses commissions techniques et se fondant sur la pratique établie, le Bureau élargi a tenu une réunion conjointe par vidéoconférence avec le Bureau du Conseil le 4 juin 2004. Le Bureau élargi a également participé à la onzième réunion des rapporteurs/représentants spéciaux, experts indépendants et présidents de groupe de travail des procédures spéciales de la Commission des droits de l'homme, le 21 juin 2004, ainsi qu'à la seizième réunion des présidents des organes créés en vertu d'instruments internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme, le 24 juin 2004. Il a également rencontré des représentants d'organisations non gouvernementales, le 28 juin 2004, pour les informer des activités d'après session du Bureau élargi et connaître leur point de vue à ce sujet.
3. Le Président de la Commission a assisté à une réunion des présidents des commissions techniques du Conseil économique et social convoquée à New York, le 19 juillet 2004, par le Président du Conseil. Cette réunion avait pour but d'examiner les mesures qui pourraient être prises pour renforcer la collaboration entre les commissions techniques et le Conseil. Le Président de la Commission s'est également adressé à des membres du Conseil dans le cadre d'une table ronde sur le renforcement de la coopération entre les commissions techniques.

4. Le Président de la Commission s'est également adressé à la Sous-Commission de la promotion et de la protection des droits de l'homme au cours de la 1^{re} séance de sa cinquante-sixième session, tenue le 26 juillet 2004. Le Bureau élargi s'est ensuite entretenu en séance privée avec les membres de la Sous-Commission, le 27 juillet 2004. À sa quatrième réunion d'après session, tenue le 27 juillet 2004, le Bureau élargi s'est également entretenu avec le Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme.

5. Un compte rendu des principaux aspects de toutes les activités entreprises par le Bureau de mai à septembre 2004, notamment de ses réunions d'après session, a été établi selon que de besoin à l'intention des membres du Bureau. Comme suite à une demande formulée par le Président, en consultation avec le Bureau élargi, l'attention de la Commission est appelée sur le compte rendu susmentionné des activités du Bureau qui est joint en annexe* à la présente note pour information et en tant que contribution aux travaux de la réunion informelle d'une journée de la Commission des droits de l'homme en 2004.

* Reproduit en anglais seulement tel qu'il a été reçu.

ANNEX

**Summaries of post-sessional meetings and other activities of the expanded Bureau
during the period from May to September 2004**

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Expanded Bureau of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights

Summary of the first post-session meeting

Tuesday, 11 May 2004, 10.00 a.m.

Palais Wilson, Ground Floor Conference Room

Present:

Chairperson, Rapporteur, Vice-Chair (Bahrain), Vice-Chair (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair (Croatia), African, Asian, Eastern European, GRULAC and Western Group Coordinators.

Secretariat

1. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to all members of the Expanded Bureau in relation to the work done during the 60th session of the Commission and the support the Bureau had given him in conducting the Chairpersonship.

A. Appointments

2. The Chairperson pointed out that the main task for the Bureau would be the appointments of Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts.

3. The Secretary informed the Expanded Bureau about the 16 appointments of special procedures mandate holders to which the Bureau had to give consideration, among which 10 are new, namely:

- a. a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
- b. a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus,
- c. an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan,
- d. an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Democratic Republic of the Congo
- e. an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi,
- f. an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Chad,
- g. an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan (1503 procedure),
- h. a Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (for a period of three years),
- i. an Independent Expert on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,
- j. an Independent Expert on impunity.

4. Based on the extension of their mandate, the Expanded Bureau would have to appoint:

- a. a Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief,

- b. a Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries,
- c. a Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,
- d. a Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes,
- e. a Special rapporteur on the right to education,
- f. an Independent Expert on extreme poverty.

5. The Chairperson informed the Expanded Bureau that the deadline for the submission of names of candidates for these positions would be Friday, 4 June (extension of deadline possible) and that by the end of June, the Chairperson, in close consultation with the regional groups, intended to appoint the mandate holders.

6. In relation to the Working Group on situations, the regional groups would need to nominate five members within their groups to participate as members of the Commission of 2005.

7. Upon the proposal of the Coordinator of the Asian Group, the Chairperson requested the Secretariat to prepare a Chart on the terms of the mandates, the names of the candidates, the actors submitting and endorsing the nominations (NGOs, Members States, Regional Groups, etc.)

8. The Secretary informed the members that the “mini-report” had already been sent to the ECOSOC Secretariat and noted that a number of translations and financial statements were missing.

B. Calendar of Working Groups (including informal consultations)

9. The Secretary summarized the provisional calendar of the meetings of Working Groups that was distributed and highlighted the following issues:

- a. The overlap between the first week of the session of the WG on a draft legally binding instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances, and the session of the WG on a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.
- b. The overlap between the session of the WG on Situations and the WG on the Right to Development.

10. The Chairperson requested the Expanded Bureau to discuss within their groups the following issues :

- a. Were they comfortable with the overlaps?
- b. Were they comfortable having meetings in early October - late November for the WG of Experts on People of African Descent, as well as for the WG on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action ?

11. The Chairperson requested that meetings of Working Groups not take place during the meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly in October.

12. The Rapporteur requested that the WG of Experts on People of African Descent meet after the WG on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

13. Accordingly, the Chairperson announced that the WG of Experts on People of African Descent would meet during the first week of October, while the WG on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action would meet during the second week.

14. The Chairperson requested the regional groups to prepare proposals for the next meeting of the Bureau.

C. Calendar of meetings

15. The meeting of the Expanded Bureau with NGOs will take place in July.

16. The meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the CSW Bureau had not been scheduled yet.

17. The meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the ECOSOC Bureau will be held in early June.

18. The meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the Sub-Commission will take place during the first week of the 56th session of the Sub-Commission, i.e. 27 July 2004.

19. The meeting with the Chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies will take place during the meetings of those bodies, i.e. 23 to 25 June 2004.

20. The meeting with representatives of the special procedures will take place on 21 June.

21. The Chairperson will participate in ECOSOC's substantive session on 19 July.

22. The Secretariat was requested to inquire about possible issues to be raised during the Expanded Bureau's meeting with the CSW and to prepare the list of items to be discussed.

D. AOB

23. The Secretary:

- a. informed the Expanded Bureau of the new members of the Commission on Human Rights, effective January 2005;
- b. informed the Expanded Bureau that the Informal one-day meeting of the CHR was scheduled for 28 September 2004;
- c. informed the Expanded Bureau that it would prepare an informal paper on how to deal with NGO accreditation. Concerning this matter, the Coordinator of the

Asian group requested further information on the legal opinion submitted to OLA. Accordingly, the Secretary informed the members of the Bureau that all the materials would be collected and presented to them.

24. In relation to NGO accreditation matters, it was decided that the Secretariat would prepare an informal paper setting out the criteria of accreditation based on the suggestions made by ECOSOC.

25. In relation to the situation of human rights in Sudan, the Chairperson reminded the members of the Bureau that a special sitting could only be held based on the initiative of individual member states. It was asked whether it was possible to request the AHC to address the Bureau and to introduce the report on Sudan (which incorporates the previous one that had not been circulated for staff security reasons). Accordingly, the Coordinator of GRULAC outlined that members of the Bureau were not allowed to take action or to express their opinion about the report. The Vice-Chair (Bahrain) as well as the Coordinator of the Asian Group expressed their agreement based on the fact that the Expanded Bureau did not have authority to discuss substantive matters.

26. The next meeting of the Expanded Bureau was provisionally scheduled for 27 May 2004.

Expanded Bureau of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights
Summary of the second post-session meeting

Wednesday, 25 May 2004, 3.00 p.m.
Palais des Nations, Room VIII.

Present:

Chairperson, Rapporteur, Vice-Chair (Bahrain), Vice-Chair (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair (Croatia), African, Asian, Eastern European, GRULAC and Western Group Coordinators.

Secretariat

A. Appointments

1. The Secretary circulated to members of the Expanded Bureau two papers: the roster of all candidatures received as of 26 May 2004 for positions of special rapporteurs (a compilation of hundreds of names); and a list of candidates for targeted positions received since the beginning of the session of the CHR. The Secretary indicated that more names would be added to both papers in the weeks to come.
2. The Secretary also informed the Expanded Bureau that with regard to the consideration by ECOSOC of the “mini-report”, all the PBIs concerning new mandates had been agreed upon and that the “mini-report” was in the process of being translated.
3. The Chairperson reminded the Expanded Bureau that the deadline for the submission of names of candidates for the positions of special rapporteur, independent expert, members of Working Groups, would be Friday, 4 June (extension of deadline possible) and that by the end of June, the Chairperson, in close consultation with the regional groups, would appoint the mandate holders.
4. Additionally, for names to be added to the roster, it was underlined that endorsement from a Government or from NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status was required.
5. The Coordinator of the Asian Group asked the Secretariat to improve and refine the roster.
6. The Chairperson asked the members of the Expanded Bureau to keep in mind the following criteria and concerns: high value, competence and experience of the candidate; as well as gender balance and equal geographic representation of candidates.
7. The Coordinator of the Eastern European Group requested that the dates for the submission of names for the High Level Task Force on the Right to Development be postponed to 21 June.

B. Calendar of Working Groups (including informal consultations)

8. The Secretariat circulated for discussion the draft calendar of meetings of Working Groups as proposed by UNOG Conference Services and highlighted the following:

- a. The Working Group on a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (first session) scheduled to meet from 13 to 24 September 2004.
- b. The Working Group on a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance (first session) scheduled to meet from 4 to 8 October 2004.
- c. The Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action scheduled to meet from 11 to 22 October 2004.
- d. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent scheduled to meet from 25 October to 5 November 2004.
- e. The Working Group on a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (second [additional] session) scheduled to meet from 29 November to 3 December 2004.
- f. The Working Group on the Right to Development (High Level Task Force session) scheduled to meet from 6 to 10 December 2004.
- g. The Working Group on a Draft Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights scheduled to meet from 10 to 21 January 2005.
- h. The Working Group on a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance (second session) could meet either 24 January to 4 February 2005 or 31 January to 11 February 2005.
- i. The Working Group on Situations scheduled to meet from 7 to 11 February 2005.
- j. The Working Group on the Right to Development (Working Group session) scheduled to meet from 14 to 18 February 2005.

9. The Expanded Bureau reviewed the dates suggested by UNOG Conference Services and in particular, the possible dates for the meeting of the Working Group on a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance (second session).

C. Calendar of meetings

10. The members of the Expanded Bureau discussed possible dates for the meeting with the ECOSOC Bureau via video-conference. While the date of 4 June was endorsed as one of the possible dates, there was more difficulty in endorsing the other dates in view of a meeting of Labor Ministers in Geneva (ILO) on 10 and 11 June. The following week also presented difficulties in view of an UNCTAD meeting in Brazil, in which several delegations from Geneva would participate. Accordingly (and although 11 June was not ruled out) members of the Expanded Bureau indicated a preference for either 4 June or for other dates later in June, July or during the summer.

11. The meeting with mandate holders of the special procedures would take place on 21 June.

12. The Secretariat was requested to inquire about possible issues to be raised during the meeting with the CSW and to prepare the list of items to be discussed.

D. AOB

13. The next meeting of the Expanded Bureau was provisionally scheduled for 21 June 2004.

Summary of the joint meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the ECOSOC Bureau

Friday, 4 June 2004, 4.00 p.m.
Palais des Nations, Room III.

Present:

Expanded Bureau of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights:

Chairperson, Rapporteur, Vice-Chair (Bahrain), Vice-Chair (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair (Croatia), African, Asian, Eastern European, GRULAC and Western Group Coordinators.

Bureau of ECOSOC:

President, Vice-President (Azerbaijan), Vice-President (Bhutan), Vice-President (Jamaica), Vice-President (Mauritius).

Secretariat

Summary of the discussion:

In opening the meeting, Ambassador Rasi, President of ECOSOC, thanked the Expanded Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights for its positive response to the Council's invitation and stressed the importance of ensuring good communication with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. She expressed particular interest in hearing what contribution could be made by the Commission to the Council's multi-year programme of work.

Ambassador Smith, Chairperson of the Commission, provided a brief overview of the sixtieth session, outlining the positive points, as well as the difficulties encountered during the pre-session and sessional work of the Commission. Members of the Expanded Bureau presented additional information on the session, including statistics, the resolutions and decisions adopted, and the high-level segment. Time management at the Commission and issues related to its working methods were also discussed.

The possible contributions of the Commission to the work of the Council were addressed by Ambassador Al-Faihani (Vice-Chair, Bahrain). In respect of the theme of the Council's high-level segment in 2004, "Resource mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010", he drew attention to the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the right to development; human rights and extreme poverty; the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; as well as globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights. He emphasized that the Commission continued to cooperate with other functional commissions and enumerated the number of meetings attended by the Chairperson of the 60th session.

Ambassador Markotic (Vice-Chair, Croatia) commented on the high level of participation - over 5000 people, including representatives of Member States, NGOs, UN agencies, independent experts and national human rights institutions, were present at the sixtieth session. He also referred to the general debate - statements by members comprised

38% of the debate while statements by observers comprised 10% and statement by NGOs 34%. The remaining 18% of the general debate was dedicated to interactive dialogues and other discussions relating to the work of the special rapporteurs and independent experts of the Commission. The session was organized into 60 meetings (continuing the reduction in meetings over recent years) during which a record 120 resolutions, decisions and Chairperson's statements were adopted. An indicator of the continuing importance attached to the Commission by Member States was the record 82 dignitaries who addressed the session. The magnitude of the session was reflected by the 604 parallel events, which took place during the six weeks, such as meetings by NGOs, Governments and national human rights institutions. The session was characterized by efficiency and good time management.

Concerning the Commission's working methods, the Rapporteur stressed that a set of reform proposals (E/CN.4/2003/110/Rev.1) was not adopted due to a lack of consensus. This was the first time since 1998, when the process of reforms was initiated, that proposals by the Expanded Bureau have not been endorsed by the plenary. The principal objection was the allocation of speaking time between items, as well as between Governments and NGOs. Nevertheless, a number of important developments were put into motion, including more transparency in the consultation of draft proposals, the issuing of an expanded order of the day and an improved conduct of business.

The Rapporteur also stated that the draft report of the CHR was adopted "ad referendum" on the last day of the sixtieth session. Governments were given 10 working days to comment on its contents once the draft report had been made available to them in all languages. The "white cover" version of the report would be prepared for the Council's July session. The Rapporteur noted, however, that the "mini-report" was already being translated into all UN languages and urged that it be considered as soon as possible by ECOSOC.

Ambassador González-Sanz (Vice-Chair, Costa Rica) highlighted the most important features of the session. He reminded the Council that like last year, the election of the Bureau was held in January to facilitate preparations for the session. This year's high-level segment attracted a record number of dignitaries and also saw an informal initiative of the Swiss Foreign Minister to convene a meeting of women foreign ministers resulting in the adoption of a declaration on violence against women. Unlike ECOSOC, there was no theme for the high-level segment and accordingly, each dignitary chose the subject to which he/she wanted to refer. The Commission continued the practice (initiated last year) of conducting interactive dialogues with mandate holders of special procedures. For the second time, the Commission invited all the Chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies to address the session, and three of them did so (Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee). He emphasized the important role played by national human rights institutions and noted that 43 such institutions had addressed the Commission in two three-hour meetings.

The Vice-Chair stated that issues relating to Israel and Palestine continued to influence the Commission. In addition to the agenda item on the occupied territories, a three-hour special sitting was held on the consequences of the assassination of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and a resolution was adopted on the issue. The Commission commemorated the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, and heard the Secretary-General

announce his Plan of Action on the Prevention of Genocide. Country-specific allegations continued to cause friction within the Commission. Several country situations were moved from item 9 (violations) to item 19 (technical assistance, Burundi and DRC). Five entirely new geographic mandates were established. All new mandates (geographic and thematic) required the approval of ECOSOC. The Commission agreed to establish a High Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development as recommended by the Working Group on the issue. The debate and voting on a resolution on the right to development reflected a more constructive approach of regional groups within the Working Group. A new resolution, relating to Nazism, was adopted under the agenda item on racism. The issue of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation arose frequently during the session. A Brazilian draft resolution on sexual orientation, postponed in 2003, was again postponed. References to this issue in the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and in the resolution on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions were challenged. The Commission called for a World Programme for Human Rights Education, and for OHCHR to prepare a Plan of Action for the Programme (with UNESCO).

The regional coordinators also presented their perspectives on the past session. The Western Group Coordinator (Germany) emphasized the importance of the Commission as the main intergovernmental body dealing with human rights within the UN-system. He expressed the Group's appreciation for the active involvement of NGOs during the work of the Commission. The adoption of resolutions by consensus was seen as positive, though the establishment of an increased number of new mandates required further attention. The Coordinator also requested that the Council reflect on the reform process within the Commission, particularly to see if it was inspiring changes in the working methods of the Council.

The Asian Group Coordinator (Pakistan) expressed his general satisfaction with the outcome of the session. He welcomed the involvement of NGOs but also pointed out the need for more structured participation. He regretted the increasing politicization and polarization of the Commission, and the lack of balance between civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights. In this regard, he was looking forward to an integrated debate on economic, social and cultural rights within ECOSOC.

The African Group Coordinator (Congo) also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the session, especially with regard to the active involvement of his Group on various resolutions, inter alia, on Sierra Leone, DRC, Burundi and Somalia. One of the most pressing issues was the crisis in Sudan – for which the African Group worked hard to find an appropriate response. He also emphasized the importance of focusing on human rights education.

The Eastern European Group Coordinator (Armenia) expressed satisfaction with the session in terms of time management, cross-regional cooperation and the early tabling of resolutions. He mentioned however, that discussions within the Group were becoming more diverse as many of the countries were also members of other regional coalitions.

The Coordinator of GRULAC (Argentina) expressed concern about the proliferation of new mandates and the politicization of issues. He underlined the need to ensure solidarity between the different Groups and to focus on the victims of human rights violations. Issues

of specific interest to GRULAC included the rights of the child, restitution and reparation, as well as enforced disappearances. The importance and active involvement of NGOs during the work of the Commission was also underlined.

Members of the ECOSOC Bureau commented on the issues that had been raised. A Vice-President (Mauritius) indicated that the Commission's "mini-report", concerning the establishment of new mandates, had been the subject of informal consultations and that the Council would likely consider the report in the coming week.

The President of ECOSOC referred to the effectiveness of the presidency of the Commission but expressed disappointment over the failure to reach a consensus on the reform of its working methods. She was, however, particularly pleased with the interactive dialogue and the demonstration of strong cooperation with special rapporteurs, NGOs, national institutions and treaty bodies. She also appreciated the collaboration initiated by the Commission on Human Rights with other functional commissions of ECOSOC. With regard to the reform process within the Council, she made reference to the ECOSOC panel on working methods and indicated that she looked forward to its outcome. The ECOSOC panel would also interact with the high-level panel on the reform of the UN system established by the Secretary-General.

**Summary of the meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the mandate holders
of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights**

Monday, 21 June 2004, 3.00 p.m.
Palais Wilson, Ground Floor Conference Room

In his statement to the eleventh meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairperson of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights presented an overview of the main achievements of the session, including the establishment of several new thematic and country mandates. Time management and the enforcement of time limits with regard to speakers were among the issues raised by the Chairperson. Underlining the importance of maintaining the credibility and effectiveness of the special procedures, the Chairperson encouraged the use of constructive criticism by mandate holders and the limitation of observations to their respective mandates.

Mandate holders of special procedures and members of the Expanded Bureau acknowledged the importance of the interactive dialogue in enhancing communication between the special procedures and the Commission, but noted that there was still room for improvement. Suggestions were made on ways to enhance the efficiency and usefulness of the interactive dialogue, particularly on issues related to the scheduling of speakers and time allocation.

Participants also discussed the proliferation of mandates - some noting that such proliferation reflected the broadening of human rights mechanisms, others expressing concern at the potential marginalization and fragmentation of mandates. Issues raised in this regard included the resource implications on the Secretariat; the capacity of the Commission to give adequate attention to the work of a large number of mandate holders; and the need to streamline or standardize the working methods and reports of the special procedures. The process of appointing mandate holders, particularly with regard to geographic balance, transparency and timeliness in appointments, was also discussed.

Other issues raised during the discussion included:

- The independence of mandate holders and their methods of work;
- The need for increased dialogue and communication between the special procedures and regional groups/regional coordinators, including through the organization of broader briefings during the Commission;
- The relationship with Member States, including the need to move from an adversarial to a cooperative partnership between mandate holders and Governments, as well as the need for increased communication and dialogue with the regional coordinators;
- The need for increased visibility and publicity of the work of the mandate holders;
- Follow-up and implementation of the recommendations and conclusions of the special procedures, in particular the importance of establishing mechanisms to ensure and enhance follow-up;

- Increased politicization of the Commission on Human Rights and the consequent group-based approach to dialogue;
- The need for increased cooperation with civil society.

**Summary of the meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the
Chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies**

Thursday, 24 June 2004, 12.00 p.m.
Palais Wilson, First Floor Conference Room

The Chairperson of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights gave a brief overview of the session, including information on the high-level segment, the establishment of new mandates, the resolutions and decisions adopted, working methods and time management. Concerning this last point, he apologized for having interrupted or cut-off some speakers.

The Chairperson noted that the increasing universalisation of the treaties, as well the challenges that they faced, showed the key role played by the treaty bodies in the promotion of human rights. He emphasized the importance of strengthening inter-committee cooperation, harmonizing reporting guidelines and enhancing the working methods of the various committees. Despite those positive points, some problems still persisted with regard to the effectiveness of the treaty bodies, in particular, the number of reports of States parties awaiting consideration and inconsistencies in the treatment of NGO material.

The representative of the Sub-Commission, Mr Pinheiro, presented a brief overview of the work of the Sub-Commission and its key role as a “think tank” for the Commission. He highlighted the appointment of new special rapporteurs and the existing studies/working papers available. He also highlighted the decision of the Sub-Commission to put on its agenda a more in-depth discussion on counter-terrorism measures, and also to deal with new subjects on the issue of non-discrimination, such as women in prison, international solidarity and right to development, etc. Concerning means to enhance cooperation and interaction between treaty bodies and the Sub-Commission, Mr. Pinheiro pointed out the opportunity for representatives of treaty bodies to participate in discussions of their specific issue, to propose themes that should be raised by the Sub-Commission, and also to provide it with studies. He also stressed the importance of sharing information and holding meetings with the Commission, regional groups and special procedures.

Mr. Amor, Chairperson of the HRC, indicated that the Committee was attentive to the debates, resolutions and decisions of the Commission as they informed it of the evolution of human rights issues. He underlined the importance of the Commission’s work but also the necessity for it to be more aware of the work of treaty bodies. He highlighted, in particular, the work that had been done by the HRC on reports, general recommendations and individual communications. He also addressed the need for more time to introduce the Committee’s work during the sessions of the Commission. He stated that the growth in the number of special procedures and treaty bodies should encourage the Commission to revise its time management in order to enhance both its work and the debates. Mr. Amor also expressed concern about the moral and juridical discrediting of human rights and noted that human rights should not be limited by politics. Concerning the Sub-Commission, Mr. Amor emphasized the importance of cooperation and proposed that the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission or its representatives address the committees once a year.

Ms. Bonoan-Dantan, Chairperson of CESCR, expressed concern about the resources and time offered to the Committee to assist the Commission. She stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the treaty bodies and the Commission, as well as its special procedures. She also pointed out the importance of cooperation between treaty bodies and NGOs, and highlighted the difficulties for NGOs in mentioning the progress made by States parties. Finally, she stressed the importance of focusing on Asia where the implementation of treaty bodies needs to be reviewed. She suggested that a report be done on the possibility of creating a regional mechanism on human rights in Asia.

Mr. Doek, Chairperson of the CRC, invited the Commission to improve dialogue with the treaty bodies. He suggested the organization of joint meetings with treaty body Chairs during the session of the Commission and also in parallel events in order to give more time for interactive dialogues. He also underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Committee and the Sub-Commission.

Mr. Yutzis, Chairperson of CERD, agreed with the remarks made by his colleagues and noted that the Commission's time management did not permit the Chairs to share their work with States parties. Finally, he appealed to the Commission to strengthen the promotion of national institutions, which play a key role.

Mr. Mariño Menendez, Chairperson of CAT, expressed concern about the importance given by the Commission to the reports of the Committee. He also wondered if the complaints procedure contained in Commission resolution 2004/78 allowed States parties to denounce other States parties concerning the violation of human rights.

Ms. Acar, Chairperson of CEDAW, endorsed the remarks made concerning time management, which were for her an indicator of the importance given by the Commission to the treaty bodies.

Members of the Expanded Bureau commented on the issues raised. Ambassador González-Sanz (Vice-Chair, Costa Rica) expressed satisfaction at the organization of the meeting and stressed the importance of renewing such initiatives more often. He also expressed understanding of the remarks made on the issue of time management. Ambassador Al-Faihani (Vice-Chair, Bahrain) suggested finding a better way to manage the interactive dialogue, as proposed by Ms. Dantan, but also emphasized the restricted budget and time constraints faced by the Commission. Concerning the implementation of treaties, he emphasized that all actors had important roles: the treaty bodies themselves, States parties, OHCHR and also members of the Expanded Bureau. He added that a separation had to be made between those States which do not consciously respect treaties and those, which require technical assistance. The latter had to be supported. The Vice-Chair also suggested more transparency in the consideration of State party reports and the need to view States parties as partners for the promotion of human rights.

The Chairperson of the Commission emphasized that as the sessions of the Commission were limited by time constraints, the effective participation of the Chairs of treaty bodies should not be limited to their statements. He encouraged the Chairs to utilize the sessions to interact with a variety of actors, including NGOs and Members States, and to attend the

numerous parallel side events. He also invited the Chairs to continue to participate in the work of the Commission.

Mr. Pinheiro proposed utilizing other forms of communication, such as the internet or video-conferencing, which will be raised with OHCHR and the new High Commissioner. He also invited the regional groups and Member States to work with the special procedures during the Sub-Commission.

Expanded Bureau of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights
Summary of the third post-session meeting

Thursday, 8 July 2004, 10.00 a.m.
Palais des Nations, Room V

Present:

Chairperson, Rapporteur, Vice-Chair (Bahrain), Vice-Chair (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair (Croatia), African, Asian, Eastern European, GRULAC and Western Group Coordinators

Secretariat

A. Appointments

1. The Secretary circulated to members of the Expanded Bureau the roster of all candidatures received as of July 5 2004, for the positions of special rapporteurs, independent experts and members of Working Groups. An updated version of the roster with the new proposed candidates had been sent to members of the Bureau.
2. The Secretary introduced to the members the new colleagues from the Commission and Sub-Commission Unit.
3. The Chairperson stated that the objective of the meeting was to obtain general comments from the members of the Bureau on the nomination of the proposed candidates in order to proceed with the appointments.
4. The members of the Bureau agreed that all candidatures meeting the criteria of expertise, gender balance, integrity, impartiality and independence should be taken into consideration.
5. The coordinators of the regional groups insisted on an equitable geographical distribution when selecting the proposed candidates. Some groups, namely GRULAC, expressed their intention to only submit candidates from their group, whereas the Asian, African and Western Groups agreed to eventually support other candidates from other regions.
6. In order to promote and strengthen human rights, it was suggested that candidates for the position of special rapporteur of a specific country should be nationals of that country.
7. Additionally, special attention should be given to certain candidates with more than one nationality. It would be preferable if the nationality to be applied to such candidates and the regional group which they would represent was predefined. It was highlighted that all regional and sub-regional groups were adequately represented.
8. Regarding the procedure to follow for appointments, the Chairperson explained that he would, in close consultation with the regional groups, be in charge of appointing the mandate holders. The letters of appointment would first be sent to the State or NGO concerned. The final confirmations from States or NGOs would then be passed on to ECOSOC for formal adoption.

B. Calendar of meetings

9. The meeting of the Chairs of the functional commissions of ECOSOC will take place in the morning of 19 July 2004.
10. A joint panel of the Chairs of functional commissions will be held in the afternoon of 19 July 2004.
11. The 56th session of the Sub-Commission will take place from 26 July to 13 August.

C. A.O.B

12. The next meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the possible attendance of the HC will take place on 27 July at 10.00 a.m. (Room XXVII).
13. The Secretary apologized for any inconvenience encountered when using OHCHR's website. Improvements to the website were being made.

**ECOSOC Panel Discussion on Strengthened Cooperation
among the Functional Commissions**

New York – 19 July 2004

Statement by Mike Smith, Chairperson of the 60th session of CHR

Distinguished Colleagues,

This panel is addressing one of the enduring challenges of the UN system – improving coordination and cooperation between its different constituent bodies. The value of coordination is to ensure that what one commission is embarking on does not cut across or contradict what another, possibly more expert, body is already doing. At the same time there is limited value in coordinating simply to duplicate activities across the Commissions. That would be wasteful of the scarce resources at the disposal of the United Nations. We should therefore be aiming at identifying where our work can fit together with and complement the work of others to build a more comprehensive outcome in a particular area, across the system.

In order to be able sensibly to discuss the potential for strengthened cooperation between the functional commissions, it is necessary, in my view, to recognize their different natures, functions and roles. Let me say a bit about the Commission on Human Rights.

Nature of the Commission on Human Rights

The Commission served originally as an expert body tasked to identify common human rights standards. It drafted for example the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the two principal Covenants. It is today however a rather different creature. It is intensely political rather than expert and it debates and adopts resolutions on human rights issues across the spectrum – both thematic issues and country situations. It is a forum that attracts the involvement of not only the full membership of the UN, but the human rights community more broadly the world over, and it provides a platform from which groups can and do pronounce their views on any human rights issue of concern to them.

This year's 6 week session, for example, involved some 5,000 delegates and heard nearly 2000 statements delivered. It adopted 120 resolutions, decisions and Chair's statements, and heard 88 Ministerial level speakers in the high level segment. It also conducted a ceremony of reflection on the Rwanda Genocide addressed by the Secretary-General.

In some ways even more significant than the actual speeches delivered and decisions taken however, was the fact that more than 600 side events - seminars, debates, presentations and the like, - were conducted, where specific human rights issues or situations were discussed and ideas were exchanged.

In effect CHR has evolved into a kind of annual global human rights convention or festival which in one way or another addresses the full range of human rights issues.

This has implications for the way the Commission works. Because it is so political, the agenda, while comprehensive, is relatively static. It cannot be simply changed or updated each year on the recommendation of ECOSOC or the Bureau. It has been very carefully negotiated and contains many careful compromises.

Because of the length, complexity and intensely political nature of the agenda, as well as the number of participants eager to speak under each item, the Commission has had to develop very strict procedures and methods of work supplementing the normal rules of procedure of the functional commissions, to enable it to complete its work in the 6 weeks. Examples include:

- Election of the Bureau 2 months before the session to give it a better chance to prepare for the session
- Use of an Expanded Bureau, i.e. including the 5 regional coordinators, to improve transparency and act as a conduit with the membership
- Regular meetings of the Bureau with NGOs to explain decisions and hear questions and complaints
- Introduction of the High Level Segment to set the scene for the session
- Adoption by the Bureau and then the Commission, of a Timetable of Work that both helps to keep the meeting on track and gives those people coming into Geneva for a particular part of the meeting, advance notice of when they need to be there
- Adoption and enforcement of strict speaking times – this year just 6 minutes per item for members and 3 minutes for observers, including NGOs
- Use of interactive dialogues with the special procedures

A second evolution that distinguishes CHR from some other commissions is extent to which civil society is involved in its work. I doubt there is any body in the UN system that allows such latitude to NGOs to speak and participate in its work.

A third interesting evolution is the way the regional groups have become in some respects the principal coordinating mechanisms for the views of states on working methods issues – possibly a flow-on from the activation of the Expanded Bureau. A sign of the extent to which this is happening is that in recent Bureau meetings with the Special Rapporteurs, with the treaty body chairs and with NGOs, all 3 groups have expressed the wish to be able to deal directly with the regional groups.

Implications for cooperation with other commissions

The principal implication of these evolutions in the nature and working of CHR for coordination with other bodies in the system, is, I am afraid, that it is not a simple matter for the Commission to be directed to address a particular issue in a particular way or to align its approach to that of another body. The UN Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights can make suggestions in this respect but in the end the responsibility for taking forward initiatives coming out of the major UN summits and conferences, or to re-

direct activity in the Commission, lies with individual states, probably working through their regional groups.

That is not to say contact between the functional commissions at Chair and Bureau level is a waste of time – far from it. Cooperation between CHR and CSW via the participation of their respective Chairs in their work has increased in recent years and is valuable. Likewise contact with ECOSOC at the Bureau level as well as exercises like this are useful. The information and insights from these meetings are fed back to the membership through the regional groups. I would add that greater contact between relevant secretariats would also be helpful.

But I am afraid approaches to particular issues in CHR will only be able to be coordinated with other UN bodies if governments work to this end, probably by ensuring that experts familiar with the work of the other bodies, are present in their delegations at the Commission.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing your comments.

56th session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Geneva - 26 July 2004

Statement by Mike Smith, Chairperson of the 60th session of CHR

M. Chairperson, distinguished colleagues,

It is a pleasure to be here with you this morning and to address you as Chairperson of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights.

I have been mandated by the Commission¹ to inform you of the debates that took place and the resolutions that were adopted at our 60th session, particularly those that impact on the work of the Sub-Commission. I am in any case, however, pleased to have the opportunity to speak with members of the Sub-Commission as, in my view, meetings such as this and the meeting of the Expanded Bureau with the Sub-Commission tomorrow, usefully enhance cooperation and improve communication between the Sub-Commission and the Commission on Human Rights.

This year, in considering the work of the Sub-Commission, the Commission expressed its appreciation and respect for the valuable contribution and assistance you provide to its members. It reiterated its approval of the improvements in working methods adopted by the Sub-Commission, particularly during its last three sessions. The Commission also welcomed the actions taken by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-fifth session to respond to recommendations for the initiation of working papers and new studies. The attention given to economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the continued attention to civil and political rights, was noted with appreciation.²

Commission action on Sub-Commission proposals

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like now to address some of the specific proposals made by the Sub-Commission to the 60th session of the Commission.

The Commission decided:

(a) to endorse the recommendation that a voluntary fund on minority-related activities be established to facilitate the participation in the Working Group on Minorities and its related activities of minority representatives and experts from developing countries and for the organization of other activities relating to the implementation of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. (Decision 2004/114 adopted without a vote)

¹ Resolution E/CN.4/2004/60, the work of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, para. 15.

² Resolution E/CN.4/2004/60, the work of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, paras. 2 and 6.

(b) to approve the decision of the Sub-Commission to appoint Mr. Emmanuel Decaux as Special Rapporteur to conduct a detailed study of the universal implementation of international human rights treaties based on his working paper (Decision 2004/123, adopted without a vote)

(c) to endorse the decision of the Sub-Commission to appoint Ms. Christy Mbonu as Special Rapporteur with the task of preparing a comprehensive study on corruption and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, (Decision 2004/106, adopted without a vote)

(d) to approve the decision of the Sub-Commission to appoint Ms. Iulia-Antoanella Motoc as Special Rapporteur to undertake a study on human rights and the human genome, based on her working paper (Decision 2004/120, adopted by a recorded vote of 50 votes to 2, with 1 abstention)

(e) to approve the Sub-Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child for a further three years (Decision 2004/111, adopted without a vote).

(f) to approve the request of the Sub-Commission to the Secretary-General to transmit a questionnaire, elaborated by the Special Rapporteur on the prevention of human rights violations caused by the availability and misuse of small arms and light weapons, to Governments, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to solicit information required in connection with the study, in particular on the national laws and training programmes (Decision 2004/124, adopted by a recorded vote of 49 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions)

(g) to approve the Sub-Commission's request that the reports of the two Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/13, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/10 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/14) be published in the official languages of the United Nations. (Decision 2004/107, adopted by a recorded vote of 51 votes to none, with 2 abstentions).

(h) to approve the Sub-Commission's request to the Secretary-General to give the Special Rapporteur on terrorism and human rights all the assistance necessary for the preparation of her final report. (Decision 2004/109, adopted by a recorded vote of 38 votes to 15)

(i) With regard to the recommendation that an international year for the world's minorities be proclaimed, to be followed by a decade, the Commission decided instead to call for greater cooperation among the specialized and other organizations of the UN system in order to contribute to the full realization of the rights and principles set forth in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. (Decision 2004/115, adopted without a vote)

(j) With regard to the recommendation that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on non-citizens be extended and modified, the Commission, recalling its resolution 2003/59, in which it decided that the Sub-Commission could best assist it by providing independent expert studies and working papers "solely carried out by its members or alternates", decided not to authorize Mr. David Weissbrodt, as Special Rapporteur, to undertake the task of furthering the study of the rights of non-citizens (Decision 2004/112, adopted by a recorded vote of 33 votes to 10, with 10 abstentions)

(k) With regard to the “Norms on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights” (doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2), the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Sub-Commission for the work it had undertaken in preparing the draft norms and requested that OHCHR compile a report setting out the scope and legal status of existing initiatives and standards. It affirmed, however, that the document had not been requested by the Commission and, as a draft proposal, had no legal standing. Thus, the Sub-Commission should not perform any monitoring function in this regard (Decision 2004/116, adopted without a vote)

(l) The Commission looked forward to the consideration at its sixty-first session of the concept document to be prepared by the Sub-Commission establishing options and their feasibility for the implementation of the right to development, inter alia, an international legal standard of a binding nature (Resolution 2004/7).

(m) With regard to the recommendation that the Secretary-General should prepare a report on the legal implications of the disappearance of States for environmental reasons, including the implications for the human rights of their residents, with particular reference to the rights of indigenous people, the Commission called upon the Sub-Commission to prepare such a report (Decision 2004/122, adopted without a vote)

(n) The Commission requested the Sub-Commission to further intensify its work in the area of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (Resolution 2004/24)

(o) The Commission also requested the Sub-Commission to pay due attention and to make contributions towards the implementation of its resolution on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (resolution 2004/64).

Working methods

M. Chairperson, distinguished colleagues,

A number of other issues relating to the working methods of the Sub-Commission came to the Commission’s attention this year. The views of the Commission are reflected in its resolution 2004/60 on the work of the Sub-Commission. I would like to briefly draw your attention to some elements in this resolution:

First, as I mentioned earlier, the Commission welcomed the improved working methods of the Sub-Commission at its last three sessions, including the streamlined agenda; and the drafting of resolutions in closed session.³

The Commission also recommended that the Sub-Commission continue at its future sessions the successful innovations of the fifty-third session, inter alia, having annual closed meetings with the Expanded Bureau, so as to exchange views aimed at improving cooperation between

³ Resolution E/CN.4/2004/60, the work of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, para.7.

the two organs; holding its discussions of its working rules, procedures and timetable in closed meeting; and using the “question and answer” format and some expert panels.”⁴

It was also suggested that the Sub-Commission further improve its methods of work, inter alia, by:

- focusing on its primary role as an advisory body to the Commission, specifically when its advice is requested by the Commission;
- giving particular attention to the selection of studies specifically recommended by the Commission or proposals confirmed by the Commission which have been suggested by treaty bodies or other United Nations human rights bodies;
- respecting strictly the highest standards of impartiality and expertise and avoiding acts which would affect confidence in the independence of its members, in particular in situations where they could have a conflict of interest;
- facilitating efficient and effective participation of non-governmental organizations;
- making proposals to the Commission on how it might assist the Sub-Commission in improving its work, and vice versa;
- focusing strictly on questions relating to human rights in accordance with its mandate;
- avoiding duplication of its work with that being carried out by other competent bodies and mechanisms;
- and taking fully into account legal opinions addressed to the Sub-Commission by the Legal Counsel of the United Nations.”⁵

In essence, these recommendations highlight the need for the Sub-Commission to establish a reasonable balance between its role as a subsidiary body of the Commission and its function as an expert think-tank not only for the Commission but also for the United Nations human rights system in general.

I want to underline that these recommendations are not aimed at circumscribing the activities of the Sub-Commission but at strengthening its capacity to carry out its core functions of assisting and advising the Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that is a brief rundown of this year’s session of the Commission as it relates to the Sub-Commission. Our meeting tomorrow morning will hopefully allow us to elaborate on the details of the session and to engage in more of an interactive discussion. I look forward to your comments on the elements I highlighted as well as your suggestions for possible ways and means of improving the Commission’s action on proposals of the Sub-Commission

⁴ Resolution E/CN.4/2004/60, the work of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, para. 10.

⁵ Resolution E/CN.4/2004/60, the work of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, para. 11.

Conclusion

M. Chairperson, distinguished colleagues,

The Sub-Commission is a valuable part of the United Nations human rights system. Your body contributes to the development of a better understanding of human rights, to the elaboration of international human rights standards and to the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world.

It provides the Commission with the crucial intellectual support on human rights issues which it sometimes has neither the required time, nor, perhaps, the expertise, to undertake itself. I would therefore like to conclude by reiterating the commitment of the Commission, and my commitment as Chairperson of the sixtieth session, to support your work here in the Sub-Commission.

Expanded Bureau of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights
Summary of the fourth post-session meeting

Tuesday, 27 July 2004, 10.00 a.m.
Palais des Nations, Room XXVII

Present:

Chairperson, Rapporteur, Vice-Chair (Bahrain), Vice-Chair (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair (Croatia), African, Asian, Eastern European, GRULAC and Western Group Coordinators
Secretariat

A. Meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. The High Commissioner indicated that though she was aware of the criticisms voiced against the Commission on Human Rights in the past, she was also aware of the vital work of the Commission and of its many achievements.

2. She expressed her intention to be present and engaged in all issues preoccupying the Commission, although her priority at this stage was to listen, reflect and learn from the Bureau members. She also expressed her intention to work closely with the Expanded Bureau to ensure that the Commission remained the central forum for voicing human rights issues in the world.

3. The importance of ensuring good communication and regular exchange of information was affirmed by the participants. Comments by members of the Expanded Bureau addressed a number of issues, including the increasing politicization of the Commission due to either the exaggeration of human rights issues in some cases or the suppression of flagrant human rights violations in others (Vice-Chair, Bahrain); the need to produce an electronic version of the report of the Commission (Rapporteur); the need to streamline and develop agreed guidelines for the effective functioning of the special procedures, particularly with regards to complaints mechanisms, so as to reduce the burden on developing countries (Asian Group Coordinator); the need for treaty body reform, particularly with regard to the reporting process (Vice-Chair, Croatia); as well as the importance of OHCHR's presence in the field, with Darfur and Iraq cited as examples in this regard (Western Group Coordinator).

4. The High Commissioner took note and expressed agreement with the points raised. In concluding the discussion, the Chairperson indicated that the Commission, though a highly political body, was central to the human rights system. It was able to evolve and change its working methods to adapt to changing situations. He referred to the Commission's rules of procedure, which allowed for the High Commissioner to intervene at any time in its debates, and emphasized her important role in guiding and influencing the work of the Commission.

B. 56th session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

5. Members of the Expanded Bureau referred to the Chairperson's statement at the opening session of the 56th session of the Sub-Commission (Monday, 26 July 2004) and

discussed issues to be raised in its meeting with the Sub-Commission (Tuesday, 27 July 2004, 11.30 am).

6. The discussion centred around CHR decision 2004/116 on transnational corporations. The Rapporteur highlighted the concerns raised by some delegations at the sixtieth session regarding the Sub-Commission's draft norms and the imposition of added responsibilities onto transnational corporations. He emphasized that the Sub-Commission should not stop its work on the issue entirely but that it needed to go back to its document to resolve difficult or contentious issues.

7. The Coordinator for GRULAC indicated that the Commission merely requested more time to reflect on the implications of the Sub-Commission's work.

8. The Chairperson noted that OHCHR had been requested to compile a report setting out the scope and legal status of the draft norms and that it was prudent to await the outcome of that report before continuing any work on the issue.

C. Calendar of meetings

9. The Expanded Bureau decided that the Working Group on a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of persons from enforced disappearance (second session) would meet 31 January – 11 February 2005.

10. The next post-session meeting of the Expanded Bureau was provisionally scheduled for 23 September 2004.

D. AOB

11. The Chairperson reflected on his recent meeting with Chairpersons of the functional commissions of ECOSOC.

Expanded Bureau of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights

Summary of the fifth post-session meeting

Thursday, 23 September 2004, 3.00 pm

Palais des Nations, Room VII

Present:

Chairperson, Rapporteur, Vice-Chair (Bahrain), Vice-Chair (Croatia)

The Vice-Chair from Costa Rica was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

African, Asian, Eastern European, GRULAC and Western Group Coordinators

Secretariat

**A. One-day informal meeting of the Commission on Human Rights
(Tuesday, 28 September 2004)**

1. The Expanded Bureau discussed preparations for the one-day informal meeting and took note of the documentation made available for the meeting, including the agenda and the timetable.

2. The Secretariat provided a general overview of the background and procedure of the informal meeting. Emphasizing its purpose as a meeting to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly, the Secretariat indicated that there would be no formal outcome and no summary records. The Secretariat also informed the Expanded Bureau that the High Commissioner would likely be present at the meeting (pending confirmation of her schedule, in particular her upcoming briefing to the Security Council).

3. The Chairperson stated his intention to conclude the informal meeting by the end of the morning session and to utilize the afternoon session only when necessary.

4. The Western Group Coordinator expressed support for the idea. Affirming the importance of transparency, the Coordinator indicated that the European Union would be outlining its planned initiatives for the Third Committee. He expressed hope that other regions/countries would also indicate their intentions for tabling resolutions at the Third Committee.

B. Appointments

5. The Expanded Bureau took note of the current status of appointments of special procedures mandate holders.

C. AOB

6. The Expanded Bureau was informed that the Vice-Chair (Costa Rica) had recently been appointed as Minister of Trade of his country. The Chairperson expressed congratulations on behalf of the Bureau members.

7. The sixth post-session meeting of the Expanded Bureau would be scheduled towards the end of the year, after the conclusion of the work of the Third Committee.
