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**Human Rights Council**

**Advisory Committee**

**Twenty-fifth session**

15–19 February 2021

Agenda item 5

**Report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-fifth session**

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

*Rapporteur*: Javier **Palummo**

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I. Action taken by the Advisory Committee at its twenty-fifth session

*[Draft actions to be included]*

II. 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 twenty-fifth session from 15 to 19 February 2021 at the United Nations Office at Geneva and via the virtual platforms Interprefy and Webex. The session was opened by the Chair of the twenty-fourth session, Lazhari Bouzid.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February 2021, the President of the Human Rights Council, Nazhat Shameem Khan, made an opening statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) made a statement on behalf of the UN Secretary-General.

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

5. The membership of the Advisory Committee is as follows:[[3]](#footnote-4) Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alsheddi (Saudi Arabia, 2021); Buhm-Suk Baek (Republic of Korea, 2023); Nadia Amal Bernoussi (Morocco, 2023); Lazhari Bouzid (Algeria, 2022); Alessio Bruni (Italy, 2021); Milena Costas Trascasas (Spain, 2022); Iurii Alexandrovich Kolesnikov (Russian Federation, 2022); José Augusto Lindgren Alves (Brazil, 2021); Xinsheng Liu (China, 2022); Ajai Malhotra (India, 2023); Itsuko Nakai (Japan, 2022); Mona Omar (Egypt, 2022); Javier Palummo (Uruguay, 2022); Elizabeth Salmón (Peru, 2023); Patrycja Anna Sasnal (Poland, 2023); Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius, 2023); Cheikh Tidiane Thiam (Senegal, 2021); and Catherine Van de Heyning (Belgium, 2023).

C. Attendance

6. The session was attended by members of the Advisory Committee and observers for States Members of the United Nations, as well as an intergovernmental organization and non-governmental organizations.

7. All members of the Advisory Committee participated in the session.

D. Meetings

8. At its twenty-fifth session, the Advisory Committee held four plenary meetings and 10 closed meetings. The drafting groups held private meetings on the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights, the situation regarding racial equality in the world, current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms, and new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.

E. Election of officers

9. 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 twenty-fifth session, held on 15 February 2021:

Chair: Ajai Malhotra

Vice-Chairs: Nadia Amal Bernoussi

Patrycja Anna Sasnal

Alessio Bruni

Rapporteur: Javier Palummo

F. Adoption of the agenda

10. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February 2021, the Advisory Committee adopted its agenda (A/HRC/AC/25/1/Rev.1) (for the list of documents issued for the twenty-fifth session, see annex I).

G. Organization of work

11. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February 2021, 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 and currently under consideration

A. The situation regarding racial equality in the world

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 February 2021, the Advisory Committee held, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 72/157 and 73/262, a discussion on the situation regarding racial equality in the world, and on ways and means of assessing the situation while identifying possible gaps and overlaps. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee, representatives of observer States, a representative of an intergovernmental organization, and a representative of a non-governmental organization (see annex II).

13.

B. Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 February 2021, the Advisory Committee held, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 41/6, a discussion on the current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee, representatives of observer States, a representative of an intergovernmental organization, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (see annex II).

15.

C. New and emerging digital technologies

16. At its 3rd meeting, on 17 February 2021, the Advisory Committee held, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 41/11, a discussion on new and emerging digital technologies and human rights. In that context, the former Rapporteur of the drafting group on new and emerging technologies and human rights, Mr. Soh, participated as a panellist and briefly presented the report. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by members of the Committee, representatives of observer States, a representative of an intergovernmental organization, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (see annex II).

17.

D. Negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights

18. At its 3rd meeting, on 17 February 2021, the Advisory Committee held, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/8, a discussion on the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by a member of the Committee, representatives of observer States and representatives of non-governmental organizations (see annex II).

19.

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

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

20. On 18 February 2021, the Advisory Committee held, in a closed meeting, a discussion on new priorities and potential research proposals it could make to the Human Rights Council.

21.

B. Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications

22. According to paragraphs 91 to 93 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee is to appoint five of its members, one from each regional group, with due consideration to gender balance, to constitute the Working Group on Communications. In the event of a vacancy, the Committee should appoint an independent and highly qualified expert from the same regional group from the Committee. Since there is a need for independent expertise and continuity with regard to the examination and assessment of communications received, the independent and highly qualified experts of the Working Group are appointed for three years. Their mandate is renewable only once.

23. The current members of the Working Group on Communications were appointed by the Advisory Committee at its seventeenth, twenty-first and twenty-third sessions (A/HRC/AC/17/2, para. 26; A/HRC/AC/21/2, paras. 22–24; and A/HRC/AC/23/2, paras. 25–27).

24. In view of the fact that the Working Group had three vacancies, since the term of two members, Mr. Changrok Soh (Asia and the Pacific Group) and Mr. Ion Diaconu (Eastern European Group), expired on 30 September 2020, and another member, Mr. Ludovic Hennebel (Western European and Others Group) resigned, the Advisory Committee decided, at its 4th meeting, on 19 February 2021, to take note of the three new appointments made in the intersessional period through silence procedure, welcoming Mr. Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alsheddi, Mr. Iurii Alexandrovich Kolesnikov, and Mr. Alessio Bruni as new members of the Working Group.

V. Report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-fifth session

25. At the 4th meeting, on 19 February 2021, the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee presented the draft report of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee. The Committee adopted the draft report *ad referendum* and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

26.

Annex I

Documents issued for the twenty-fifth session  
of the Advisory Committee

Documents issued in the general series

| *Symbol* | *Agenda item* |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A/HRC/AC/25/1/Rev.1 | 1 | Provisional agenda and annotations |
| A/HRC/AC/25/2 | 5 | Report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-fifth session |

Documents issued in the limited series (actions)

| *Symbol* | *Agenda item* |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A/HRC/AC/25/L. | 3 (f) | Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms |
| A/HRC/AC/25/L. | 3 (g) | New and emerging digital technologies and human rights |
| A/HRC/AC/25/L. | 3 (d) | Negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights |
| A/HRC/AC/25/L. | 3 (e) | Situation regarding racial equality in the world |

Documents issued in the non-governmental organizations series

| *Symbol* | *Agenda item* |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A/HRC/AC/25/NGO/1 | 3 (g) | Exposé écrit présenté par La Manif Pour Tous, organisation non-gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial |

Annex II

List of speakers

| *Agenda item* | *Meeting and date* | *Speakers* |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| 1. Election of officers | 1st meeting  15 February 2021 | Members: Xinsheng Liu, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Iurii Alexandrovich Kolesnikov, Milena Costas Trascasas, Nadia Amal Bernoussi, José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Mona Omar |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda & organization of work | 1st meeting  15 February 2021 | Member: José Augusto Lindgren Alves  Observer States: Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, Algeria (video statement), Uruguay |
| 3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions |  |  |
| (e) Situation regarding racial equality in the world | 2nd meeting  16 February 2021 | Members: Milena Costas Trascasas (Rapporteur), Nadia Amal Bernoussi, José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Mona Omar, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Lazhari Bouzid, Javier Palummo  Observer States: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), India (video statement), Russian Federation (video statement), South Africa  Intergovernmental organization: European Union  Non-governmental organization: Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation (video statement) |
| (f) Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms | 2nd meeting 16 February 2021 | Members: Elizabeth Salmón (Rapporteur), Nadia Amal Bernoussi, Lazhari Bouzid, Milena Costas Trascasas  Observer States: Cameroon, India (video statement), Burkina Faso, Panama, Russian Federation (video statement), Peru (video statement), Switzerland (video statement), Mexico  Intergovernmental organization: European Union  Non-governmental organizations: International Federation on Ageing, GQUAL Campaign |
| (g) New and emerging digital technologies and human rights | 3th meeting 17 February 2021 | Panellist: Changrok Soh (former Rapporteur)  Members: José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Catherine Van de Heyning, Javier Palummo, Nadia Amal Bernoussi, Lazhari Bouzid, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Xinsheng Liu  Observer States: Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, Republic of Korea on behalf of the Core Group of sponsors of resolution 41/11 (video statement), India (video statement), Panama, Russian Federation (video statement), China  Intergovernmental organization: European Union  Non-governmental organizations: New Humanity, Institute for NGO Research, La Manif Pour Tous (video statement) |
| (d) Negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights; | 3th meeting 17 February 2021 | Members: Alessio Bruni (Chair)  Observer States: Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, Belgium on behalf of the European Union (video statement), India, Egypt (video statement), Algeria (video statement), Panama, Mexico, Jordan, China  Non-governmental organizations: International Commission of Jurists and ARTICLE 19 (joint statement), Institute for NGO Research |
| 4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 |  |  |
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1. \* The annexes to the present report are being circulated in the language of submission only. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. To be updated. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Years in parentheses indicate the expiry of the terms of office (terms of office end on 30 September). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)