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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Second session
26-30 January 2009
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretary-General**

Addendum

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

* Re-issued for technical reasons.

** The present document is submitted late in order to reflect the most recent information.

Introduction

1. The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 15 August 2008. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted 13 recommendations, which are included in the report on its first session adopted ad referendum (A/HRC/AC/2008/1/2).
2. At its eighth session, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft annual programme of work for its third year, in which it was envisaged that the second session of the Advisory Committee would be held from 26 to 30 January 2009.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

3. The Advisory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/HRC/AC/2/1) proposed by the Secretary-General and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda.

Organization of work

4. Rule 99 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 Advisory Committee will have before it for approval a draft timetable prepared by the Secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment of its programme of work for the second session.

Composition of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

5. The composition of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and the term of membership of each expert, which expires on 26 March of the year indicated in brackets, is as follows: Mr. José Antonio Bengoa Cabello (Chile - 2010), Mr. Ansar Ahmed Burney (Pakistan - 2011), Mr. Shiqiu Chen (China - 2009), Ms. Chinsung Chung (Republic of Korea - 2010), Mr. Emmanuel Decaux (France - 2011), Mr. Hector Felipe Fix Fierro (Mexico - 2011), Mr. Wolfgang Stefan Heinz (Germany - 2010), Mr. Latif Huseynov (Azerbaijan - 2011), Mr. Baba Kura Kaigama (Nigeria - 2011), Mr. Vladimir Kartashkin (Russian Federation - 2010), Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez (Cuba - 2009), Mr. Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho (Kenya - 2010), Ms. Purificacion V. Quisumbing (Philippines - 2011), Mr. Shigeki Sakamoto (Japan - 2010), Mr. Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius - 2011), Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco - 2009), Mr. Jean Ziegler (Switzerland - 2009), Ms. Mona Zulficar (Egypt - 2010).
6. As the mandate of four members elected for a 1-year term will expire in 2009, elections for these vacancies are scheduled to be held during the tenth session of the Council.

Item 2. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions

(a) Human rights education and training

7. At its sixth session, in its resolution 6/10 on the United Nations declaration on human rights education and training, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training. To that end, the Advisory Committee was requested 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 (OHCHR), national human rights institutions as well as 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.

8. At its first session, the Advisory Committee designated Mr. Decaux, Mr. Fix Fierro, Mr. Kartashkin, Ms. Quisumbing and Ms. Warzazi to constitute a drafting group of the Advisory Committee on human rights education and training. In its recommendation 1/1, the Advisory Committee welcomed the paper prepared by the drafting group, and encouraged it to continue its preparatory work with a view to submitting further elements to the Advisory Committee at its next session, taking into account the responses received from all relevant stakeholders to the questionnaires prepared by the drafting group and disseminated by the Secretariat to all stakeholders in the intersessional period.

9. Pursuant to Council resolution 6/10, a progress report by the Advisory Committee, containing the elements of the draft declaration on human rights education and training, is to be submitted to the Council for its consideration at its tenth session.

(b) Right to food

10. In its resolution 7/14 on the right to food, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to consider potential recommendations for approval by the Council on possible further measures to enhance the realization of the right to food, bearing in mind the priority importance of promoting the implementation of existing standards.

11. At its first session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group consisting of Mr. Bengoa Cabello, Ms. Chinsung, Mr. Huseynov, Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Zulficar. In its recommendation 1/8 on the drafting group on the right to food: programme of work, the Committee outlined the structure of the report on the issue of the right to food to be prepared by the drafting group and requested the latter to further work on the draft report in view of its next session.

(c) Human rights of women

12. At its sixth session, in its resolution 6/30 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to regularly and systematically integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate, including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against

women, and to include in its reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls.

13. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/4 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, in which it requested Mr. Burney, Ms. Quisumbing, Mr. Sakamoto and Ms. Zulficar to prepare for the next session a set of draft guidelines on methods to operationalize gender mainstreaming, including action-oriented mechanisms that would facilitate the implementation of the Committee's mandates.

(d) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

14. In its resolution 8/5 on promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, the Council requested the human rights treaty bodies, OHCHR and the mechanisms of the Council and the Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation.

15. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/2 on promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, indicating that deliberations on this matter would continue at the next session.

(e) Missing persons

16. In its resolution 7/28 on missing persons, the Council decided to hold a panel discussion on the question of missing persons at its ninth session and to invite experts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, delegates of Governments and non-governmental organizations as well as national human rights institutions and international organizations to participate therein, and requested the High Commissioner to prepare a summary of the panel's deliberations with a view to subsequently charging the Advisory Committee, at the same session, with the preparation of a study on best practices in the matter.

17. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/3 on missing persons, designating Mr. Huseynov and Mr. Burney to be involved in the preparation of the above-mentioned study. The Advisory Committee will have before it the summary of the panel's deliberations held during the ninth session of the Council on 22 September, as prepared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/10/10) pursuant to Council resolution 7/28 and decision 9/101.

(f) Human rights of persons with disabilities

18. In its resolution 7/9 on human rights of persons with disabilities, the Council encouraged the Advisory Committee and other mechanisms of the Council to integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, in carrying out their work and in their recommendations so as to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council.

19. At its first session, the Advisory Committee held a discussion on the human rights of persons with disabilities.

(g) Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members

20. In its resolution 8/13 on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, the Council requested OHCHR to collect information on the measures that Governments had taken to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and, if extrabudgetary funding was available, to hold a meeting to exchange views among relevant actors, including Governments, observers of the United Nations, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and programmes, non-governmental organizations, scientists, medical experts as well as representatives of persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and to transmit a report to the Council and the Advisory Committee. The Council also requested the Advisory Committee to examine the report and to formulate a draft set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and to submit it to the Council for its consideration by September 2009.

21. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/5 on elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and designated Mr. Sakamoto to formulate the above-mentioned draft set of principles and guidelines. Mr. Sakamoto has been invited to participate in the consultation organized on the issue by OHCHR on 15 January 2009 and will brief on the process at the present session.

Item 3. Implementation of section III of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 entitled “Human Rights Council Advisory Committee”

(a) Rules of procedure and methods of work

22. At its first session, the Advisory Committee discussed its rules of procedure and methods of work, and established an open-ended drafting group on the rules of procedure, composed of Mr. Burney, Mr. Fix Fierro, Mr. Heinz, Mr. Huseynov and Ms. Zulficar.

23. At its first session, the Advisory Committee adopted recommendation 1/9 on official summary records, in which it recommended that the Council request OHCHR to take the necessary steps to provide official summary records and webcasting of all plenary meetings held by the Advisory Committee.

24. To facilitate the communication and work between Committee members in the intersessional period, the Secretariat has created an electronic platform for information-sharing, which is accessible on the Advisory Committee extranet only to members of the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.

(b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities

25. In connection with the present sub-item, at its first session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on its agenda and annual programme of work, which will continue at the present session.

26. At its first session, in its recommendation 1/11 on new bodies established by the Council, the Advisory Committee designated Mr. Bengoa and Ms. Quisumbing to follow the work of the Social Forum and to brief the Committee, at its next session, on issues of relevance to the work of the Committee.

27. In the same recommendation, the Advisory Committee designated Ms. Zulficar and Mr. Alfonso Martinez to follow the work of the Forum on Minority Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples respectively, and to brief the Committee at its next session on issues of relevance to its work.

Item 4. Report of the Advisory Committee on its second session

28. The Advisory Committee will have before it for adoption a draft report on its second session prepared by the Rapporteur, to be transmitted, together with the report on its first session, to the Council at its tenth session, in accordance with the annual programme of work for the third cycle of the Council (2008/2009).
