



## Economic and Social Council

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### Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-eighth session

9 June-3 July 2008

Agenda item 8

**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session**

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

### Addendum

### Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011

(*Item 3 (b)*)

### Programme 19

### Human rights

1. At its 10th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 19)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

### Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 19, Human rights. Support was also expressed for the implementation of the human rights reform called for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the independence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Appreciation was expressed for the activities carried out under the programme to support States in the realization of human rights.
4. The view was expressed that the objectives of the programme as reflected in the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011 appeared to go beyond the two-year period. Another view was expressed that some aspects of the 2010-2011 biennial programme plan did not account for some important aspects of the current and prior biennial programme plans. Views were expressed that the legislative mandates of the programme were extensive and should guide the formulation of the



biennial programme plan, while other views were expressed that some aspects of the biennial programme plan, such as the “rights-based approach”, had not been endorsed by intergovernmental bodies.

5. The inclusion of support to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council was welcomed. Views were expressed that the narratives of the programme lent credence to the establishment two years ago of the Human Rights Council, which had consolidated its place in the United Nations and was contributing to the effectiveness of the United Nations system, but needed to deepen its contribution in the world. A number of views were expressed that references should be included in the plan to the implementation of the outcome of the Durban Review Conference.

6. Questions were raised regarding measures in place to redress the imbalance in the geographical distribution of staff at the professional and higher levels within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) referred to in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2007/8). Information was also requested on the measures taken by OHCHR to enhance the geographical diversity of the Office and its field presences.

7. Queries were raised on the mechanisms for the involvement of Member States in the review of the draft programme of work and associated budget requirements for human rights activities in the light of priorities established by the Human Rights Council.

8. The view was expressed that some of the indicators of achievement of programme 19 were based on quantitative measures; they also should include qualitative measures. The view was expressed that several indicators of achievement appeared to measure the activities of Member States but the basic task at hand was to gauge the work of OHCHR and the assistance it rendered to Member States.

9. The view was expressed that the objective of subprogramme 1 A, Human rights mainstreaming, was vague and should be reworded in line with the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. The inclusion of “gender dimension” in the objective of subprogramme 1 (a) was welcomed; however, it was pointed out that such issues should also be reflected in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the subprogramme. Clarification was sought concerning the integration of a human rights perspective into United Nations programmes and activities in the rule of law area, referred to in paragraph 19.9 (a). The view was expressed that the emphasis in paragraph 19.9 (c) on promoting the practical integration of human rights into development programmes should not be used as a pretext for conditionality of development assistance.

10. Views were expressed that the alleviation of poverty, technical advice, networking, aid and trade had all become extremely important and concerned the lives of many people; hence the objective of subprogramme 1 B, Right to development, was not clearly stated and difficulties might be encountered in implementing the subprogramme. Views were also expressed that the right to development should be promoted and should receive appropriate attention.

11. A query was raised as to the meaning of the phrase “democracy mechanisms” in expected accomplishment (e) under subprogramme 1 C, Research and analysis. The view was expressed that it was not clear on what basis OHCHR would monitor the promotion and the implementation of human rights activities referred to in

expected accomplishment (f) under subprogramme 1 C. Hence, it appeared that OHCHR would go beyond its mandate. The view was expressed that the text of expected accomplishment (a) under subprogramme 1 C should be that contained in the biennial programme plan for 2008-2009, with the addition of the word “enforced” after the words “victims of” to take into account the language of General Assembly resolution 61/177. The view was also expressed that the inclusion of the phrase “persons with disabilities” was a clear indication of adherence to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol. Another view was expressed to the effect that expected accomplishment (a) under subprogramme 1 C was weak in view of the Durban Review Conference.

12. With regard to subprogramme 2, the view was expressed that the reference to the United Nations in the objective should be deleted. A query was raised regarding the phrase “international and national actors” in expected accomplishment (c).

13. The view was expressed that the reference in the objective of subprogramme 3 to “efforts” of the Secretariat was weak. Clarification was sought as to the meaning of the phrase “protection of” in the objective. With regard to subprogramme 3, information was sought on the OHCHR field and country offices and their relationship to peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions, including information on resources dedicated to such activities.

14. Queries were raised as to the rationale for the consolidation of all the United Nations human rights treaty bodies under subprogramme 2. Clarification was also sought on the consolidated organizational support to be provided to the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms under subprogramme 4. The view was also expressed that there appeared to be duplication in the mandates of subprogramme 4. Clarification was sought on how to avoid such duplication.

15. Although the Committee had an exchange of views, several delegations expressed regret that owing to shortage of time it was not possible to review the amendments proposed by delegations.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

16. **The Committee recommended that, owing to shortage of time, the Chairman of the forty-eighth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination transmit the conclusions on and amendments proposed to programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, to the Chairman of the Third Committee at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, to the Third Committee for its review and action, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**