

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



UNITED NATIONS



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HUMAN RIGHTS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

WHAT IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ?

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee was established by Council resolution 5/1 to function as a think-tank for the Council and work at its direction.

The Committee held its first meeting in August 2008. It meets twice a year, for one week in February and one week in August.



MANDATE & FUNCTIONS

The Advisory Committee provides expertise to the Council in the manner and form requested by the Council. It mainly focuses on conducting studies and providing research-based advice to the Council.

The Committee may also propose within the scope of the work set out by the Council, for the latter's consideration and approval, suggestions for further research proposals. These proposals are implementation oriented and limited to thematic issues pertaining to the mandate of the Council, namely the promotion and protection of all human rights.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is composed of 18 independent experts from different professional backgrounds representing the various regions of the world. They are nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, normally at the September session of the Council.

Members serve in their personal capacity for three-year terms and are eligible for re-election only once. Their term of membership starts on 1 October of the year of their election.

THEMATIC ISSUES

The Advisory Committee has been mandated by the Human Rights Council to conduct research and studies on a number of issues.

POST-DISASTER AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

– The Committee will prepare a research-based report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, with a focus on human rights mainstreaming in relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts (progress report to be presented in June 2014 and final one in March 2015).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – In March 2012, the Committee submitted a study on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights to the Council. In June 2013, the Council mandated the Committee to prepare a more focused and in-depth study on the ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights (progress report to be presented in June 2014).

CORRUPTION – The Committee will prepare a research based report on the issue of the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, and make recommendations on how the Council and its subsidiary bodies should consider this issue (to be presented in June 2014).



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH SPORT AND THE OLYMPIC IDEAL

– The Committee will prepare a study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them, bearing in mind both the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the value of good sporting example (progress report to be presented in September 2014).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

– The Committee will prepare a research-based report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services, with a view to compiling best practices and main challenges (progress report to be presented in September 2014).

HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES

– The Committee will prepare a research-based report containing recommendations on a mechanism to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability (progress report to be presented in March 2015).

PREVENTION OF ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

– The Committee will prepare a study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism (report to be presented in March 2015).

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

– The Committee elaborated and presented a draft declaration to the Council in 2010, which served as the basis for the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training that the General Assembly adopted in December 2011.



RIGHT TO FOOD – Within the context of its work on the right to food, the Committee undertook a number of studies:

- on discrimination in the context of the right to food (A/HRC/16/40);
- on ways and means to further advance the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (A/HRC/19/75);
- on the relationship between severe malnutrition and childhood diseases, taking children affected by noma as an example (A/HRC/19/73);
- on the urban poor and their enjoyment of the right to food (A/HRC/22/61); and
- on rural women and their enjoyment of the right to food (A/HRC/22/72).

In September 2012, the Council established an open-ended intergovernmental working group to finalize a draft declaration on the rights of peasants on the basis of the draft prepared by the Committee. The working group held its first session from 15 to 19 July 2013. The second session will be held from 10 to 14 November 2014.

RIGHT TO PEACE – The Committee submitted a draft declaration on the right of peoples to peace in June 2012, following which the Council established an open-ended intergovernmental working group to negotiate a draft declaration based on the draft prepared by the Committee. The first session of the working group was held from 18 to 21 February 2013. The second session will be held from 30 June to 4 July 2014.

MISSING PERSONS – The Committee prepared a study on best practices on the issue of missing persons (A/HRC/16/70).



LEPROSY-RELATED DISCRIMINATION – The Committee formulated a draft set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and their family members (endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2010 in its resolution A/RES/65/215).

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY – The Committee submitted a paper to the Council in September 2012 contributing to the process of elaboration of a draft declaration on human rights and international solidarity (A/HRC/21/66).

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS THROUGH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TRADITIONAL VALUES OF HUMANKIND – The Committee prepared a study on the issue of traditional values of humankind (A/HRC/22/71).

TERRORIST HOSTAGE TAKING – The Committee prepared a study on the issue of terrorist hostage-taking for the purposes of promoting awareness and understanding, paying particular attention to its impact on human rights and the role of regional and international cooperation in this field (A/HRC/24/47).

MODALITIES & METHODS OF WORK

PREPARATION OF STUDIES AND REPORTS – In order to produce its reports and studies, the Committee usually forms drafting groups consisting of four to five of its members, who work closely with each other for the preparation of these documents. Studies and reports are then presented to the plenary of the Committee for successive rounds of discussion and revision. Drafting groups normally present a preliminary report and a progress report before submitting the final study or report to the Council.

INTERACTION WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS – In the preparation of its studies and reports, the Committee usually seeks comments through questionnaires from a range of stakeholders, including member States, international organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

States, NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and national human rights institutions also participate in the deliberations of the Committee during its sessions in Geneva.

ANNUAL REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE – The Chair of the Committee presents the Committee's annual report to the Council's September session. This is followed by an interactive dialogue with States and NGOs having ECOSOC consultative status.

COMPOSITION¹ OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERM EXPIRES IN

SAEED MOHAMED AL FAIHANI (Bahrain)	2015
LAURENCE BOISSON DE CHAZOURNES (France)	2014
MARIO LUIS CORIOLANO (Argentina)	2015
HODA ELSADDA (Egypt)	2016
LATIF HÜSEYNOV (Azerbaijan)	2014
ALFRED NTUNDUGURU KAROKORA (Uganda)	2016
MIKHAIL LEBEDEV (Russian Federation)	2016
KAORU OBATA (Japan)	2016
OBIORA CHINEDU OKAFOR (Nigeria)	2014
KATHARINA PABEL (Austria)	2015
ANANTONIA REYES PRADO (Guatemala)	2014
CECILIA RACHEL V. QUISUMBING (Philippines)	2014
DHEERUJLALL SEETULSINGH (Mauritius)	2014
AHMER BILAL SOOFI (Pakistan)	2014
IMERU TAMRAT YIGEZU (Ethiopia)	2015
YISHAN ZHANG (China)	2016
JEAN ZIEGLER (Switzerland)	2016

¹ One seat for a member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States remains vacant.





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