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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Tenth session
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Eighth session
Geneva, 12-16 January 2009

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

Addendum

* Late submission.

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent will hold its eighth session in Geneva from 12 to 16 January 2009. The session will be opened by the Director of the Operations, Programmes and Research Division.

Item 2. Election of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group

2. The Working Group will elect a Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group from among its members.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

3. The members of the Working Group will adopt the agenda of the eighth session, the draft of which will, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Working Group at its eighth session.

Item 4. Organization of work

4. The attention of the members of the Working Group is drawn to the provisional agenda (A/HRC/10/AC.3/1), the provisional programme of work and the information note by the Secretariat on the purpose of, and themes to be treated at, the eighth session.

Item 5. Review and discussion of the work of the previous sessions

5. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was created by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/68. The Commission, in its resolution 2003/30, reformulated paragraph 8 (*d*) of resolution 2002/68 and expanded the mandate of the Working Group. On 24 September 2008, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 9/14, decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a further three years. The mandate is as follows:

(*a*) To study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the diaspora and, to that end, gather all relevant information from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources, including through the holding of public meetings with them;

(*b*) To propose measures to ensure full and effective access to the justice system by people of African descent;

(*c*) To submit recommendations on the design, implementation and enforcement of effective measures to eliminate racial profiling of people of African descent;

(*d*) To make proposals on the elimination of racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent in all parts of the world;

(*e*) To address all the issues concerning the well-being of Africans and people of African descent contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(f) To elaborate short-, medium- and long-term proposals for the elimination of racial discrimination against people of African descent, bearing in mind the need for close collaboration with international and development institutions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to promote the human rights of people of African descent through, inter alia, the following activities:

- (i) Improving the human rights situation of people of African descent by devoting special attention to their needs through, inter alia, the preparation of specific programmes of action;
- (ii) Designing special projects, in collaboration with people of African descent, to support their initiatives at the community level and to facilitate the exchange of information and technical know-how between these populations and experts in these areas;
- (iii) Liaising with financial and developmental institutional and operational programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, with a view to contribute to the development programmes intended for people of African descent by allocating additional investments to health systems, education, housing, electricity, drinking water and environmental control measures and promoting equal opportunities in employment, as well as other affirmative or positive measures and strategies within the human rights framework.

6. In compliance with its mandate, the Working Group has adopted the approach of studying thematic issues at each of its sessions. At its previous seven sessions, it studied and proposed conclusions and recommendations on the following topics:

- (a) The administration of justice;
- (b) The media;
- (c) Access to education;
- (d) Racism and employment;
- (e) Racism and health;
- (f) Racism and housing;

(g) Participation of people of African descent in political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society and in the advancement and economic development in their countries;

- General;
- Millennium Development Goals;

- (h) Empowerment of women of African descent;
- (i) Racial profiling.

7. At its seventh session, the Working Group reviewed, discussed and analysed conclusions and recommendations made by the Working Group at its previous sessions and distilled from the discussion its contribution to the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. The Working Group also identified obstacles that had impeded the implementation of its recommendations and reflected upon the best ways to achieve a greater impact in the improvement of the situation of people of African descent.

8. At its eighth session, the Working Group will review its work at previous sessions, including the methodologies adopted and themes discussed, and decide whether any of the themes require further analysis and whether the working methodologies of the Working Group should be modified in any way (see A/HRC/10/AC.3/2).

Item 6. Programme of work for future sessions

9. Bearing in mind the methodology adopted by the Working Group at its previous sessions and the themes that it has discussed to date, the Working Group will identify pertinent themes that it will analyse at future sessions and any modifications to its methodologies that it may determine to be appropriate. This discussion will produce a programme of work to serve as the basis for future sessions of the Working Group (see A/HRC/10/AC.3/2).

Item 7. Discussion on and analysis of the situation of children of African descent

10. With the assistance of invited panellists, the Working Group will examine the situation of children of African descent, which was identified by the Working Group at its second session as being among those subjects particularly deserving of discussion, analysis and recommendations by the Working Group (see A/HRC/10/AC.3/2).

Item 8. Country visits

11. The Working Group will discuss its strategy of country visits, including an evaluation of how successfully this strategy has been implemented to date, perceived obstacles to its country visits as well as the identification of where it wishes to carry out future ones (see A/HRC/10/AC.3/2).

Item 9. Durban Review Conference

12. In its resolution 61/149, the General Assembly decided to convene, in 2009, a review conference to review progress on and assess implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders, to assess the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them, to promote the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and to identify and share good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 3/2, decided that it would act as the preparatory committee for the Durban Review Conference.

13. At its 9th meeting, on 31 August 2007, the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference, in its decision PC.1/10, requested the Working Group and other relevant human rights mechanisms, including other special procedures, to assist the Preparatory Committee by undertaking review and submitting recommendations, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contributions to the outcome of the Review Conference (see A/62/375, annex I). The Working Group devoted its seventh session to the formulation of its contribution, which it submitted to the Preparatory Committee.

14. In a draft resolution (A/C.3/63/L.51), submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, the Secretary-General was requested to allocate adequate funds from the regular budget of the United Nations for expenses not covered in Preparatory Committee decision PC.1/12, to facilitate the participation of all the relevant special procedures and mechanisms of the Council in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the regional preparatory conferences.

15. At its eighth session, the Working Group will discuss how to proceed in the final lead-up to the Durban Review Conference, including how it will continue contributing to the preparatory process as well as in the Review Conference itself (see A/HRC/10/AC.3/2).

Item 10. Adoption of the report

16. The Working Group will adopt the report on its eighth session, which will contain its future programme of work and conclusions and recommendations regarding the situation of children of African descent.
