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**Human Rights Council**

**Advisory Committee**

**Sixteenth session**

22–26 February 2016

Agenda item 5

**Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session**

 Report of the Advisory Committee
on its sixteenth session[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

 Geneva, 22–26 February 2016

*Rapporteur: Karla Hananía de Varela*

Contents

 *Paragraphs Page*

 I. Action taken by the Advisory Committee at its sixteenth session 3

 II. Officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work 1–10 5

 A. Opening and duration of the session 1–4 5

 B. Composition of the Advisory Committee 5 6

 C. Attendance 6 6

 D. Meetings and documentation 7 6

 E. Election of officers 8 6

 F. Adoption of the agenda 9 6

 G. Organization of work 10 6

 III. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from
Human Rights Council resolutions 11–16 7

 A. Requests currently under consideration by the Committee 7

 IV. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council
resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and of section III of the annex to
Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 17–22 8

 A. Review of methods of work 17–18 8

 B. Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities 19–20 8

 V. Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session 21–22 8

 Annexes

 I. Agenda 9

 II. List of speakers 10–11

 III. List of documents issued for the sixteenth session of the Advisory Committee 12

 IV. Letter from the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the President of the Human Rights Council 13–14

 V. Research proposals 15–18

 A. Regional human rights regimes 15–16

 B. Youth, human rights, and social cohesion 17–18

 I. Action taken by the Advisory Committee at its sixteenth session

 16/1.Activities of vulture funds and impact on human rights

 *The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee*,

 *Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 27/30, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, and to present a progress report thereon to the Council at its thirty-first session,

*Recalling also* that at its fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee, in its action 15/1 recommended that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work and that the Committee be requested to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session in September 2016, instead of the thirty-first session, in March 2016 (see A/HRC/31/67) ,

*Recalling further* that, at its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee had established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mr. Bennani, Mr. Coriolano, Mr. Lebedev, Mr. Soofi (Chair) and Mr. Ziegler (Rapporteur),

 1. *Takes note* of the draft progress report submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session; [[2]](#footnote-3)

 2. *Requests* the drafting group to finalize its report to the Human Rights Council in the light of the discussion held by the Advisory Committee at its current session, after circulating it to all members of the Advisory Committee for approval electronically, and to submit it to the Council at its thirty-third session.

*7th meeting*

*26 February 2016*

[Adopted without a vote.]

 16/2.Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents

 *The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee*,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 29/12, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee to develop a research-based study on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights, in which it identifies areas, reasons and cases where this issue arises in the world, and the ways in which human rights are threatened and violated, and makes recommendations for the protection of the human rights of members of this population, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third session for its consideration,

*Recalling also* that, at its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee had established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Mr. Coriolano, Ms. Crăciunean, Ms. Elsadda, Ms. Hananía de Varela (Rapporteur), Mr. Okafor, Ms. Pabel, Ms. Reyes Prado (Chair) and Mr. Soh, as well as Mr. Alsheddi, who subsequently joined the drafting group at the current session,

 1. *Takes note* of the preliminary study submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session; [[3]](#footnote-4)

 2. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council extend the time schedule envisaged to allow for better informed work, inter alia, by taking into account the work currently under way by the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on the Rights of the Child and which is scheduled to be finalised at the end of 2016, and that the Advisory Committee be requested to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session and a final report at its thirty-sixth session;

 3. *Recommends* that the Human Rights Council consider adopting the following decision:

“The Human Rights Council takes note of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the progress of work on the report on the research based-study on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights and requests the Advisory Committee to submit a progress report to the Council at its thirty-third session and a final report at its thirty-sixth session.”

*7th meeting*

*26 February 2016*

[Adopted without a vote.]

16/3.Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and their family members

 *The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee*,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 29/5, in which the Council requested the Advisory Committee, from within existing resources, to undertake a study which reviews the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, together with the obstacles thereto, and to submit a report containing practical suggestions for the wider dissemination and more effective implementation of the principles and guidelines in order to eliminate discrimination and the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote, protect and respect the human rights of those affected by leprosy and their family members to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session,

*Recalling also* that, at its fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee had established a drafting group, which is currently composed of Ms. Boisson de Chazournes, Mr. Coriolano, Ms. Crăciunean, Mr. Obata (Chair), Mr. Soh, Mr. Soofi, Mr. Yigezu (Rapporteur) and, Mr. Zhang, as well as Mr. Okafor, who subsequently joined the drafting group,

1. *Takes note* of the preliminary report on the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members submitted by the drafting group to the Advisory Committee at its current session;[[4]](#footnote-5)

2. *Requests* the drafting group to recirculate the questionnaire to seek the views and inputs of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, including treaty bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant special procedures, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, that did not respond to the questionnaire, in order to allow for better informed work. In light of the particular nature of the mandate, namely implementation of the already adopted principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, the replies of States as well as national human rights institutions would be especially welcome;

 3. *Requests* the drafting group to submit a progress report to the Advisory Committee at its seventeenth session, with a view to its submission to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session, taking into account the replies to the questionnaire which will be recirculated after the sixteenth session of the Committee.

*7th meeting*

*26 February 2016*

[Adopted without a vote.]

 II. Officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

 A. Opening and duration of the session

* + 1. The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its sixteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 22 to 26 February 2016. The session was opened by the Chair of its fifteenth session, Obiora Chinedu Okafor.
		2. The President of the Human Rights Council, Choi Kyonglim, addressed the Advisory Committee at its first meeting, on 22 February 2016.
		3. At the same meeting, the Officer-in-charge of the Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, made a statement on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
		4. Also at the same meeting, participants observed a minute of silence for the victims of human rights violations around the world.

 B. Composition of the Advisory Committee

* + 1. The membership of the Advisory Committee is as follows:[[5]](#footnote-6) Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi (Saudi Arabia, 2018); Mohamed Bennani (Morocco, 2017); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (France, 2017); Mario Luis Coriolano (Argentina, 2018); Laura-Maria Crăciunean (Romania, 2017); Hoda Elsadda (Egypt, 2016); Karla Hananía de Varela (El Salvador, 2016); Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora (Uganda, 2016); Mikhail Lebedev (Russian Federation, 2016); Kaoru Obata (Japan, 2016); Obiora Chinedu Okafor (Nigeria, 2017); Katharina Pabel (Austria, 2018); Anantonia Reyes Prado (Guatemala, 2017); Changrok Soh (Republic of Korea, 2017); Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Pakistan, 2017); Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Ethiopia, 2018); Yishan Zhang (China, 2016); Jean Ziegler (Switzerland, 2016).

 C. Attendance

* + 1. The session was attended by members of the Advisory Committee and observers for States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as an academic friend of the Advisory Committee. Hoda Elsadda and Katharina Pabel were unable to attend the session.

 D. Meetings and documentation

* + 1. At its sixteenth session, the Advisory Committee held seven plenary meetings and six closed meetings. The drafting groups on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights, and the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, also held closed meetings.

 E. Election of officers

* + 1. In accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the Advisory Committee, the following officers were elected by acclamation at the first meeting of the sixteenth session, held on 22 February 2016:

Chair: Ahmer Bilal Soofi

Vice-Chair: Laura-Maria Crăciunean
Karla Hananía de Varela
Imeru Tamrat Yigezu
Jean Ziegler

Rapporteur: Karla Hananía de Varela

 F. Adoption of the agenda

* + 1. At its first meeting, on 22 February 2016, the Advisory Committee adopted its agenda (see annex I).

 G. Organization of work

* + 1. At the same meeting, the Advisory Committee adopted the draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat.

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

 A. Requests currently under consideration by the Committee

 1. Activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights

* + 1. At its first meeting, on 22 February 2016, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/30, held a discussion on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Jean Ziegler, presented the draft progress report (A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.1). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and two observers for States (see annex II). Thereafter the Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.
		2. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Chair of the drafting group on the activities on vulture funds and the impact on human rights, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/16/L.1), sponsored by all members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see section I, action 16/1, above).

 2. The global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights

13. At its 2nd and 3rd meeting, on 23 February 2016, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/12, held a discussion on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Karla Hananía de Varela, presented the draft report (A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.2). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and two observers for States (see annex II). Thereafter the Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

14. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Chair of the drafting group on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/16/L.2), sponsored by all members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see section I, action 16/2, above).

 3. Elimination of discrimination against persons with leprosy

15. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February 2016, the Advisory Committee, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/5, held a discussion on the elimination of discrimination of persons affected by leprosy and their family members. The Rapporteur of the drafting group, Imerut Tamrat Yigezu, presented the draft report (A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.3). During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee and an observer for a State (see annex II). Thereafter the Rapporteur of the drafting group made concluding remarks.

16. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, Kaoru Obata, Chair of the drafting group on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, introduced a draft text (A/HRC/AC/16/L.3), sponsored by all members of the Advisory Committee. The draft text, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see section I, action 16/3, above).

 IV. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to
Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,
and section III of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21of 25 March 2011

 A. Review of methods of work

17. On 24 February 2016, the Advisory Committee held a closed meeting to discuss its methods of work and ways and means to improve its procedural efficiency.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee also interacted with one of its academic friends attending the sixteenth session.

 B. Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities

19. At its 5th and 6th meeting, on 25 February 2016, the Advisory Committee considered the reflection papers on its agenda as well as new priorities. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Advisory Committee, observers for States, and an observer for non-governmental organizations (see annex II).

20. Following the discussions, a letter was sent by the Chairperson of the Committee to the President of the Human Rights Council (see annex IV), inter alia, submitting the following research proposals[[6]](#footnote-7) to the Human Rights Council:

(a) Regional human rights regimes;

(b) Youth, human rights and social cohesion.

 V. Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session

21. At the 7th meeting, on 26 February 2016, Karla Hananía de Varela, Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, presented the draft report on the sixteenth session of the Committee. The Committee adopted the draft report *ad referendum* and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

22. At the same meeting, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Changrok Soh and Imeru Tamrat Yigezu made closing statements. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chair made final closing remarks and declared the sixteenth session of the Advisory Committee closed.

Annexes

 Annex I

 Agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions:

 (a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee:

(i) Integration of a gender perspective;

(ii) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

(iii) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities;

(iv) Activities of vulture funds and impact on human rights;

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

(vi) Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights;

(b) Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Human Rights Council:

(i) Promotion of the right of peoples to peace;

(ii) Human rights and unilateral coercive measures;

(iii) Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism.

4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011:

 (a) Review of methods of work;

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

5. Report of the Advisory Committee on its sixteenth session.

Annex II

*[English only]*

List of speakers

| *Agenda item* | *Meeting and date* | *Speakers* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions |  |  |  |
| (a) Requests currently under consideration by the Committee | (iv) Activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights | 1st meeting22 February 2016 | Members: Mohamed Bennani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Imeru Tamrat YigezuState observers: Argentina, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |
|  | (vi) The global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights | 2nd and 3rd meetings23 February 2016 | Members: Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Kaoru Obata, Jean ZieglerState observers: China, Russian Federation |
|  | (v) Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members | 4th meeting24 February 2016 | Members: Mohamed Bennani, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Karla Hananía de Varela, Yishan ZhangState observer: Ethiopia |
| 4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 |  |  |  |
| (b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities |  | 5th and 6th meetings25 February 2016 | Members: Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Alsheddi, Mohamed Bennani, Mario Luis Coriolano, Laura-Maria Crăciunean, Karla Hananía de Varela, Mikhail Lebedev, Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Anantonia Reyes Prado, Changrok Soh, Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Chair), Imeru Tamrat Yigezu, Jean ZieglerState observers: El Salvador, Republic of KoreaNon-governmental organization: International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development - VIDES |

Annex III

*[English only]*

 List of documents issued for the sixteenth session
of the Advisory Committee

 Documents issued in the general series

| *Symbol* | *Agenda item* |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A/HRC/AC/16/1 | 1 | Provisional agenda |
| A/HRC/AC/16/1/Add.1 | 1 | Annotations to the provisional agenda |
| A/HRC/AC/16/2 | 5 | Report of the Advisory Committeeon its sixteenth session |

 Documents issued in the limited series

| *Symbol* | *Agenda item* |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A/HRC/AC/16/L.1 | 3 | The activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights |
| A/HRC/AC/16/L.2 | 3 | The global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights |
| A/HRC/AC/16/L.3 | 3 | The elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members |

Annex IV

*[English only]*

**Letter from the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the President of the Human Rights Council**

26 February 2016

Excellency,

As Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, and on behalf of all the Members of the Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to you and members of the Bureau for our informal meeting held on 25 February on the margins of the sixteenth session of the Committee.

The Advisory Committee is extremely appreciative of the substantive discussion held during the meeting, which was an opportunity to have a frank and fruitful dialogue with you, the Council’s bureau as well as the regional and the political group coordinators, in view, particularly, of the recurrent issue of lack of mandates that the Committee faces. We therefore support any step which would strengthen the interaction in this regard between the Human Rights Council and the Advisory Committee, and especially your suggestion to have formal and informal meetings with Member States, which was very well received by the Committee. Such meetings organized on a regular basis will indeed provide a more effective channel of communication with States, particularly the sponsors of resolutions, and help in fostering an informal dialogue on the mandates the Committee may be entrusted with in the future.

Furthermore, on behalf of the Committee, I would also like to follow up on your suggestion made during the meeting, notably the possibility for the Committee to identify in a memorandum addressed to the President and Bureau of the Council a list of specific research proposals for the consideration of the Council.

In responding to this proposal, and in line with paragraph 77 of the Annex to Council resolution 5/1, the Committee discussed the issue of research proposals and new priorities both in its private and public meetings, and I have the pleasure to transmit to you the following two priority research proposals (annexed hereto) for the consideration of the Council:

* Regional human rights regimes; and
* Youth, social cohesion and human rights.

I would also like to inform you that, in addition to these two research proposals, the Committee also brainstormed on the following topics, which it intends to further discuss at its next session in August, with a view to possibly submitting them as research proposals for the consideration of the Council:

* Destruction of the cultural heritage and its effects on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;
* Climate-induced displacement and human rights;
* Promotion of the rights to culture and social common heritage; and
* Assessment of the impact of the Advisory Committee’s work and implementation thereof.

We look forward to your consideration of the above-mentioned two research proposals and to receiving feedback from the Human Rights Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*(signed)* Ahmer Bilal Soofi

Chairperson

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

**Annex V**

*[English only]*

 **Research proposals**

 **A. Regional Human Rights Regimes**

It took many years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the international community to identify the need for regional human rights regimes. In fact, the United Nations (UN) was initially not supportive of the idea of such regimes, based on the belief that regional approaches to human rights may undermine internationally recognized human rights standards. Now, however, this position has largely given way to a more positive appreciation of their beneficial role. Not only has the 1977 United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/127 appealed to the UN member states to “create regional arrangements…for the promotion and protection of human rights”; but the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action also explicitly stressed the need for the establishment of “regional and sub-regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.”

To clarify, regional human rights regimes consist of regional instruments in the form of treaties and conventions, as well regional mechanisms such as regional human rights commissions and courts. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) attributes the present positive appreciation of regional human rights regimes to the fact that they are in an ideal position to help tailor internationally-agreed human rights standards to reflect regional needs and particularities, not to mention securing state compliance of these standards through regional coercion and pressure. Effective regional human rights regimes have also been found to provide people in the region with more accessible tools for the protection of their rights, help raise public awareness of regional human rights concerns, and assist governments in implementing their international human rights obligations. In other words, strong regional cooperation around regional human rights regimes greatly contributes to the consolidation of universal human rights.

At present, it is possible to identify five regional human rights mechanisms, which vary greatly: Europe, the Americas, and Africa, have respectively established regional human rights regimes with Commissions and/or Courts, while the Middle East and Southeast Asia have more fledgling systems. Assessments of the results of these regional human rights systems also differ significantly, from being commended as crucial actors for the promotion and protection of human rights in their region, to being criticized for their inability to respond to flagrant violations, the lack of enforcement powers in face of high state noncompliance, and the want of independence and transparency.

Recognizing that such weaknesses must be overcome in order to foster human rights promotion and implementation in respective regions, UN agencies have enacted many resolutions calling upon the OHCHR to take a larger role in the promotion and protection of human rights by bolstering regional human rights arrangements. Thus, since 2002, the OHCHR has contributed to strengthening the existing regional human rights regimes, by training the regime staff, assisting the development of documentation systems, and providing advisory services. It has also made active efforts to promote the creation of regional regimes in areas where they have yet to be established, by organizing numerous workshops to achieve this aim. The UN has also encouraged all regions to further establish regional human rights centres and offices and to enhance local promotion and protection of human rights.

Despite its various efforts, however, all regional human rights regimes still have much room for improvement. When the UN started exerting active efforts to develop and improve regional systems, the existent regional human rights regimes in Europe, the Americas, and Africa faced common challenges such as establishing adequate legal frameworks, ensuring that regime bodies were equipped with appropriate tools to implement their mandates, and dealing with the noncompliance. The Asia-Pacific and Arab regions were still in their beginning stages of moving toward a fully functional regional human rights regime: more than a decade after dedicated UN support, the tangible situation arguably remains more or less the same.

There is thus a pressing need to sum up the current obstacles preventing respective regional mechanisms from achieving their full potential, and clearly identify the reasons why efforts so far have failed to address them. Based on this analysis, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee can define ways to overcome these problems to better promote and protect universal human rights values through consolidated regional human rights regimes. The study should look into the roles of a comprehensive set of actors: it should not only cover the UN, and its member states but also various non-state actors. This is because a multi-track approach that involves actors from all levels is crucial in consolidating regional human rights regimes. It is imperative to understand the current contributions and interactions among all these actors and suggest the ways through which they can be improved: such a study will contribute to strengthening regional human rights, thereby empowering universal human rights protection and enforcement around the world.

Draft Timetable: Regional Human Rights Regimes

Session of the Advisory Committee

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Seventeenth session, August 2016 Formation of the drafting group

Eighteenth session, February 2017 Submission of the preliminary report

Nineteenth session, August 2017 Submission of the progress report

Twentieth session, February 2018 Adoption of the draft final report

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 **B. Youth, human rights and social cohesion**

In 2015, at the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, it was indicated that young people between the age of 15 and 24 represent 18% of the whole population. It is therefore important to multiply efforts to create development policies and programmes that are specifically aimed at young people in order to guarantee their protection (as they are exposed to situations that slow their development and hamper their schooling) and to promote their right to education, that guarantees access to decent work, getting out of poverty and having an adequate standard of living; their professional integration into the labour market; their right to health (by ensuring access to health services and to information, including on sexual education, AIDS prevention, and sexual and reproductive health).

In several regions, the policies and programmes mentioned above refer to problems deeply rooted in human rights, especially the rights to education, employment, and health.

Various international youth meetings have also highlighted situations that deserve special attention, for instance the fact that precarious living conditions and lack of opportunities generate multiple risks for young people and especially young women, such as those linked with social and institutional violence, with young people and youth in Latin America, Africa and Asia being particularly affected.

Young women are even more vulnerable because they are victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking, and labour migration. In addition, even though homicide rates are higher among young males, the murders of young women have certain egregious features that do not appear in the statistics, such as sexual violence, physical violence, and maltreatment before death.

The International Youth Parliament highlighted as issues of concern, violence and insecurity. According to it, the situation of violence in the world prevents young people from developing their skills in a safe environment, which limits their access to education, their ability to complete their studies, and affects other rights such as health and recreation. More than 130,000 minors worldwide are affected by armed conflict and other types of violence, such as that emanating from drug trafficking and organized crime. This indicates that young people are constantly exposed to the risk of becoming involved in gangs, which are often linked to criminal networks.

Given the widespread violence, it is crucial that States strengthen the human rights-based approach in their policies, plans, and security programmes in order to have a process, which follows the definition by the UNDP, and establishes, strengthens, and protects democratic civil order. This will eliminate threats of violence among the population and allow safeguarding the human rights inherent to the person, especially the rights to life, personal integrity, inviolability of the home, and freedom of movement, and in turn prevent crime, ensure access to an effective justice system, as well as an education system that is based on values, respect for the law and tolerance.

In addition, a right, the exercise of which is increasingly felt and claimed in various national and international forums, is the right of youth to participate, not only in decisions relating to issues that directly affect them, but also in the social, political, economic and cultural life in their societies.

There are international and regional standards and repeated recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders that remain unimplemented because public policies and the functioning of institutions involved (police, judicial and penitentiary system) have neglected or despised human rights.

In order to ensure respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights of youth, defined in the recently adopted resolution 2250 of the Security Council, people whose age is between 15 and 29 years (taking into account that other treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child consider as children all those under the age of 18) is essential not only for their own development as human beings but also for the very development of mankind. This will also be contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

Similarly, ensuring the rights of young men and women will contribute to building social cohesion that is so desperately needed in order to deal constructively with the lack of opportunities that underlies the social and institutional violence, which, in some regions, claims the precious lives of young people.

The proposed study will therefore examine this issue in its multiple aspects, but above all, in consultation and coordination with other agencies and departments of the UN System, seeking complementarity with regional human rights mechanisms, such as the Inter-American System of Human Rights. The study will thus aim at contributing to the search for concrete actions to promote the exercise of human rights of youth, while also ensuring their contribution to human development.

Draft Timetable: Youth, human rights and social cohesion

Session of the Advisory Committee

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Seventeenth session, August 2016 Formation of the drafting group

Eighteenth session, February 2017 Submission of the preliminary report

Nineteenth session, August 2017 Submission of the progress report

Twentieth session, February 2018 Adoption of the draft final report

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1. \* Annexes II to V to the present report are circulated in the language of submission only. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. A/HRC/AC/16/CRP.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Years in parentheses indicate the expiry of the terms of office (terms of office end on 30 September). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. See also annex V. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)