



General Assembly

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Agenda item 72 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards

Note by the Secretariat

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution [73/304](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, to be chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and guided by the need to appoint individuals reflecting the highest standards of efficiency, competence in the fields of human rights and/or international trade, and integrity, to examine, commencing in 2020, the feasibility, scope of the goods to be included and draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter and to transmit the report of the group of governmental experts to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-fifth session.
2. On 28 August 2020, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) transmitted, on behalf of the Secretary-General, notes verbales to the coordinators of the five regional groups, inviting each of them to forward the name of the group's nominated expert for this purpose. In the absence of nominations from some of the regional groups, the deadline was extended twice.
3. On 8 April 2021, OHCHR transmitted, on behalf of the Secretary-General, notes verbales to the coordinators of some of the regional groups, informing them of the decision of the Secretary-General to extend to 10 the number of governmental experts and inviting each of those groups to provide an additional nomination by the deadline of 7 May 2021.
4. On 10 May 2021, the coordinator of one of the regional groups requested a further extension of the deadline. In response, on the same day, OHCHR transmitted a new note verbale, on behalf of the Secretary-General, in which that group was invited to provide an additional nomination by the deadline of 7 June 2021.
5. Taking into account the delays in the process of establishing the group of governmental experts, the group will not have the time required to prepare its report



for the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. Given the highly specific character of the mandate, once established, the group of governmental experts will need time to discharge its task, namely to examine the feasibility, scope of the goods to be included and draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter, and to prepare its report.

6. Under these circumstances, the report of the group of governmental experts will be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.
