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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The role of good governance in the promotion of human rights

Note by the secretariat

1. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would like to inform members of the Commission on Human Rights about the activities undertaken in preparation of the seminar on good governance practices for the promotion of human rights, pursuant to Commission resolution 2003/65.
2. In 2003, the High Commissioner submitted a report summarizing submissions of effective examples of national good governance practices in promotion of human rights received from States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (E/CN.4/2003/103). Based on the analysis and conclusion contained in that report, which was welcomed by the Commission in its resolution 2003/65, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed a joint project in preparation of the seminar.
3. Additional examples of good governance practices were collected in the framework of the project. A background note and submission guide were developed to facilitate the submission of examples, inviting the submission of examples of good governance practices grouped under the non-exhaustive categories of good governance practices that had been identified in the above report, namely promotion of the rule of law, services delivery for human rights, democratic institutions and participation, combating corruption in the public and private sectors, and, finally, bi- and multilateral international cooperation in support of national good governance practices. The background note also developed a methodology for the compilation.

4. The background note and submission guide have been widely distributed to States, national human rights institutions, relevant intergovernmental organizations, United Nations programmes and funds, United Nations resident coordinators and relevant non-governmental organizations. The deadline for submission of information was the end of November 2003.

5. With a view to assisting organizers in preparing the compilation and the seminar, OHCHR and UNDP are in the process of identifying experts from different regions. It is foreseen that the experts will meet for one day in Geneva. An introductory paper on the conceptual and operational linkages between good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights will also be commissioned.

6. Cooperation with interested delegations is continuing. At present, both the Republic of Korea and Australia have made firm commitments in connection with the seminar. Other States are considering what contributions they might make. The proposed date for the seminar is late June 2004.
