

Fifteenth Annual Meeting of Special Rapporteurs, Representatives, Independent Experts and Chairpersons of Working Groups of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 23 to 27 June 2008

Draft annotated agenda

Opening of the meeting

Item I: Organization of work

- (a) Election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur of the 15th annual meeting**
- (b) Adoption of the agenda**
- (c) Election of the three remaining members of the Coordination Committee**
- (d) Adoption of the report of the 15th annual meeting**

Participants will elect the Chairperson and Rapporteur of the 15th annual meeting. The discussion and adoption of the agenda and time-table will follow. Participants will elect the three remaining members of the Coordination Committee. They will adopt the report of the 15th annual meeting presented by the Rapporteur.

Participants will have before them:

- The Agenda of the 15th annual meeting
- The Annotated Agenda of the 15th annual meeting
- The Programme of work/time table of the 15th annual meeting

Item II: Activities of the Coordination Committee

Report by the former Chairperson

The former Coordination Committee Chairperson and Chair of the fourteenth meeting, Ms. Gay McDougall, will present the report and will brief participants on the activities of the Coordination Committee in 2007-2008, followed by an exchange of views.

Participants will have before them:

- A Note on the activities of the Coordination Committee in 2007/2008

Item III: The Human Rights Council and the Special Procedures system

- (a) Update by the Secretariat on recent developments: Review of mandates, Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR), selection of mandate holders**

Participants will be briefed by the Secretariat on the review of mandates, the selection of mandate holders and the Universal Periodic Review. There will then be an open discussion on recent developments since June 2007.

Participants will have before them:

- A note by the Secretariat: Developments at the Human Right Council since 2007
- A note by the Secretariat: The Universal Periodic Review mechanism – recent developments
- Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1

(b) Exchange of views with the former Human Rights Council President

Participants will have an exchange of views with the former Human Rights Council President, Ambassador Doru Romulus Costea, Permanent Representative of Romania.

(c) Exchange of views with the Human Rights Council President and members of the HRC Bureau

Participants will have an exchange of views with the Human Rights Council President and members of the HRC Bureau.

(d) The UPR and the Special Procedures

Mandate holders, including the former Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ms. Gay McDougall, will contribute to a discussion on the UPR and its relevance for the Special Procedures.

Item IV: Working Methods

(a) Draft Revised Manual of Special Procedures mandate-holders

Participants will be briefed by Mr. Manfred Nowak, a mandate holder representing the Task Force on the revised Manual of Special Procedures. A discussion and adoption will follow.

Participants will have before them:

- The draft revised Manual
- A note by the Secretariat: Summary of the main changes incorporated in the Draft Manual of the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures

(b) Code of conduct and Internal Advisory Procedure to review practices and working methods

Participants will be briefed by the former Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ms. Gay McDougall, on the code of conduct and the implementation of the interim Internal Advisory Procedure to review practices and working methods adopted by the

Coordination Committee in September 2007. A discussion and the adoption of the final internal Advisory Procedure will follow.

Participants will have before them:

- The code of conduct (A/HRC/RES/5/2)
- A note on the interim Internal Advisory Procedure to review practices and working methods (14 September 2007)

(c) Strengthening the effectiveness of the Special Procedures: Communications and Follow-up

There will be a discussion on communications facilitated by the former Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ms. Gay McDougall, with a focus on criteria for issuing and following-up upon communications.

Participants will be briefed the follow-up practices which have been developed and streamlined over the years by many mandate holders. Further follow-up activities will be discussed in order to help strengthen the effectiveness of the Special Procedures.

Participants will have before them:

- A note by the Secretariat: Discussion paper on communications
- A note by the Secretariat: Follow-up to special procedures activities

(d) Cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms

Recent developments in relation to cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms will be presented by the Secretariat. Mr. Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, and Mr. Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on torture, will share their experience in this field. The aim of this exchange is to identify good practices as well as ways and means to further strengthen cooperation in this area.

Participants will have before them:

- A note by the Secretariat: Special Procedures and regional human rights mechanisms (update of the note submitted in 2007 by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, see below).
- A note on Special Procedures and regional human rights mechanisms submitted to the 14th annual meeting in 2007 by the former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen.

(e) Cooperation with the United Nations system: engagement with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and United Nations agencies, programmes and funds

Participants will be briefed by mandate holders on recent examples of interaction with UNCTs and UN agencies.

Participants will have before them:

- A note by the Secretariat: Cooperation with UNCTs (presented at the 14th Annual Meeting)
- A Note by OHCHR on defining the role of special procedures in country engagement (presented at the 14th annual meeting)
- A Practitioners' guide on strengthening engagement with the International Human Rights Machinery (online publication) (April 2008)

(f) Developing a preventative approach to special human rights situations

Participants will discuss how to develop a preventative approach to special Human Rights situations.

Participants will have before them:

A paper by Mr. Miloon Kothari, former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, on developing a preventative approach to special human rights situations (tbc)

(g) Legal issues (amicus curiae brief and other)

The New York Office for Legal Affairs will brief mandate holders on the issue of submitting amicus briefs before courts particularly in relation to the scope of their immunities and privileges.

Item V: Exchange of views with the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Under this agenda item participants will have an exchange of views with the High Commissioner, Ms. Louise Arbour.

Item VI: Integrating human rights approaches and mechanisms into the work of the Special Procedures

(a) Enhancing the integration of gender perspectives

Ms. Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion of belief, and staff of the Women Rights' and Gender Unit of the OHCHR will introduce and facilitate a discussion on good practices on integrating gender perspectives in the work of the Special Procedures.

(b) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

A staff member of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit of the OHCHR Research and Right to Development Division who acts as the Secretariat of the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol will present the Convention, which will be followed by a discussion.

Participants will have before them:

- A Note by OHCHR on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

(c) Follow-up to the study on violence against children

The OHCHR focal point for the follow-up to the study on violence against children will introduce and facilitate a discussion on the study on violence against children, with a particular focus on establishing stronger links to coordinate activities and complement action of treaty bodies and special procedures on child rights.

Participants will have before them:

- A Note by OHCHR on Follow-up to the study on violence against children (title tbc)

Item VII: Joint Session with Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Mandate holders will have an opportunity to discuss with the chairpersons of treaty bodies questions relating to follow-up to Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies recommendations, including the role of Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Issues for discussion could include: efforts to contribute to the effectiveness of follow-up; strategic country engagement, and follow-up to the outcome of the UPR.

Participants will have before them:

- A note by the Secretariat: Universal Periodic Review mechanism – recent developments (see also under item III. (a))
- Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1

Item VIII: Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

Participants will have a discussion with representatives of civil society on issues of common interest. Discussions might focus on increased interaction with NGOs and NHRIs to strengthen follow-up, including in relation to the UPR mechanism.