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ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note concerns the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007. In this connection, attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, which would replace the current four-year medium-term plan, comprising Part one: a plan outline, and Part two: a biennial programme plan.

2. The attention of the Commission is drawn to rule 104.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

“Rule 104.6: The Secretary-General shall take appropriate measures to submit proposals to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies, to enable them to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly.”

3. The Commission is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for the subprogramme on Human Rights contained in the annex to the present note and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be first submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session when it considers to propose a strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007.

ANNEX

OHCHR's strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 Part two: biennial programme plan *

A. Overall orientation

The purpose of the United Nations human rights programme is to promote universal enjoyment of all human rights by giving practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community as expressed by the United Nations. Its mandate derives from Articles 1, 13, 55 and 62 of the Charter of the United Nations; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/121; the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as defined in resolution 48/141; international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations, including the Declaration on the Right to Development; and the resolutions and decisions of policy-making bodies, in particular General Assembly resolutions 55/2 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and 56/95 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, as well as from the proposals of the Secretary-General for strengthening of the United Nations (A/57/387 and Corr.1) and General Assembly resolution 57/300. The programme is based on the principles and recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

The programme is under the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who performs her or his functions under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141. The Office of the High Commissioner acts as the focal point for and provides the leading role on all human rights activities of the United Nations.

The Office will continue to strive for the universal realization of all human rights for all through the implementation of the Charter's provisions on human rights and of the international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations. The decisions of policy-making organs will guide this effort. Emphasis will be placed on the enhancement of cooperation at the international, regional and national levels, keeping in mind the values of the Millennium Declaration, which calls for promoting democracy and strengthening the rule of law and respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. Priority will continue to be given to emphasizing the importance of human rights on the international and national agendas and to upholding the principle of equality and non-discrimination, to combating discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion, to advancing the rights of children and women, to spreading education about human rights at all levels of education, to responding to the needs for protection of the vulnerable, and to addressing situations of international

* The list of resolutions providing the mandates for the programmes and subprogrammes are available at www.un.org

concern identified by the Commission on Human Rights and other pertinent United Nations organs.

Increased support will be provided to Member States, at their request, in national capacity-building, human rights education and training through advisory services, technical cooperation activities and field activities and operations. Human rights will be addressed in an integrated, interrelated and interdependent manner, combining civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as well as the right to development by stimulating and coordinating action across the whole United Nations system. The Office will continue to provide support to human rights organs and treaty-monitoring bodies and to support efforts to strengthen, rationalize and streamline the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141, and in accordance with the Secretary-General's reform report in 2002, work with United Nations partners to increase support for national human rights capacity building. OHCHR will continue to take gender fully into account in the development and application of norms and procedures so that violations against women and girls are clearly identified and the protection offered under the law. It will also seek to increase awareness and understanding of human rights issues.

OHCHR's strategy will be guided by the lessons learned from the 2002-2003 biennium, in particular with regard to reflecting measurements of achievement that can be realistically implemented by the Secretariat.

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 1

Right to development, research and analysis

A. Right to development	
Objective: To advance the promotion and protection of the right to development.	
Expected accomplishment	Measurements of achievement
<p>(a) Strengthened capacity of United Nations system agencies and United Nations Country Teams to incorporate human rights aspects in their development, humanitarian, and rule of law activities, and to assist Member States, at their request, in building and strengthening national capacities;</p> <p>(b) Strengthened national capacity, upon request, to implement the right to development.</p>	<p>(a) (i) Increased number of human rights policy guidelines adopted by United Nations system agencies and inter-agency mechanisms;</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of projects and activities undertaken by United Nations system agencies and United Nations Country Teams that include right to development issues;</p> <p>(b) Increase in the number of countries that have taken measures to implement the right to development.</p>
<p>Strategy: An integrated and multidimensional strategy for the implementation of the right to development will be pursued in cooperation and collaboration with United Nations system agencies, mindful of the human rights norms and the decisions of policy-making organs. The strategy will focus on:</p> <p>(a) Placing human beings at the centre of United Nations programmes and activities in development and humanitarian areas and thus contributing to realizing human rights at the country level;</p> <p>(b) Enhancing the substantive support to the Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group on the Right to Development;</p> <p>(c) Furthering the understanding and development of methodologies to enhance the incorporation of human rights aspects in United Nations programmes and activities for development;</p> <p>(d) Contributing to the capability of the United Nations system and United Nations Country Teams to assist Member States, at their request, in building and enhancing national capacities in human rights;</p> <p>(e) Encouraging the inclusion of the promotion and protection of the right to development in technical cooperation assistance to countries, upon request.</p>	

B. Research and analysis	
Objective: To strengthen respect for all human rights by increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights issues through research and analysis.	
Expected accomplishment	Measurements of achievement
(a) Wider recognition of the rights of women, persons belonging to minorities, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, persons affected by HIV/AIDS and victims of trafficking; (b) Strengthened efforts that contribute to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.	(a) Increased number of measures taken to promote and implement the rights of these groups; (b) Increased number of measures taken to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
Strategy: The strategy will focus on: (a) Supporting the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights, through providing support to the established mandates, contributing to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and new forms of discrimination, promoting the rule of law and democracy; poverty reduction; strengthening the recognition of economic, social and cultural rights, and the protection of persons belonging to minorities, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, persons affected by HIV/AIDS, and victims of trafficking; (b) Advancing the knowledge, awareness and understanding of all human rights, including through research, policy-oriented analysis, and development of methodologies in the area of human rights education and training activities, and specialized human rights reference services. (c) Wider inclusion in advisory services and training to countries, upon request, of measures to be taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.	

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Objectives: To support the implementation of international human rights norms at the national level and to support treaty bodies in their efforts to facilitate the enjoyment of human rights by individuals at the national level.	
Expected accomplishment	Measurement of achievement
(a) The timely delivery of required and appropriate support to intergovernmental bodies, expert bodies and treaty bodies, inter alia, in order to reduce the reporting burden of the States parties; (b) The timely delivery of required and appropriate support to intergovernmental bodies, expert bodies and treaty bodies, inter alia, in order to contribute to reducing the time to prepare a complaint for consideration by the appropriate reviewing mechanisms; (c) Harmonization and standardization of treaty body documentation.	(a) (i) Increase in the percentage of documents submitted on time; and (ii) Maintenance of the current time span between the date of receipt of a State party report and the date of its consideration by the relevant treaty body; (b) A reduction in the time lag between the submission of a complaint and its review, as appropriate, by the relevant mechanisms; (c) Reduction in the number of documents.
Strategy: OHCHR's strategy will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Providing substantive and technical support, as well as ensuring the analytical capacity of human rights treaty bodies for the review of State party reports and for the processing of complaints under international treaties; (b) Contributing to enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights bodies and organs, including the Commission on Human Rights, through the improvement, rationalization and streamlining of existing procedures in coordination with Governments, experts, specialized agencies, other international organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations in their work; (c) Facilitating deliberations and decision-making by human rights bodies; (d) Coordinating and streamlining OHCHR documentation, through its Documents Processing Unit, and continued efforts to rationalize documentation, including through initiatives to reduce the volume of documentation submitted to intergovernmental and expert bodies by OHCHR; and (e) Contributing to efforts to promote awareness and knowledge of the importance of all international human rights treaties. 	

Subprogramme 3**Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities**

Objective To strengthen national human rights promotion and protection systems at the country level, upon request by Member States.	
Expected accomplishment (a) Enhanced capacity of United Nations agencies at the country level to assist countries in the establishment/development of national promotion and protection systems; (b) Increased legislation at the national level which is in accordance with human rights standards; (c) Increased institutional capacity at the national level to promote and protect human rights; (d) Increased knowledge by Member States of human rights standards.	Measurement of achievement (a) Increased number of UNCTs supporting national human rights promotion and protection systems; (b) Increased number of laws and policy documents adopted or revised by Member States; (c) Increased number of national human rights institutions established at the national level; (d) Increased number of institutionalized human rights training and education programmes in the formal education system and for core professional groups (law enforcement officials, prison officials, judges and lawyers).
Strategy OHCHR's strategy will include: (a) Enhancing the capacity of United Nations country teams and of other departments and agencies of the United Nations system to assist countries in the establishment/development of national promotion and protection systems based, inter alia, on the recommendation of human rights treaty bodies and the human rights monitoring mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. This includes assisting human rights components of complex United Nations peace missions, Regional Economic and Social Commissions and, through joint projects, the deployment of human rights advisors or the provision of expert advice from OHCHR Headquarters and regional offices; (b) Providing human rights legal advice, education and training through technical cooperation programmes aimed at strengthening the administration of justice and developing effective national human rights institutions, human rights education programmes and comprehensive national plans of action. The assistance will be provided at the request of Member States through technical cooperation projects and field offices. In so doing, special emphasis will be placed on the implementation of the recommendations of the external review of OHCHR's technical cooperation programme, namely, the need for a more strategic approach, with clear entry criteria, and for strengthened project cycle management tools, especially stakeholders analysis and monitoring and evaluation procedures; (c) Strengthening regional cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights; and (d) Ensuring the efficient and effective functioning of the country specific special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of OHCHR's field offices.	

Subprogramme 4

Support to human rights thematic fact-finding procedures

Objective: To protect potential victims and reduce the occurrence of similar situations.	
Expected accomplishment	Measurement of achievement
(a) Improved cooperation between special procedures mandate-holders and other mechanisms of the human rights machinery; (b) The improved coordination among thematic special procedures mandate-holders.	(a) Increase in the number of references to country specific recommendations made by the thematic mandate-holders contained in the concluding observations and recommendations of treaty bodies, in UN partner reports and programmes and in OHCHR's technical cooperation projects; (b) Increase in the number of joint actions by two or more special procedures mandate-holders.
<p>Strategy: OHCHR will strengthen the research, analytical, communications, information and logistical support of the Office to thematic procedures and fact-finding bodies through:</p> <p>(a) Reinforcing the dialogue and cooperation between thematic special procedures and partners - including Member States, United Nations country teams, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and victims themselves;</p> <p>(b) Enhancing assistance to mandate-holders through improving the methodology to consider and analyze information with respect to alleged human rights violations and situations, and through facilitating their capacity to report and make recommendations about alleged human rights violations and thematic issues, and to issue thematic and country-specific studies;</p> <p>(c) Enhancing the provision of substantive and logistical support for fact-finding missions and meetings;</p> <p>(d) Contributing to increase the knowledge and awareness about the methodology and findings of the thematic special procedures, in particular among their partners; and</p> <p>(e) Facilitating operational linkages between these procedures' findings and capacity building programmes for human rights protection systems and the United Nations technical cooperation programmes.</p>	