



**Economic and Social
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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-sixth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

Duration and venue of the session

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 July to 13 August 2004. The first meeting will be convened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 26 July 2003.

Provisional agenda

2. The provisional agenda,* prepared in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, is reproduced below.

Intersessional, pre-sessional and post-sessional working groups

3. In accordance with relevant decisions, the fifty-sixth session of the Sub-Commission will be preceded and followed by meetings of its subsidiary bodies, as follows:

(a) Working Group on Minorities, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/31 of 25 July 1995. This working group of five members of the Sub-Commission met for five working days, from 1 to 5 March 2004;

* Based on the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Sub-Commission prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974. That document, which also includes an indication of documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation and consideration, is contained in the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.4/2004/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/43, para. 215).

(b) Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974. Pursuant to paragraph (c) of Economic and Social Council decision 2000/284 of 28 July 2000, this working group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for five working days, from 28 June to 2 July 2004;

(c) Working Group on Indigenous Populations, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982. This working group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for five working days prior to the fifty-sixth session of the Sub-Commission, from 19 to 23 July 2004;

(d) Annual intersessional forum on economic, social and cultural rights, to be known as the Social Forum, established under Sub-Commission resolutions 2002/12 of 14 August 2002 and 2003/14 of 13 August 2003, Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/107 of 22 April 2003 and Economic and Social Council decision 2003/264 of 23 July 2003. Pursuant to Council decision 2004/217 of 17 February 2004, the Social Forum will be held on 22 and 23 July 2004;

(e) Working Group on Communications, established under Sub-Commission resolution 2 (XXIV) in accordance with paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970. Pursuant to the revised procedure for dealing with communications concerning human rights approved by the Council in its resolution 2000/3 of 11 August 2000, this working group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for two weeks immediately following the fifty-sixth session of the Sub-Commission, from 16 to 27 August 2004.

In-session working groups

4. Since its thirty-fourth session, in 1981, the Sub-Commission has established a sessional working group to assist it in relation to its annual review of developments concerning the human rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment. At its forty-sixth session, in 1994, the Sub-Commission established a sessional working group on the administration of justice and the question of compensation in place of a sessional working group on detention.

5. The Sub-Commission may wish to consider establishing a sessional working group on the administration of justice at its fifty-sixth session.

6. At its fifty-third session, the Sub-Commission, in resolution 2001/3 of 15 August 2001, decided to extend, for a three-year period, the mandate of its sessional working group established to examine the working methods and activities of transnational corporations.

Annotations

7. The annotations to the items listed in the provisional agenda will be issued as an addendum to the present document.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Organization of work.
2. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories: report of the Sub-Commission under Commission on Human Rights resolution 8 (XXIII).
3. Administration of justice, rule of law and democracy.
4. Economic, social and cultural rights.
5. Prevention of discrimination:
 - (a) Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia;
 - (b) Prevention of discrimination and protection of indigenous peoples;
 - (c) Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.
6. Specific human rights issues:
 - (a) Women and human rights;
 - (b) Contemporary forms of slavery;
 - (c) New priorities, in particular terrorism and counter-terrorism.
7. Draft provisional agenda and adoption of the report:
 - (a) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission;
 - (b) Adoption of the report on the fifty-sixth session.

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