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Agenda item 25

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

Note by the Secretary-General

The following draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth 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.

XXV. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH 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:

Comprehensive analytical report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the setting up of a permanent office and on developments in the situation of human rights in Colombia (statement agreed on by consensus by the Commission, made by the Chairman on 16 April 1997).

4. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/1 and 1997/2.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 1993/2 A, para. 4);
 - (b) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/1, para. 8; resolution 1997/2, 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 1997/1, para. 9).
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 1997/7, 1997/8, 1997/9, 1997/10, 1997/11, 1997/17 and decision 1997/103.

Documentation:

- (a) Reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (resolution 1997/8, para. 7; resolution 1997/11, paras. 7 (f) and (h));
- (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 (resolution 1997/9, paras. 9-12);
- (c) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/10, para. 11; resolution 1997/17, para. 6 (b) (i));
- (d) Report of the working group (decision 1997/103);
- (e) Report of the independent expert (decision 1997/103).

6. Question of the realization of the right to development

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1996/15 and 1997/72.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the intergovernmental working group of experts (resolution 1996/15, para. 15 (b));
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/72, 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, 1997/4 and 1997/5.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/4, para. 3);
- (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries (resolution 1995/5, para. 4; decision 1997/120).

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 1996/31, 1996/62, 1997/23, 1997/24, 1997/25, 1997/26, 1997/27, 1997/28, 1997/29, 1997/38, 1997/50 and decisions 1997/106 and 1997/110.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and forensic science (resolution 1996/31, para. 7);
- (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (resolution 1997/23, para. 8);
- (c) Report of the working group on the draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 1997/24, paras. 2 and 6);
- (d) Comprehensive and independent study on the safety and security problems faced by United Nations and other personnel (resolution 1997/25, para. 5 (e));
- (e) Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (resolution 1997/26, para. 9);
- (f) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression (resolution 1997/27, para. 13);
- (g) 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 1997/29, para. 4);
- (h) Annual report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 1997/38, para. 16);
- (i) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (resolution 1997/38, para. 29);

- (j) Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 1997/38, para. 38);
 - (k) Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 1997/38, para. 39);
 - (l) Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (resolution 1997/50, para. 16);
 - (m) Updated report of the Secretary-General on children and juveniles in detention (decision 1997/106);
 - (n) Annual report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on human rights and states of emergency (decision 1997/110).
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) Coordinating 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 1997/35, 1997/36, 1997/37, 1997/39, 1997/40, 1997/42, 1997/43, 1997/44, 1997/45, 1997/75, 1997/76 and decisions 1997/111, 1997/116 and 1997/124.

Documentation:

- (a) List by the Secretary-General of all persons currently constituting the thematic and country procedures, including their country of origin (resolution 1997/37, para. 10 (b));
- (b) Report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (resolution 1997/39, para. 6);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 1997/40, para. 21);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (resolution 1997/42, para. 7);

- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (resolution 1997/43, para. 15);
- (f) Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (resolution 1997/44, para. 14);
- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region (resolution 1997/45, para. 27);
- (h) Updated report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and mass exoduses (resolution 1997/75, para. 17).
- (i) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of resolution 1997/76 (para. 5 (f)).

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 for 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 1997/53, 1997/54, 1997/55, 1997/56, 1997/57, 1997/58, 1997/59, 1997/60, 1997/61, 1997/62, 1997/63, 1997/64, 1997/65, 1997/66, 1997/67 and 1997/77 and decision 1997/121.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Nigeria (resolution 1997/53, para. 4(a));
- (b) Report of the Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (resolution 1997/54, para. 4(a));
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon and West Bekaa (resolution 1997/55, para. 6(b));
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on reprisals against those cooperating with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies (resolution 1997/56, para. 6);

- (e) Reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (resolution 1997/57, para. 42(c));
- (f) Joint report of the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in Zaire and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the situation of human rights in eastern Zaire (resolution 1997/58, para. 6(a));
- (g) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Zaire (resolution 1997/58, para. 6(c));
- (h) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (resolution 1997/59, paras. 26-27);
- (i) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (resolution 1997/60, para. 4(a));
- (j) Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (resolution 1997/61, para. 8(a));
- (k) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba (resolution 1997/62, para. 14);
- (l) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in East Timor (resolution 1997/63, para. 4(a));
- (m) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (resolution 1997/64, para. 4(a));
- (n) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (resolution 1997/65, para. 24);
- (o) Report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (resolution 1997/66, para. 21);
- (p) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Commission resolution 1997/66 (resolution 1997/66, para. 24);
- (q) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea (resolution 1997/67, para. 14);
- (r) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (resolution 1997/77, para. 27);
- (s) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of human rights in Cyprus (decision 1997/121).

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

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/13, 1997/14 and 1997/15.

Documentation:

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/13, para. 10; resolution 1997/14, para. 7).
- (b) Report of the working group of intergovernmental experts (resolution 1997/15, para. 4).

12. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1995/11, 1997/73 and 1997/74.

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 1997/73, para. 18, resolution 1997/74, para. 37);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/74, paras. 14 and 51).

13. Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/12 and 1997/17 and decision 1997/104.

Documentation:

Reports of the Secretary-General (resolution 1997/12, para. 6; resolution 1997/17, para. 6 (b) (ii)) and decision 1997/104.

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

Legislative authority: Commission decision 1997/105.

Documentation:

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

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

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/19, 1997/21 and 1997/22 and decision 1997/107.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in women and girls (resolution 1997/19, para. 12);
- (b) Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the question of minimum humanitarian standards (resolution 1997/21, para. 5);
- (c) Report of the Chairman of the Sub-Commission (resolution 1997/22, para. 10).

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

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1997/16.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Working Group on Minorities of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (para. 14);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (para. 15).

17. Advisory services in the field of human rights.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/46, 1997/47, 1997/49, 1997/51 and 1997/52.

Documentation:

- (a) Analytical 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 1997/46, para. 17);
- (b) Report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia (resolution 1997/47, para. 6);
- (c) Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (resolution 1997/49 and decision 1997/120);

- (d) 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 1997/49, para. 27);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the evolution of the situation of human rights in Guatemala (resolution 1997/51, para. 15);
- (f) Report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (resolution 1997/52, para. 14).

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Legislative authority: Commission resolution 1997/18.

Documentation:

Report of the Special Rapporteur (para. 12).

19. 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 1997/70.

Documentation:

Report of the working group (resolution 1997/70).

20. 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, child prostitution and child pornography;
- (c) Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- (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 resolution 1992/74 and 1997/78.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the state of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (resolution 1992/74, para. 8);

- (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (para. 8(a));
- (c) Report of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (para. 9(a));
- (d) Report of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (para. 14(b));
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (para. 21(b)).

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

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/68 and 1997/69.

Documentation:

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 1997/69, para. 14).

22. The question of conscientious objection to military service.

Legislative authority: Commission decision 1997/117.

23. Indigenous issues.

Legislative authority: Commission resolutions 1997/30, 1997/31 and 1997/32.

Documentation:

- (a) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (resolution 1997/30, para. 8);
- (b) Progress report of the working group on a draft declaration (resolution 1997/31, para. 6);
- (c) Updated report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (resolution 1997/32, para. 14).

24. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth 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-fifth session of the Commission, together with information concerning documentation relating thereto.

25. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

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