NEWS RELEASE

Date: 21 May 2013

Subject: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of human rights treaty bodies

Claudio Grossman, Chairperson of the Committee against Torture, and Malcolm Evans, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture, were elected on Monday as Chair and Vice-Chair of the human rights treaty bodies for one year.

The 25th annual meeting of Chairpersons of treaty bodies in New York brings together the Chairpersons of the 10 human rights treaty bodies. Participants to the meeting are Sir Nigel Rodley, Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Mr. Emmanuel Decaux, Chairperson of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Mr. Alexei Avtonomov, Chairperson of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri, Chairperson of the Committee on Migrant Workers and members of their Family, Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Mr. Hatem Kotrane, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and Mr. Azzouz Kerdoun, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

On Tuesday, Dean Claudio Grossman addressed Member States in a meeting regarding the current strengthening of the treaty body system. Meetings have also been planned with regional groups of States and with civil society.

A press conference will be given at the end of the week for the purpose of informing on measures that are necessary for the protection and promotion of human rights by the treaty bodies. Treaty bodies are composed of 172 independent experts. Their functions include receiving reports of States Parties to the respective conventions, adopt concluding observations to assist States to comply with conventional obligations, decide cases concerning allegations of human rights violations, perform visits in loco to countries, adopt general comments interpreting legal obligations, and adopt urgent measures to afford protection in urgent cases.