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Agenda item 24

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Secretary-General

The following draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) and includes an indication for each item of the documents to be prepared in implementation of the relevant Commission decisions. If necessary, the draft provisional agenda will be amended in the light of any decisions which the Commission may take after the preparation of this document.

XXIV. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of the work of the session.

Legislative authority: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (resolution 1996/1, paras. 26 and 27), to be considered under the appropriate agenda item;
 - (b) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the setting up of a permanent office in Colombia (statement agreed upon by consensus by the Commission, made by the Chairman on 23 April 1996).
 - (c) Report of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Chechnya (statement agreed upon by consensus by the Commission, made by the Chairman on 24 April 1996).
4. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/2 and 1996/3.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 1993/2 A, para. 4);
 - (b) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1996/2, para. 6; resolution 1996/3, para. 6);
 - (c) List of United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that deal with the conditions in which the citizens of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories are living under the Israeli occupation (resolution 1996/3, para. 7).
5. Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including:
- (a) Problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the

full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

- (b) The effects of the existing unjust international economic order on the economies of the developing countries, and the obstacle that this represents for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/9, 1996/10, 1996/11, 1996/12, 1996/13, 1996/14 and decision 1996/103.

Documentation:

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1996/12, para. 13; resolution 1996/13, para. 1).
- (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights (Commission resolution 1996/14, paras. 8 to 11).
- (c) Report of the working group (decision 1996/103).

6. Question of the realization of the right to development.

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1996/15.

Documentation:

- (a) Progress report of the intergovernmental working group of experts (para. 15 (b));
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (para. 18).

7. The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1995/5, 1996/5 and 1996/6.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1996/5, para. 3);
- (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on mercenaries (resolution 1995/5, para. 4, and decision 1996/113).

8. Question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment, in particular:

- (a) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

- (b) Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- (c) Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances;
- (d) Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/28, 1996/29, 1996/30, 1996/32, 1996/33, 1996/34, 1996/35, 1996/37 and 1996/53.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (resolution 1996/28, para.4).
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the situation of United Nations staff members, experts and their families detained, imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will, and on the implementation of resolution 1996/29 (para. 9);
- (c) Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (resolution 1996/30, para.26);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1996/32 on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular of children and juveniles in detention (para. 17);
- (e) Report of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 1996/33 A, para. 13);
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 1995/33 A, para. 21);
- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 1996/33 A, para. 21);
- (h) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (resolution 1996/33 B, para. 12);
- (i) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (resolution 1996/34, para. 9);
- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms (resolution 1996/35, para. 6);

- (k) Annual report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on human rights and states of emergency (resolution 1996/36);
- (l) Report of the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 1996/37, paras. 2 and 6);
- (m) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression (resolution 1996/53, para. 18).

9. Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission:

- (a) Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (b) National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (c) Coordination role of the Centre for Human Rights within the United Nations bodies and machinery dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (d) Human rights, mass exoduses and displaced persons.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1995/46, 1995/49, 1996/42, 1996/43, 1996/44, 1996/46, 1996/47, 1996/48, 1996/49, 1996/50, 1996/51, 1996/52, 1996/64, 1996/65 and 1996/82.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 1995/46, para. 11);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on public information activities (resolution 1995/49, para. 14);
- (c) Final report of the Secretary-General on the guidelines on promoting and protecting human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS (resolution 1996/43, para. 11);
- (d) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Decade for Human Rights Education (resolution 1996/44, para. 7);
- (e) List by the Secretary-General of all persons currently constituting the thematic and country procedures (resolution 1996/46, para. 20);
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (resolution 1996/47, para. 8);

- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (resolution 1996/48, para. 13);
 - (h) Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (resolution 1994/45, para. 6);
 - (i) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 1996/50, para. 21);
 - (j) Updated report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (resolution 1996/51, para. 16);
 - (k) Report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (resolutions 1996/52, para. 9);
 - (l) Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements in the Asian and Pacific region (resolution 1996/64, para. 24);
 - (m) Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights (resolution 1996/65, para. 5).
10. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories, including:
- (a) Question of human rights in Cyprus;
 - (b) Study of situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights as provided in Commission resolution 8 (XXIII) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII): report of the Working Group on Situations established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/66, 1996/68, 1996/69, 1996/70, 1996/71, 1996/72, 1996/73, 1996/74, 1996/75, 1996/76, 1996/77, 1996/79, 1996/80 and 1996/84.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea (resolution 1996/66, para. 18);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa (resolution 1996/68, para. 6 (b));
- (c) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba (resolution 1996/69, para. 12);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on reprisals against those cooperating with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies (resolution 1996/70, para. 6);

- (e) Report of the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances responsible for the special process on missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (resolution 1996/71, para. 38);
- (f) Reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (resolution 1996/71, para. 45 (c));
- (g) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (resolution 1996/72, para. 11);
- (h) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (resolution 1996/73, paras. 24 and 25);
- (i) Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (resolution 1996/74, para. 7 (a));
- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of ECOSOC decision 1995/284 (resolution 1996/74, para. 16);
- (k) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (resolution 1996/75, para. 17);
- (l) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (resolution 1996/76, para. 19);
- (m) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (resolution 1996/76, para. 23);
- (n) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Zaire (resolution 1996/77, para. 16);
- (o) Joint report of the Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and on the independence of judges and lawyers on the situation of human rights in Nigeria (resolution 1996/79, para. 7);
- (p) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (resolution 1996/80, para. 21);
- (q) Report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (resolution 1996/84, para. 13);
- (r) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of human rights in Cyprus (decision 1996/112);
- (s) Report of the Secretary-General on East Timor (statement agreed on by consensus by the Commission, made by the Chairman on 23 April 1996).

11. Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/17 and 1996/18.

Documentation:

Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1996/18, para. 6).

12. Human rights and scientific and technological developments

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1995/82 and decision 1995/114.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and bioethics (para. 5 of resolution 1995/82);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files (decision 1995/114).

13. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1995/11, 1996/8 and 1996/21.

Documentation:

- (a) Annual report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1995/11, para. 22);
- (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (resolution 1996/21, paras. 9 and 18).

14. Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1996/16.

Documentation:

Report of the Secretary-General (para. 17);

15. Effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments.

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1996/22.

Documentation:

Report of the Secretary-General (paras. 2(c) and 22).

16. Report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its forty-eighth session.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/24, 1996/25, 1996/26, 1996/27 and 1996/61.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in women and girls (resolution 1996/24, para. 8);
- (b) Report of the Chairman of the Sub-Commission (resolution 1996/25, para. 14);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of minimum humanitarian standards (resolution 1996/26, para. 5);
- (d) Report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development (resolution 1996/27, para. 13);
- (e) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1996/61, paras. 13 and 17).

17. Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/19 and 1996/20.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1996/20, para. 16);
- (b) Annual report of the Working Group of the Sub-Commission (resolution 1996/20, para. 13).

18. Advisory services in the field of human rights.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/54, 1996/55, 1996/57, 1996/58 and 1996/59.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (resolution 1996/54 and decision 1996/113);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 1996/54, para. 23);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General containing an inventory and an analysis of the availability of technical cooperation in the field of human rights from all sources (resolution 1996/55, para. 13);

- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights and on the operation and administration of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (resolution 1996/55, para. 14);
 - (e) Report of the Independent Expert on assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights (resolution 1996/57, para. 4);
 - (f) Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (resolution 1996/58, para. 10);
 - (g) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights (resolution 1996/59, para. 25);
 - (h) Report of the Independent Expert on the question of assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights (resolution 1996/59, para. 26).
19. Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.
- Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1996/23.
- Documentation:
- Report of the Special Rapporteur (para. 21).
20. Drafting of a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1996/81.
- Documentation:
- Report of the Working Group (resolution 1996/81).
21. Rights of the child, including:
- (a) Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children;
 - (c) Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour;
 - (d) Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for their prevention and eradication.
- Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1992/74, 1993/79 and 1996/85.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Sub-Commission on the state of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Elimination of Child Labour (resolution 1993/79, para. 10);
- (b) Report of the Working Group (resolution 1996/85, para. 15);
- (c) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children (resolution 1996/85, para. 21);
- (d) Report of the Working Group (resolution 1996/85, para. 28);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 1996/85, para. 49).

22. Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/78 and 1996/83.

Documentation:

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 1996/78, para. 15).

23. The question of conscientious objection to military service.

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1995/83.

Documentation:

Report of the Secretary-General (para. 10).

24. Indigenous issues.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1996/38, 1996/39 and 1996/41 and decision 1996/102.

Documentation:

- (a) Progress report of the Working Group on a draft declaration (resolution 1996/38, para. 6);
- (b) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Coordinator of the Decade of the World's Indigenous People (resolution 1996/39, para. 8);
- (c) Report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people (resolution 1996/41, para. 6);

- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken and information received in pursuance of Commission resolution 1996/41 (para. 11).

25. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII).

Documentation:

Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, together with information concerning documentation relating thereto.

26. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-third session of the Commission.

Legislative authority: rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

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