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THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Summary

This report, submitted in response to Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1998/72 and 2004/7, contains a summary of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, separately or jointly with others, with regard to the implementation of the right to development. It covers activities undertaken since the submission of the last report (E/CN.4/2004/22). Particular importance is placed on those activities which relate to right to development issues identified in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as in the agreed conclusions contained in the reports of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development on its third and fifth sessions.

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 1998/72, the Commission on Human Rights invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present a report to the Commission each year for the duration of the follow-up mechanism established pursuant to paragraph 10 of that resolution and to provide interim reports to the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development, in each case covering:

(a) The activities of the Office relating to the implementation of the right to development as contained in the High Commissioner's mandate;

(b) The implementation of resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly with regard to the right to development;

(c) Inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system for the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Commission in that regard.

2. In its resolution 2004/7, the Commission requested the High Commissioner, in mainstreaming the right to development, to undertake effectively activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development between Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions, and to reflect these activities in detail in her report to the Commission at its sixty-first session. The present report is submitted in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions. This report is also being submitted to the Working Group on the Right to Development at its sixth session. It covers activities carried out since the last report (E/CN.4/2004/22).

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AS CONTAINED IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MANDATE

3. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to provide administrative and substantive support to the dual mechanism, namely the open-ended Working Group and the independent expert on the right to development, established under Commission resolution 1998/72. It may be recalled that the Working Group is mandated to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration on the Right to Development. The mandate of the independent expert, which was discontinued at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, was to present to the Working Group at each of its sessions a study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development as a basis for a focused discussion. The Commission had requested the independent expert to submit studies on specific themes. In addition, OHCHR has been asked to support specific activities mandated by resolutions of the Commission. The following section summarizes briefly the major activities that were undertaken in implementing the mandates on the right to development.

High-level seminar on the right to development

4. In pursuance of Commission resolution 2003/83, OHCHR organized the high-level seminar on the right to development entitled “Global partnership for development”, on 9 and 10 February 2004. The objective of the seminar was to review and identify effective strategies for mainstreaming the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the major international organizations/institutions and as a contribution to the mandate of the Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development. It provided an opportunity to elaborate and inject expertise into the discussions on issues that had been identified and discussed in the Working Group as being relevant to implementing the right to development. More specifically, it sought to review and identify effective strategies for building development partnerships for realizing the right to development. The seminar addressed the following themes: (a) the contribution of United Nations agencies and programmes to the right to development; (b) country experience in operationalizing the right to development; (c) partnership for development; (d) international trade and development; and (e) national perspectives on the right to development, through an interactive discussion between a panel of invited experts in the fields of human rights, trade and development; representatives of United Nations agencies and programmes and international financial, trade and development organizations; the independent expert on the right to development; the expert of the Sub-Commission working on the right to development; and delegations of Member States and NGOs. The Office prepared an information note (HR/GVA/SEM/RTD/2004/2), in which questions were identified with a view to focusing the discussions at the seminar.

5. There was recognition at the seminar of a growing awareness on the part of and the concrete attempts being made by the United Nations system and the international financial and development institutions to integrate all human rights, including the right to development, in their activities to implement their mandated tasks. The seminar highlighted the need for a structured and multidisciplinary dialogue, on a continuing basis, between Member States, United Nations agencies and the financial and development institutions to find ways to further the implementation of the right to development. It also recognized that the present global context required a well-coordinated approach to development cooperation ensuring improved coordination, stronger partnerships, results-based approaches and greater coherence, at the national and the international level, in implementing strategies for the realization of the right to development. The report on the high-level seminar on the right to development is contained in document E/CN.4/2004/23/Add.1.

Fifth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

6. OHCHR organized the fifth session of the Working Group from 11 to 20 February 2004. In the course of the preparation for the session and the high-level seminar that preceded the session, the Office organized informal consultations with Member States, and prepared and submitted the relevant background and pre-session documentation, including the annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development (E/CN.4/2004/22). The session consolidated the outcomes of the high-level seminar and arrived, by consensus, at a set of conclusions and recommendations, including the

recommendation to set up the high-level task force, to guide the future work of the Working Group. The report of the Working Group on its fifth session is contained in document E/CN.4/2004/23 and Corr.1.

Independent expert on the right to development

7. OHCHR continued to provide research assistance to the independent expert on the right to development until the end of his mandate at the sixtieth session of the Commission. The outcomes of the research contributed to two reports submitted by the independent expert to the fifth session of the Working Group. The first report, entitled “Implementing the right to development in the current global context” (E/CN.4/2004/WG.18/2), assessed the impact of international economic and financial development on the enjoyment of human rights and also reflected the issue of technology transfers on the implementation of the right to development. The second report, entitled “Country studies on the right to development - Argentina, Brazil, and Chile” (E/CN.4/2004/WG.18/3), attempted to identify elements of a development framework and strategy that facilitated the realization of the right to development, based on the recent development experience of those countries.

8. During the period under review OHCHR facilitated, in collaboration with a non-governmental organization (NGO), a parallel event during the sixtieth session of the Commission involving, among others, the independent expert and the Chairperson of the Working Group.

Mandate of the Sub-Commission on the right to development

9. In pursuance of Commission resolution 2003/83, OHCHR assisted the Sub-Commission by commissioning five studies to support the preparation of a concept document establishing options for the implementation of the right to development and their feasibility, inter alia, an international legal standard of a binding nature, guidelines on the implementation of the right to development and principles for development partnership, based on the Declaration on the Right to Development, including issues which any such instrument might address. The studies were: “The right to development: study on existing bilateral and multilateral programmes and policies for development partnership” (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/15); “The legal nature of the right to development and enhancement of its binding status” (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/16); “Mainstreaming the right to development into international trade law and policy at the World Trade Organization” (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/17); “Policies for development in a globalizing world: What can the human rights approach contribute?” (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/18); and “Towards a human rights approach to development: concepts and implications” (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/19). The outcome of these studies were shared with the Sub-Commission expert entrusted with the task of preparing the concept paper and transmitted to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

10. The Office also facilitated the consultations and participation of the Sub-Commission expert at the high-level seminar on the right to development. OHCHR continues to support the work of this expert in implementing the mandate of the Commission. In this context, on behalf of the expert the Office has requested Member States to share their views on the mandate and the independent studies commissioned by the Secretariat.

Constitution of the high-level task force

11. An important ongoing task of the Office relates to the support extended to the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development. Pursuant to resolution 2004/7 requesting OHCHR to support the high-level task force, the Office facilitated the consultation process of the Chairperson of the Working Group with Member States and other experts in constituting the task force. Further, at the initiative of the Chairperson, it assisted in the preparation of a concept note on the possible approach and the issues before the task force in implementing its mandate. The Secretariat also commissioned two studies on the issues of: (a) obstacles and challenges to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in relation to the right to development; and (b) a social impact assessment in the areas of trade and development at the national and international levels, with a view to preparing the background information for the meeting of the task force.

12. In supporting the work of the task force the Office contacted research institutions, civil society organizations and Member States to seek inputs on their experiences in implementing the right to development in general and on the issues assigned to the task force in particular, for presentation at the meeting of the task force.

13. OHCHR submitted a report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the right to development (A/59/255) containing information supplementing the High Commissioner's report to the Commission (E/CN.4/2004/22). It also facilitated the address of the Chair of the Working Group to the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and his informal consultations with Member States in Geneva on the task force meeting.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH REGARD TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

14. The following activities are grouped according to right to development issues identified in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights¹ on the right to development and the conclusions contained in the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its third session (E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1). Those right to development issues on which the Office is working jointly with other United Nations bodies are included in section III of this report.

Human rights and poverty reduction

15. In the debate on the right to development, the state of poverty has been identified as a situation characterized by lack of progress in the realization of some human rights and vulnerabilities to human rights violations. The Working Group on the Right to Development sees reduction of poverty as one of the critical steps in the promotion and realization of the right

¹ See, for example, General Assembly resolutions 56/150 and 57/223 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2002/69 and 2003/83.

to development. The policies to protect the vulnerable and the marginalized groups against poverty and promote their inclusion in the development process are important starting points for the implementation of the right to development and critical for the realization of all human rights. In this context, the work of the Office in articulating a human rights approach to poverty reduction and its effort to prepare an operational tool in the form of guidelines on a human rights approach to poverty reduction strategies constitutes a concrete step in furthering the implementation of the right to development.

16. In April 2004, OHCHR issued a publication entitled *Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: A Conceptual Framework* (HR/PUB/04/1), which analysed and articulated the linkages between human rights and poverty reduction. An official presentation and a discussion on this publication took place in Geneva on 21 July 2004. Prior to this, in March 2004, a summary of the Draft Guidelines: A Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies (in English), funded by the Government of Switzerland, was made available on the OHCHR web site. Both the documents have been well received and have been generally commended for the conceptual advance that they constitute in clarifying the linkages between poverty and human rights.

17. On the basis of Commission resolution 2004/23, which called upon OHCHR to give high priority to the question of the relationship between extreme poverty and human rights and invited it to pursue further work in this area, notably with regard to the Draft Guidelines on the integration of human rights into poverty reduction strategies, the Office solicited comments in August 2004 from Member States, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, development and financial institutions and major donor agencies with a view to revising the Draft Guidelines. A one-day consultation was held on 19 November with the said partners and some of the potential users of the guidelines. It is foreseen that the guidelines will be finalized in 2005 and that, upon completion, they will be widely disseminated.

18. Human trafficking is an important issue that has its roots in poverty, insecurity of food and livelihoods development inequalities and migration. The OHCHR anti-trafficking programme follows a two-pronged strategy focusing on victim protection and assistance, on the one hand, and prevention, on the other. In the past year, key standards have been set. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the "Palermo Protocol" on trafficking have entered into force. The Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session established a new mandate, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. OHCHR has been collaborating, through its coordination of the Intergovernmental (IGO) Contact Group on trafficking and human smuggling, with IGO members to engage in effective human rights-based advocacy on trafficking within the United Nations system, as well as with civil society organizations. The Office facilitated three major panel discussions on trafficking and related issues in 2004. It has also undertaken the production of multilevel advocacy tools and manuals based on the "Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking" (E/2002/68/Add.1) with the objective of building rights-based capacity of anti-trafficking practitioners at the international, regional and national levels. At the programmatic level, OHCHR is collaborating with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Children's Fund on activities and research on human trafficking in South-East Europe, the Caucasus and Asia, and partnered on the United Nations Joint Initiative on Trafficking in Nepal.

The Millennium Development Goals

19. In 2005 the international community will review implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government made a number of commitments to address global challenges in the twenty-first century. Human rights play a pre-eminent role in the Declaration, as the world leaders unequivocally committed to “spare no effort to promote ... respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development”. The Millennium Development Goals are a set of specific commitments aimed at overcoming the key development challenges identified in the Millennium Declaration. The Goals and human rights have a reciprocal relationship. The former can provide relevant benchmarks to assess the realization of economic and social human rights. At the same time, the international human rights framework is essential for achieving the Goals, as it increases the understanding of the policies and institutions required to achieve them, strengthens the national and international accountability framework necessary for making progress towards their achievement, and empowers individuals to claim their rights and take part in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

20. In 2004 OHCHR has continued to work towards elaborating the linkages between human rights and the Millennium Development Goals. The High Commissioner’s Special Adviser on the Goals represented the Office on the Millennium Project Task Force 1, and produced a report entitled “A Human Rights Perspective on The Millennium Development Goals”. This report is expected to contribute to the finalization of the Millennium Strategy that this group will present to the Secretary-General. Together with the Millennium Campaign, the Office held briefings on the linkages between the Goals and human rights within the context of the annual meetings of special procedures mandate-holders and of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies. A joint brochure is being prepared with the Millennium Campaign highlighting the relevance of human rights to strategies for achieving the Goals. The Office is also participating actively in preparations for the 2005 high-level review of the Millennium Declaration, including input to the Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly, and preparations for the Summit itself. Finally, the Office is continuing work on a detailed publication aimed at clarifying the linkages and relationship between human rights and each of the Goals.

Globalization and international economic and financial issues

21. As mentioned earlier, the Office assisted the independent expert on the right to development in the preparation of his report on the implementation of the right to development in the current global context. The report concluded that though the current global developments had improved the overall prospects of realizing the right to development, in reality the enjoyment of the right had not necessarily improved either uniformly across countries, or within countries or across regions and population segments. It pointed out that there was a need to regulate and guide the market to make the production and distribution of goods and services correspond to outcomes consistent with the realization of the right to development. The report recognized that the primary responsibility for translating the potentialities into actual outcomes rested with the State. However, the independent expert identified a definite and significant role for international development cooperation and a responsibility on the part of the international community to create a global environment conducive for development in this process.

22. The Office continues to work together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the preparation of reports to the Commission on Human Rights on questions related to globalization. During the period covered in this report, the Office has undertaken consultations with these organizations in preparation for the submission of the “analytical study of the High Commissioner on the fundamental principle of participation in the context of globalization”, as mandated by Commission resolution 2004/24. This report will be submitted to the present session of the Commission (E/CN.4/2005/41). OHCHR has also assisted UNCTAD in its work on the conceptual development of the links between human rights and economic processes in the area of trade and gender. More specifically, the Office contributed a chapter entitled “Human rights, gender and trade: a legal framework” and other inputs to a book, *Trade and Gender: Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries*, published by UNCTAD, as the lead agency in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Trade and Gender, in June 2004. The book, amongst other matters, considers the promotion of gender equality as a human right in the context of WTO law.

The role and the human rights of women

23. In the period under review, OHCHR has worked closely with other United Nations bodies and agencies in emphasizing the centrality of the human rights of women. The Office participated in and contributed to the activities of the Task Force on Gender and the Millennium Development Goals established by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. In October 2003, the Task Force organized an online discussion in the lead-up to a major workshop on gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals that was held on 19 and 20 November 2003 jointly with the Working Party on Gender of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization on Economic Coordination for Development and hosted by the World Bank. The workshop, inter alia, concluded that there was a need to pay additional attention to the human rights of women and to the elimination of violence against women in the efforts to achieve the MDGs.

24. OHCHR has been supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Mr. Miloon Kothari, under the Commission’s resolution on women’s equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing (2003/22). Regional consultations and training workshops for civil society organizations were held on women and housing in India in October 2003, in Mexico in December 2003 and in Egypt in July 2004. In addition, the Office worked on women’s rights and development issues at country level, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and Colombia. During 2004, OHCHR has worked particularly closely with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to build capacity on gender and women’s rights issues within the United Nations country teams.

Democracy, good governance and the rule of law

25. Since 2000, the Commission on Human Rights has adopted an annual resolution on the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights. In pursuance of Commission resolutions 2003/65 and 2004/70, OHCHR convened a joint seminar with the United Nations Development Programme on national good governance practices for the promotion of human

rights in Seoul, on 15 and 16 September 2004. The objective of the seminar was to demonstrate and contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between national good governance practices and the promotion of human rights, leading to the identification of patterns and characteristics of good governance practices that promote human rights. Participants included representatives of States, national human rights institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and invited experts and panellists. The meeting concluded that there was a mutually reinforcing relationship between good governance and human rights and though there was no comprehensive definition of the notion of good governance, some common elements could be identified, including participation, accountability, transparency, (State) responsibility and accessibility, in particular to marginalized groups. There was an agreement on the need for greater awareness of good governance and its relationship with human rights, particularly from the perspective of political will and public participation. The report of the seminar (E/CN.4/2005/97) will be submitted to the Commission at its present session. OHCHR will publish a compilation of good governance practices based on the outcomes of this seminar.

26. An increasingly important part of fieldwork undertaken by OHCHR in the area of rule of law and democracy is assisting in the design of the human rights components of United Nations peace operations and providing advice once they are formed. This has entailed meeting the demands of peacekeeping operations and field presences for assistance in producing tools and providing advice in the area of transitional justice including provision of advice on draft constitutions and legislation in transitional justice-related areas such as truth commissions, hybrid courts and strategies for justice in post-conflict States. These efforts are aimed at restoring the rule of law and ensuring that democratic processes and institutions are incorporated in United Nations peace efforts. OHCHR also pursued the use of the Office manual on the training of judges and lawyers by the United Nations system, and judicial and legal institutions. It organized a human rights seminar for judges in Qatar in May 2004 and a high-level workshop on the rule of law tools for post-conflict States in September 2004. It also helped in the creation of seven draft rule of law policy tools for post-conflict States. The Office also brought out the publication *Human Rights in the Administration of Justice: A Manual on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers* in 2004 and convened the third consultative meeting with a view to finalizing the “Basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law”. In pursuance of Commission resolution 2003/36, OHCHR is organizing a second expert seminar to examine further the interdependence between democracy and human rights, on the theme “Democracy and the rule of law”.

New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

27. OHCHR activity in support of NEPAD is situated within the framework of General Assembly resolution 57/7 in which the Assembly urged “the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership”. OHCHR is also active under the United Nations cluster framework as defined by the Secretary-General under the coordination of the Economic Commission for Africa. It is cognizant of the importance NEPAD places on the promotion and protection of human rights, as reflected in its Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance,

which, inter alia, calls for strengthened cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Office continued to be in close contact with the NEPAD secretariat and contributed to the reports of the Secretary-General and other reports coordinated by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA).

III. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN REGARD TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

28. In paragraph 24 of the Millennium Declaration, Member States committed to spare no efforts to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights, including the right to development. Towards this end, they resolved to strengthen their capacity at the country level to implement the principles and practices of human rights. In his report entitled “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change” (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General placed particular emphasis on the country-level programmes and activities of the United Nations system by requesting the High Commissioner to “develop and implement a plan, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Group [UNDG] and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs [ECHA], to strengthen human rights-related United Nations actions at the country level” (action 2).

29. The inter-agency plan of action, developed pursuant to the request of the Secretary-General in the above-mentioned report and endorsed by UNDG, ECHA and OHCHR in September 2003, places its focus on building the capacity of United Nations country teams with the ultimate goal of assisting interested Member States in establishing and strengthening national human rights promotion and protection systems consistent with international human rights norms and principles.

30. The integration of human rights, including the right to development, in the plans and programmes of United Nations development and humanitarian agencies and country teams is a key prerequisite for the successful implementation of the plan and for United Nations system wide efforts towards implementation of the right to development. The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council (E/2004/89) provides a review of progress achieved in integrating human rights as an essential part of the work of United Nations bodies and programmes.

Cooperation with UNDG

31. The Office continued to collaborate closely with UNDG to enhance linkages and promote the integration of human rights into development programming, particularly in the context of the unified United Nations analytical and programmatic framework, the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

32. OHCHR took an active part in two more rounds of revisions of the CCA/UNDAF guidelines. To facilitate the integration of human rights in United Nations plans, programmes and activities at country level, OHCHR has been providing support to United Nations country teams, including country training workshops on human rights integration; provision of

user-friendly information on recommendations of the United Nations human rights system; and conducting a review of 2003 CCAs and UNDAFs to analyse progress in this area. In this context, it is offering two-day training workshops to all interested country teams that are on roll-out for CCA/UNDAF for the year. During 2004, OHCHR has directly facilitated 10 national-level training workshops. The Office has also facilitated sessions in four regional workshops organized by UNDG to launch the process for all roll-out country teams. In order to support all these activities the Office has been organizing training workshops for its own staff at headquarters and in the field, with the support of the United Nations System Staff College. Two such workshops took place in June 2004 following the three that had been organized in 2003.

Cooperation with UNDP

33. OHCHR has continued to implement the joint UNDP/OHCHR HURIST (Human Rights Strengthening) programme. HURIST is active in some 30 countries in all regions of the world, focusing on piloting a human rights-based approach to the activities of UNDP. Current activities explore capacity development for a human rights-based approach in poverty reduction, democratic decentralization, the environment, access to justice and parliamentary development.

34. In 2004 HURIST supported seven human rights-based reviews of UNDP country programmes. It also focused on building capacities in UNDP Regional Resource Centres (formerly called Sub-Regional Resource Facilities, or SURFs) to help implement HURIST pilot programming initiatives and provide follow-up support to country offices. The programme concludes its current phase in December 2005. An independent evaluation of HURIST is planned for mid-2005, along with a lessons-learned workshop concerning human rights-based country programme reviews. A separate independent evaluation will be undertaken in respect of six HURIST-support national human rights action plans.

Cooperation with FAO

35. In November 2004, the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) endorsed the approval of a set of Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The guidelines were negotiated and agreed in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) established by the FAO Council in response to the invitation by the World Food Summit: five years later (2001).

36. The adopted text is the result of two years of intense work and negotiations among Member States, with the participation of stakeholders. As mandated by the FAO Council, OHCHR and human rights organs have actively participated in the process. In addition to providing substantive inputs during the IGWG discussions, OHCHR organized two technical consultations to provide expert advice to the intergovernmental process. The Office also cooperated closely with FAO in servicing IGWG and in ensuring the participation and contribution of human rights bodies in its work. It undertook a series of activities in support of this collaboration, including preparation of information papers on several aspects of the right to food, country case studies, and technical seminars.

Cooperation with UN-Habitat

37. OHCHR and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continue to cooperate under the joint United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP). In June 2004, a Regional Dialogue on Housing Rights was organized in Bangkok, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The participants included United Nations agencies and programmes, and non-governmental organizations from the region. The Dialogue focused on creating synergy in the implementation of housing rights. Issues discussed included: actions by Governments and civil society; innovative practices in housing rights; equal access to housing resources; access to legal and other remedies; combating homelessness; and security of tenure and forced evictions. Within the framework of UNHRP a study, "Indigenous peoples' right to adequate housing: a global overview", has been prepared. The report provides a global overview of the housing and related living conditions of indigenous peoples and an assessment of the extent to which indigenous peoples' housing rights are recognized and implemented, based on a number of specific case studies.

38. The first two-year cycle of UNHRP ended in May 2004. For the future continuation of UNHRP, a joint UN-Habitat/OHCHR assessment has recommended an adjustment of priorities in view of recent developments in the area of women's rights, the Commission's request to develop a good practices database, the Secretary-General's reform plan to focus on supporting national protection systems, and activities related to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration Goals.

Cooperation with UNAIDS

39. OHCHR continues to work closely with UNAIDS. In 2004 OHCHR undertook joint activities under its letter of agreement with UNAIDS. Current activities include a handbook for national institutions on HIV/AIDS and human rights, an expert meeting held in Bangkok in March 2004 on HIV/AIDS and human rights in the Asian-Pacific region (which resulted in a number of recommendations), and disseminating the interactive cartoon booklet, *HIV/AIDS Stand Up for Human Rights*, launched by OHCHR, UNAIDS and WHO on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2003. The two organizations have cooperated in providing briefings to the human rights treaty bodies. OHCHR also participates in the deliberations of the Reference Group of Human Rights and HIV/AIDS, an independent advisory body to the Executive Director of UNAIDS.

Cooperation with UNESCO

40. OHCHR continued to cooperate closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the areas of human rights research and education; the area of economic, social and cultural rights (research, analysis and training); capacity-building at the national level; and the human rights approach to problems related to issues of cultural diversity and bioethics. The Office collaborated closely with UNICEF on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, which will come to an end this year. Both partners have also worked together on the draft plan of action (A/59/525) for the first three years of the World Programme for Human Rights Education to start on 1 January 2005, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 113. The Office cooperated with UNESCO in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society and the protection

of human rights in selected areas, in particular the human rights of journalists (freedom of the media), of teachers and researchers (right to education and freedom of research), and human rights defenders. In 2003 OHCHR and UNESCO signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of strengthening cooperation with each other, consulting each other regularly on matters of common interest and cooperating in planning and implementing their activities. In 2004, OHCHR contributed to the activities of the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics.

Cooperation with UNICEF

41. OHCHR continues to closely cooperate with UNICEF in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF has pursued its mandate, through a combination of a human rights-based approach to its programmes of cooperation with Governments and results-based planning and management. In 2004, OHCHR and UNICEF cooperated to organize the meeting of the United Nations Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance in Juvenile Justice that was held from 22 to 24 March in Rabat, Morocco. The Office worked closely with UNICEF in organizing, on 18 September 2004, the annual day of general discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on "Implementing child rights in early childhood". A joint publication compiling all the recommendations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child for all States parties of the Latin American and Caribbean region between 1993 and 2004 was produced. UNICEF also actively supported the organization by OHCHR of a subregional workshop held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2004 on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, in the course of 2004, OHCHR and UNICEF (along with WHO) continued to provide support to the United Nations study on violence against children.

Cooperation with WHO

42. During 2004, OHCHR continued to collaborate with WHO in various ways. As indicated earlier, OHCHR and WHO, together with UNAIDS, jointly published a cartoon booklet in order to help combat the myths and taboos associated with AIDS and to empower young people to promote related human rights. The Office is collaborating with WHO in a project to identify indicators for monitoring the right to health, including participation by OHCHR in workshops and informal consultations organized by WHO. OHCHR is also working closely with WHO through the support extended by the Office to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Ongoing activities of the Special Rapporteur include a project with the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases to develop a human rights analysis of neglected diseases, as well as collaboration on a project to address poverty reduction strategies and the right to health, for publication by WHO.
