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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Meeting of the chairpersons of  
international and regional  
human rights treaty-related bodies  
Vienna, 15-16 June 1993  
Agenda item 12 (c)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF  
UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES AND MECHANISMS;

Note by the secretariat

1. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, decided to convene a World Conference on Human Rights, one of whose objectives would be "to examine ways and means to improve implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments," and requested, *inter alia*, United Nations bodies concerned with human rights, "to participate actively in the Conference".
2. At the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, which met at Geneva from 12 to 16 October 1992, it was recommended "that consideration be given to the holding of a meeting, within the framework of the World Conference, of the persons chairing the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and those chairing (or holding an equivalent position on) each of the principal regional and other human rights organizations, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Commission on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the ILO and the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the UNESCO." (A/47/628, para. 80).
3. The attached descriptive draft agenda has been drawn up by the Secretariat in order to assist the chairpersons of the treaty-based bodies in adopting the agenda for their meeting.

Descriptive draft agenda

1. Opening of the meeting by a representative of the Secretary-General.
2. Election of a Chairperson and Rapporteur.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Issues relating to the development and coordination of international human rights reporting procedures.  
[In this regard, the World Conference will have before it a study, prepared by an independent expert at the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, on a variety of pertinent issues, as well as document A/47/628 containing the report of the fourth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies.]
5. The role of individual petition procedures. [The introduction of the individual petition procedure in the context of international human rights treaties was considered a major advance in international law. Given several decades of experience in this area, on the occasion of the World Conference on Human Rights, it is appropriate to reflect on the efficacy of this procedure and its impact on the reduction of human rights violations in the world, both on an individual and on a wider basis. It may be noted that there are currently proposals for the adoption of new procedures in relation to both the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.]
6. Possible approaches to the exchange of information among the bodies represented. [The different treaty bodies deal with many similar issues and, ideally, should treat them in similar ways. The human rights organs of the Council of Europe are currently the only treaty bodies to have their case law on computer, and similar technological advances should be encouraged in the treaty bodies of the Organization of American States as well as of the United Nations, in order for the different bodies to be able to access each other's jurisprudence. Additionally, informal meetings, on the staff level, could be organized on a periodic basis to discuss certain jurisprudentially important pending or decided cases.]
7. Other matters.