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Annotations to the agenda for the resumed sixth session, 10-14 December 2007*

Note by the Secretary-General

* For the annotations related to the first part of the sixth session see document A/HRC/6/1/Add.1.

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Item 1 - Organizational and procedural matters

Date and venue of the session

1. On 22 June 2007, at its first organizational meeting, the Council decided that its sixth session would be held from 10 to 28 September 2007 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. Subsequently, the Council will hold its resumed sixth session from 10 to 14 December 2007.
2. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, as contained in part VII of the annex of resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the organizational meeting for the sixth session was held on 24 August 2007 and the organizational meeting for the resumed sixth session on 26 November 2007.

Agenda of the session

3. The agenda, as contained in part V of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, is reproduced in document A/HRC/6/1. The Council will have before it the present annotations for the resumed sixth session relating to items included in the agenda. The annotations to the agenda for the first part of the sixth session are contained in document A/HRC/6/1/Add.1.

Composition of the Human Rights Council

4. The composition of the Council at its sixth session is as follows:¹ Angola (2010); Azerbaijan (2009); Bangladesh (2009); Bolivia (2010); Bosnia and Herzegovina (2010); Brazil (2008); Cameroon (2009); Canada (2009); China (2009); Cuba (2009); Djibouti (2009); Egypt (2010); France (2008); Gabon (2008); Germany (2009); Ghana (2008); Guatemala (2008); India (2010); Indonesia (2010); Italy (2010); Japan (2008); Jordan (2009); Madagascar (2010); Malaysia (2009); Mali (2008); Mauritius (2009); Mexico (2009); Netherlands (2010); Nicaragua (2010); Nigeria (2009); Pakistan (2008); Peru (2008); Philippines (2010); Qatar (2010); Republic of Korea (2008); Romania (2008); Russian Federation (2009); Saudi Arabia (2009); Senegal (2009); Slovenia (2010); South Africa (2010); Sri Lanka (2008); Switzerland (2009); Ukraine (2008); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2008); Uruguay (2009); Zambia (2008).

Bureau of the Human Rights Council

5. Rule 8 (a) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council as contained in part VII of the annex of Council resolution 5/1, provides that “at the beginning of each Council-year the Council shall hold an organizational meeting to elect its Bureau”.
6. On 19 June 2007, at its first organizational meeting held from 19 to 22 June, the Council elected its President and Vice-Presidents, who, in accordance with rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the Council, shall constitute the Bureau.

¹ The term of membership of each State expires in the year indicated in parenthesis.

7. The composition of the Bureau of the Council is as follows: President of the Council: Mr. Doru Costea (Romania); Vice-Presidents: Mr. Mohamed Siad Doualeh (Djibouti), Mr. Boudewijn Van Eenennaam (the Netherlands), and Mr. Dayan Jayatilaka (Sri Lanka); Vice-President and Rapporteur: Mr. Alejandro Artucio (Uruguay).

Annual programme of work

8. The annual programme of work for the second year of the Council will be considered at its resumed sixth session.

Programme of work for the session, including other business

9. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee “shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item” (A/520/Rev.16). Accordingly, the Council will have before it for approval a draft programme of work for the session, showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment.

10. In its decision 4/105 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to take note of the deferral of the draft resolutions and decisions contained in documents A/HRC/2/L.33/Rev.1, A/HRC/2/L.37, A/HRC/2/L.38/Rev.1, A/HRC/2/L.42/Rev.1, and A/HRC/2/L.43 to one of its coming sessions.

11. At its organizational meeting, on 20 June 2007, the Council, by its decision OM/1/101, decided to postpone action on the draft resolutions and decisions contained in documents A/HRC/4/L.3, A/HRC/2/L.19, and A/HRC/2/L.30, deferred from previous sessions pursuant to Council decision 4/105, to its September session. On 28 September 2007, the Council adopted resolutions 6/19 which supersedes A/HRC/4/L.3, and 6/24, which supersedes A/HRC/2/L.30. The Council decided, at the request of the main sponsors, to defer action on another draft resolution (A/HRC/2/L.19) to the resumed sixth session.

Review, rationalization and improvement of mandates

12. Paragraph 55 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides that the review, rationalization and improvement of each mandate would take place in the context of the negotiations of the relevant resolutions, and that an assessment of the mandate may take place in a separate segment of the interactive dialogues between the Council and the special procedures mandate-holders.

13. On 27 September 2007, the Council decided to consider the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates under agenda item 1. During its resumed sixth session, the Council will continue the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates as commenced during the first part of the sixth session. The following mandates are scheduled to be reviewed during the resumed session: Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Representative of the

Secretary-General on internally displaced persons; Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan; and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism.

Selection and appointment of mandate-holders

14. In accordance with paragraph 62 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1, current mandate-holders may continue serving, provided they have not exceeded the 6-year term limit. On an exceptional basis, the terms of those mandate-holders who have served more than six years may be extended until the relevant mandate is considered by the Council and the selection and appointment process is concluded. Mandates included in appendix I of Council resolution 5/1, where applicable, will be renewed until the date on which they are considered by the Council according to its programme of work.

15. Paragraph 47 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides for the establishment of a consultative group to propose to the President, at least one month before the beginning of the session in which the Council would consider the selection of mandate-holders, a list of candidates who possess the highest qualifications for the mandates in question and meet the general criteria and particular requirements. At the beginning of the annual cycle of the Council, regional groups would be invited to appoint a member of the consultative group, who would serve in a personal capacity. The Group will be assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (paragraph 49 of Council resolution 5/1).

16. Paragraph 41 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides that technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates for mandate-holders will be approved by the Council at its sixth session, in order to ensure that eligible candidates are highly qualified individuals who possess established competence, relevant expertise and extensive professional experience in the field of human rights. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102, which contains the above-mentioned technical and objective requirements.

Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

17. Paragraph 70 of the annex of Council resolution 5/1 provides that the Council shall elect the members of the Advisory Committee, in secret ballot, from the list of candidates whose names have been presented in accordance with the agreed requirements (see also paragraph 18 below). The members of the Advisory Committee will be elected at the seventh session.

18. Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the annex of its resolution 5/1, the Council decided to establish and approve technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures for members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee at its sixth session, with the aim of ensuring that the best possible expertise is made available to the Council. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102, which contains the above-mentioned technical and objective requirements.

Report of the session

19. At the end of its session, the Council will have before it for adoption a draft report prepared by the Rapporteur. The report will include resolutions and decisions made by the Council and President's statements, as well as a technical summary of the proceedings held during the sixth session.

Item 2 - Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General

(a) Presentation of the annual report and updates²

Reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Human rights and extreme poverty

20. In its resolution 2/2 of 27 November 2006, the Human Rights Council took note of the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights: the rights of the poor, annexed to Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights resolution 2006/9 of 24 August 2006. In the same resolution, the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate the draft guiding principles, in order to obtain the views of States, relevant United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations treaty bodies, special procedures, including the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, especially those in which people in situations of extreme poverty express their views, and other relevant stakeholders, and to report to the Council at its seventh session.

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights

21. In its resolution 2/5 of 28 November 2006, the Council encouraged the High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake a study on various options for reforming the treaty body system, and to seek the views of States and other stakeholders in this regard and to report thereon to the Council. This will be reported on at a later session.

Human rights and access to water

22. In its decision 2/104 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking into account the views of States and other stakeholders, to conduct, within existing resources, a detailed study on the scope and content of

² While all reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR or the Secretary-General are listed under agenda item 2, the Council may wish to consider them under another agenda item.

the relevant human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments, which includes relevant conclusions and recommendations thereon, to be submitted prior to the sixth session of the Council. At the first part of the sixth session, the Council considered the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/6/3). In its resolution 6/8 of 28 September 2007, the Council called upon all States to give due attention to the report of the High Commissioner and decided to consider the issue at its seventh session.

Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan

23. In its decision 2/113 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue, in cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, to monitor the human rights situation in Afghanistan, provide and expand advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights and the rule of law, and report regularly to the Council on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, paying special attention to the rights of women, and on the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights. This will be reported on at a later session.

Combating defamation of religions

24. In its resolution 4/9 of 30 March 2007, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution at its sixth session. The Council considered the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/6/4) during the first part of its sixth session.

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

25. In its decision 4/104 of 30 March 2007, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means to enhance the international cooperation and dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Council, as recognized in the ninth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 60/251. It also requested the High Commissioner to present a report on the basis of her findings to the Council before the end of 2007. Given the limited duration of the resumed sixth session in December, the report will be considered at a future session of the Council.

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

26. In its resolution 6/9 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Council, prior to its seventh session, a joint progress report, from within the regular budget of the United Nations, on public information activities in the field of human rights, including activities being undertaken throughout the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by the United Nations system, internationally and at the national level, and, particularly, by the field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Reports of the Secretary-General

Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

27. In its decision 2/107 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to solicit comments from Governments, United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies and international and non-governmental organizations on the steps they had taken to improve access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and to submit a report thereon to the Council at any session after its fourth session. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, when submitting his report to the Council at any session after its fourth session, a study on the exploration of new and innovative financing mechanisms, bearing in mind the existing ones, which can help improve access to medication that fight those pandemics, from the perspective of human rights. It also requested the Secretary-General to include an assessment of the impacts of intellectual property rights on access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria from the perspective of human rights, taking into consideration the discussions carried out in the WHO Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, Essential Health Research and Intellectual Property Rights and in consultations with Governments, United Nations organs, programmes, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The report of the Secretary-General will be considered at a future session.

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

28. In its resolution 4/1 of 23 March 2007, the Council took note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights (A/HRC/4/62) submitted pursuant to Council decision 2/102 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/22. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on the implementation of that resolution and decided to remain seized of the issue and to consider taking further action in order to implement the resolution. That report will be considered at a future session.

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

29. In its resolution 6/9 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a joint progress report on public information activities in the field of human rights prior to the seventh session of the Council (see paragraph 26 above).

Prevention of genocide

30. In its decision 6/104 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to make available to the Council at its seventh session an updated report on the implementation of the Five-Point Action Plan and the activities of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. The Council also invited the Special Adviser to address the Council at the same session on the progress made in discharging his duties.

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

31. During the first part of its sixth session, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/HRC/6/2). In its resolution 6/7 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Member States and to seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations, and to submit a report thereon to the Council as appropriate, in accordance with its annual programme of work.

Item 3 - Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

(a) Economic, social and cultural rights

Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

32. In its resolution 1/3 of 29 June 2006, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a period of two years and requested the Chairperson of the Working Group to prepare a first draft optional protocol. The Council also requested the Working Group to meet for 10 working days each year and to report to the Council. The fourth session of the Working Group was held from 16 to 27 July 2007. The Council will have before it the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/6/8) at its resumed sixth session.

Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

33. In its decision 2/108 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, within his existing mandate, when presenting his report to the Council at any session after its fourth session, to include the possibility of identifying and exploring, bearing in mind the level of development of countries and from the perspective of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the key features of an effective, integrated and accessible health system. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be considered by the Council at one of its future sessions.

Rectification of the legal status of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

34. In its resolution 4/7 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to initiate a process to rectify, in accordance with international law, the legal status of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, with the aim of placing the Committee on a par with all other treaty monitoring bodies. The Council requested the Committee, in this context, to present a report outlining views, proposals and recommendations on this issue to its last session in 2007. The Council also requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to seek the views of States and those of all stakeholders on this issue, and to prepare a report containing these views, as well as an input from the Office of Legal Affairs in this regard, for submission to the last session of

the Council in 2007. The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/HRC/6/20) and that of the Office of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/6/21).

35. In the same resolution, the Council decided to convene at its last session in 2007 an interactive dialogue highlighting the importance of the principles of universality and indivisibility and the primacy of all human rights, with a view to deciding on the future direction of this process.

36. The Council will hold the interactive dialogue and consider the two above-mentioned reports at its resumed sixth session.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

37. In its resolution 6/2 of 27 September 2007, the Council invited the Special Rapporteur ending the fulfilment of his mandate to submit to the Council in 2008 a comprehensive final report on his findings, conclusions and recommendations, after more than six years as mandate-holder on the right to food. The Council requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of its resolution 6/2 to the Council in 2008, in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur at its seventh session.

Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity

38. In its resolution 6/6 of 28 September 2007, the Council acknowledged that the process of review, rationalization and improvement of mandates represents momentum towards the establishment of an independent expert in the field of cultural rights, and to that end requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the content and scope of the mandate of the independent expert in the field of cultural rights, the basis of which would be the comprehensive implementation of resolution 6/6, and to report on the results of those consultations to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work.

(b) Civil and political rights

Arbitrary detention

39. In its resolution 6/4 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to present an annual report on its activities, findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Council. The Council will consider the report of the Working Group at one of its future sessions.

Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief

40. In its resolution 4/10 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to continue substantive consideration of this matter at its sixth session. It also requested the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to report on this issue to the Council at its sixth session. The Council considered the report of the Special Rapporteur, Asma Jahangir (A/HRC/6/5) during the first part of its sixth session.

(c) Rights of peoples, and specific groups and individuals

Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

41. In its resolution 6/12 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to submit a report on the implementation of his/her mandate to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, (A/HRC/6/15 and Add.1-3) at its resumed sixth session.

(d) Right to development

Working Group on the Right to Development

42. In its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to renew the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development for a period of two years, and that the Working Group should convene annual sessions of five working days and present its reports to the Council. The Council also decided to renew the mandate of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development for a period of two years, and that the task force would convene annual sessions of seven working days and present its reports to the Working Group. The ninth session of the Working Group is scheduled to be held in February 2008.

43. In the same resolution, the Council also decided to review the progress of the implementation of resolution 4/4 as a matter of priority in its future sessions.

(e) Interrelation of human rights and human rights thematic issues

Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

44. In accordance with its resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the Council at the resumed sixth session will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Martin Scheinin (A/HRC/6/17 and Add.1-4).

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

45. As announced by the President of the Council at the fifth session on 11 June 2007, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Sigma Huda, was unable to attend the fifth session. Her reports (A/HRC/4/23 and Corr.1, and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1) will be considered by the Council at a future session.

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

46. In its resolution 4/5 of 30 March 2007, the Council decided to consider this issue at its future session.

Human rights and international solidarity

47. In its resolution 6/3 of 27 September 2007, the Council decided to request the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity to continue his work in the preparation of a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity and to submit a report on the implementation of resolution 6/3 at its ninth session, unless otherwise decided by the Council.

Contemporary forms of slavery

48. In its resolution 6/14 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, to replace the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The Council requested the Special Rapporteur to submit annual reports on the activities of the mandate to the Council together with recommendations on measures that should be taken to combat and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices and to protect the human rights of victims of such practices.

Item 4 - Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Follow-up to Council resolution OM/1/1

49. In connection with the present item, the attention of the Council is drawn to the follow-up to Council resolution S-2/1 of 11 August 2006, adopted at its second special session in which the Council decided to establish and dispatch a Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon. In its resolution 3/3, the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult with the Government of Lebanon on the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon and to report thereon to the Council at its fourth session. Taking note with satisfaction of this factual report, the Council in its resolution OM/1/1, adopted at its first organizational meeting on 20 June 2007, requested the High Commissioner to extend support to the activities and programmes of the Government of Lebanon, in particular those consistent with her report (A/HRC/5/9).

Follow-up to Council resolution OM/1/3

50. In its decision S-4/101 adopted on 13 December 2006 by the Council at its fourth special session, the Council decided to dispatch a High-level Mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of the Sudan in this regard, comprising five highly qualified persons, to be appointed by the President of the Council following consultation with the members of the Council, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. In its resolution 4/8, the Council took note of the report of the High-level Mission on the situation of human rights in Darfur.

51. In its resolution 4/8 of 30 March 2007, the Council also decided to convene a group to be presided over by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, composed of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, the Representative of the

Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The Council requested the group to work with the Government of the Sudan and the appropriate human rights mechanisms of the African Union, and to closely consult with the Chairman of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, to ensure effective follow-up and to foster the implementation of resolutions and recommendations on Darfur, as adopted by the Council, the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations human rights institutions as well as to promote the implementation of relevant recommendations of other United Nations human rights mechanisms, taking into account the needs of the Sudan in this regard, to safeguard the consistency of these recommendations and to contribute to monitoring the human rights situation on the ground. The Council also requested the group to report to it at its fifth session.

52. In resolution OM/1/3 adopted on 20 June 2007, at its first organizational meeting, the Council welcomed the report of the group of experts and requested the group to continue its work for six months and to submit an update to its session in September 2007 and a final report to the following one. Further to the discussions on the update of the group of experts (A/HRC/6/7) held during the first part of its sixth session, the Council will have before it the final report of the group of experts (A/HRC/6/19) at its resumed sixth session.

Follow-up to Council resolution S-5/1

53. In its resolution S-5/1, adopted on 2 October 2007 by the Council at its fifth special session, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to assess the current human rights situation and to monitor the implementation of resolution S-5/1, including by seeking an urgent visit to Myanmar, and to report to the Council at its resumed sixth session. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (A/HRC/6/14), at its resumed sixth session.

Item 5 - Human rights bodies and mechanisms

(a) Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

54. By its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council, in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, established the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. In the same resolution, the Council declared that it would decide at its sixth session on the most appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Groups on Indigenous Populations; on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; on Minorities; and the Social Forum (annex, para. 84).

55. Pursuant to paragraph 67 of its resolution 5/1, the Council decided to establish and approve technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures for members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee at its sixth session, with the aim to ensure that the best possible expertise is made available to the Council. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102, which contains the above-mentioned technical and objective requirements.

United Nations declaration on human rights education and training

56. In its resolution 6/10 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training. The Council also requested the Advisory Committee to seek the views and inputs of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, on the possible elements of the content of the declaration and to take into account existing relevant instruments. The Council requested the Advisory Committee to present a progress report containing the elements of the draft declaration on human rights education and training to the Council at its 2009 main session.

(b) Complaint procedure

57. By its resolution 5/1, the Council established the complaint procedure as contained in part IV of the annex of that resolution. In accordance with paragraph 98 of the annex of this resolution, the Working Group on Situations is requested, on the basis of the information and recommendations provided by the Working Group on Communications, to present the Council with a report on consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to make recommendations to the Council on the course of action to be taken. The report of the Working Group on Situations will be considered by the Council at a future session.

58. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/101, by which, as a transitional measure, it requested the members of the former Working Group on Communications to act as members of the Working Group on Communications of the new Complaint Procedure operating within the parameters of the new procedure until such time as the new Working Group is established.

(c) Social Forum

59. In its resolution 6/13 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to preserve the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including grass-roots organizations. The Council also decided that the Social Forum should continue meeting every year for three days, and requested that the next meeting be held in 2008, in Geneva. The Council invited the 2008 Social Forum to submit to the Council a report including a proposal of possible themes for the 2009 Social Forum. The Council decided that it would continue consideration of this issue under the relevant agenda item when the report of the 2008 Social Forum was submitted to the Human Rights Council.

(d) Forum on minority issues

60. In its resolution 6/15 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to establish a forum on minority issues to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and which should provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the independent expert

on minority issues. The Council decided that the forum should meet annually for two working days allocated to thematic discussions. The Council also decided that the independent expert on minority issues should guide the work of the forum and prepare its annual meetings, and invited that person to include in his/her report thematic recommendations of the forum and recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the Council.

(e) Informal meeting to discuss the most appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations

61. In its resolution 6/16 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene an informal meeting in Geneva, for a day and a half, open to the participation of States, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders, preceding the resumed sixth session of the Council to exchange views on the most appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The informal meeting will be held on 6 and 7 December 2007.

Item 6 - Universal periodic review

62. By its resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the Council established the universal periodic review mechanism as contained in part I of the annex of that resolution. Paragraph 15 (a) of the annex of this resolution provides that general guidelines for the information prepared by the State concerned will be adopted by the Council at its sixth session. On 27 September 2007, the Council adopted decision 6/102 containing the above-mentioned general guidelines. The Council also established the timetable for the consideration of the 192 States Members of the United Nations under the universal periodic review mechanism during its first cycle.

Item 7 - Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

(a) Human rights violations and implications of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

63. In resolution S-1/1, adopted on 6 July 2006 at its first special session, the Council decided to dispatch an urgent fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. At its third special session, in its resolution S-3/1 of 15 November 2006, the Council decided to dispatch urgently a high-level fact-finding mission, to be appointed by the President of the Council, to travel to Beit Hanoun.

64. In its resolution OM/1/2, adopted at its first organizational meeting on 20 June 2007, the Council called for the implementation of resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1, including the dispatching of the urgent fact-finding mission. The Council also requested the President and the High Commissioner "to report to the Council at the next session to be held in September 2007, on their efforts for the implementation of Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 and on the compliance of Israel, the occupying Power, with these two resolutions".

65. The President and the High Commissioner reported to the Council at the first part of the sixth session.

66. In its resolution 6/18 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the President and the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its seventh session on their efforts for the implementation of Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 and on the compliance of Israel, the occupying Power, with those resolutions.

Religious and cultural rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

67. In its resolution 6/19 of 28 September 2007, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the religious and cultural rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to allow Palestinian worshippers unfettered access to their religious sites. The Council also requested the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its seventh session on the implementation of resolution 6/19.

(b) Right to self-determination of the Palestinian people

68. This heading is included pursuant to the framework for the programme of work as contained in part V of the annex of Council resolution 5/1.

Item 8 - Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

69. In its resolution 6/20 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene in 2008 a workshop for an exchange of views on good practices, added value and challenges for such regional arrangements, with the participation of representatives of the relevant regional and subregional arrangements from different regions, experts and all interested States Members of the United Nations, observers, national human rights institutions and representatives of non-governmental organizations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights. The Council also requested the Office of the High Commissioner to present to the Council a summary of the discussions of the workshop, at a moment in conformity with the programme of work of the Council.

World Programme for Human Rights Education

70. In its resolution 6/24 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council at its last 2008 session on progress made towards the implementation of resolution 6/24.

Regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region

71. In its resolution 6/25 of 28 September 2007, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit for the Council's consideration at its seventh session a report containing the conclusion of the Fourteenth Annual Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region and information on the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 6/25.

Item 9 - Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

72. In its decision 2/106 of 27 November 2006, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, within his mandate, when submitting his report to the Council at any session after its fourth session, to include the issue of political participation and representation of groups that are vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the decision-making process in national Governments, parties, parliaments and civil society in general, taking into consideration their possible contribution to reinforcing the anti-discrimination perspective in political and social life with a view to strengthening democracy. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be considered by the Council at a future session.

73. In its resolution 4/9 of 30 March 2007, the Council invited the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance to report on all manifestations of defamation of religions and in particular on the serious implications of Islamophobia on the enjoyment of all rights at its sixth session. The Council considered the report of the Special Rapporteur, Doudou Diène (A/HRC/6/6) during the first part of its sixth session.

Follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

74. In its resolution 1/5 of 30 June 2006, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action for a further period of three years. In its decision 3/103, the Council decided to recommend that the Working Group convene the second part of its fifth session in September 2007 and that this session mark the conclusion and closure of the Working Group's debates and deliberations on the question of complementary standards. The second part of the fifth session of the Working Group was held from 3 to 7 September 2007. The report of the fifth session of the Working Group (A/HRC/6/10) was presented by the Chairperson of the Working Group during the first part of the sixth session of the Council.

75. In its resolution 1/5, the Council also requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to select, in close consultations with the regional groups, five highly qualified experts to study the content and scope of the substantive gaps in the existing international instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In its decision 3/103, the Council welcomed the appointment by the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Five Experts on Complementary Standards and requested them to finalize their report before the end of June 2007. The following experts were appointed by the High Commissioner: Syafi'I Anwar, Jenny Goldschmidt, Tiyanjana Maluwa, Dimitrina Petrova and Waldo Luis Villalpando.

76. In its decision 3/103 of 8 December 2006, the Council decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards and recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee should convene annual sessions of 10 working days to draw up the requisite legal instruments and hold its first session before the end of 2007 subject to the Working Group having completed its task on complementary standards by that date, and to report regularly to the Council on progress in the actual progress of the elaboration of complementary standards. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee will be considered at a future session.

77. In its resolution 6/21 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to convene the inaugural session of the Ad Hoc Committee in the first quarter of 2008 to commence its mandate, and also decided to allocate no more than two days at the beginning of the inaugural session of the Ad Hoc Committee to reflect on all contributions and studies presented by various stakeholders and the relevant mechanisms necessary for the realization of its mandate.

Durban Review Conference

78. In its resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006, the Council decided that the Preparatory Committee should elect, at its organizational sessions, on the basis of equitable geographic representation, a bureau for the Preparatory Committee and that, at the same session, the Preparatory Committee should decide on all the relevant modalities for the Conference in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, including deciding on the objectives of the Review Conference, the level at which the Review Conference should be convened, regional preparatory activities, date and venue. The Council also decided that the review would concentrate on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including further actions, initiatives and practical solutions for combating all the contemporary scourges of racism. The Council decided to retain this priority issue on its programme of work. During the first part of the sixth session, an oral presentation was made by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference.

Item 10 - Technical assistance and capacity-building

Advisory services and technical assistance for Burundi

79. In its resolution 6/5 of 28 September 2007, the Council decided to extend by one year the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi. The Council also asked the independent expert to submit a final report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures applied in practice to the Council at its ninth session.

Situation of human rights in Haiti

80. In the President's statement on the situation of human rights in Haiti as agreed upon by consensus on 28 September 2007, the Council encouraged the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General to consider the human rights situation in Haiti to continue his mission and report thereon to the Council at its eighth session.
