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Advisory Committee

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations*

Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions and currently under consideration by the Committee:
 - (a) Integration of a gender perspective;
 - (b) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;
 - (c) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities;
 - (d) Negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights;
 - (e) National policies and human rights;
 - (f) Global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
 - (g) Importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development;
 - (h) Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms;
 - (i) New and emerging digital technologies and human rights.
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:
 - (a) Review of methods of work;
 - (b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities.
5. Report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-fourth session.

* Agreement was reached to publish the present document after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee will elect, from among its members, a Chair and its Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

The Advisory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda (A/HRC/AC/24/1).

Organization of work

Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee “shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item” (see A/520/Rev.17). Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will have before it, for its consideration and approval, a draft timetable prepared by the Secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment of its programme of work for the twenty-fourth session.

Composition of the Advisory Committee

In its decision 18/121, the Human Rights Council decided that the cycle of the Advisory Committee would be adjusted to run from 1 October to 30 September. The terms of membership will therefore end on 30 September of each year.

The current composition of the Advisory Committee and the term of membership of each expert are as follows:¹ Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alsheddi (Saudi Arabia, 2021); Mohamed Bennani (Morocco, 2020); Lazhari Bouzid (Algeria, 2022); Alessio Bruni (Italy, 2021); Milena Costas Trascasas (Spain, 2022); Ion Diaconu (Romania, 2020); Ludovic Hennebel (Belgium, 2020); Iurii Alexandrovich Kolesnikov (Russian Federation, 2022); José Augusto Lindgren Alves (Brazil, 2021); Xinsheng Liu (China, 2022); Ajai Malhotra (India, 2020); Itsuko Nakai (Japan, 2022); Mona Omar (Egypt, 2022); Javier Palummo (Uruguay, 2022); Elizabeth Salmón (Peru, 2020); Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius, 2020); Changrok Soh (Republic of Korea, 2020); and Cheikh Tidiane Thiam (Senegal, 2021).

3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions and currently under consideration by the Committee

(a) Integration of a gender perspective

In its resolution 6/30, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to regularly and systematically integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate, including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against women, and to include in its reports information on and a qualitative analysis of the human rights of women and girls.

(b) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

In its resolutions 8/5 and 18/6, the Human Rights Council requested, inter alia, the Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within its respective mandate, to the resolutions and to make contributions towards their implementation. In its resolution 18/6, the Council also decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedure mandate of Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. The mandate has been renewed periodically and most recently through Council resolution 36/4. The most recent reports on the mandate are contained in documents A/HRC/42/48 and A/74/245.

¹ The year in which the term of membership expires is shown in parentheses.

(c) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities

In its resolution 7/9, the Human Rights Council encouraged the Advisory Committee and other mechanisms of the Council to integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, in carrying out their work and in their recommendations in order to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council. In its resolution 26/20, the Council decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedure mandate of Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. The mandate has been renewed periodically and lately through Council resolution 35/6. The most recent reports on the mandate are contained in documents A/HRC/40/54 and A/74/186.

(d) Negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights

In its resolution 34/8, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study and prepare a report on the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular focus on economic, social and cultural rights, including as a result of diverting foreign direct investment, reducing capital inflows, destroying infrastructure, limiting foreign trade, disturbing financial markets, negatively affecting certain economic sectors and impeding economic growth, and to recommend actions to be taken by Governments, United Nations human rights mechanisms, regional and international organizations and civil society organizations in this regard, and to present the report to the Council at its thirty-ninth session.

At its nineteenth session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the topic and established a drafting group for the preparation of that report. The drafting group currently comprises Lazhari Bouzid, Alessio Bruni (Chair), Ion Diaconu, Ludovic Hennebel, José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Xinsheng Liu, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar (Rapporteur) and Elizabeth Salmón.

At its twentieth session, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Human Rights Council extend the deadline for submission of the report in order to allow for the gathering of better information and that it request the Committee to submit the report to the Council at its forty-second session. At its twenty-third session, the Committee, considering the highly specific and complex character of the mandate, recommended that the Council further extend the deadline and that it request that the report be submitted to the Council at its forty-fifth session. Accordingly, the above-mentioned report of the Committee will be submitted to the Council at its forty-fifth session.

The draft report will be made available in a conference room paper.

(e) National policies and human rights

In its resolution 35/32, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study that could help States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by integrating human rights into national policies on the basis of the compilation prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to submit the report to the Council at its forty-fifth session for its consideration, on the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

At its nineteenth session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the topic and established a drafting group to prepare that study. The drafting group currently comprises Ion Diaconu (Rapporteur), Ludovic Hennebel, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar, Elizabeth Salmón, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Changrok Soh (Chair) and Cheikh Tidiane Thiam.

At its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee requested the drafting group to submit the study to it at its twenty-fourth session, taking into account the above-mentioned input from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with a view to submitting it to the Human Rights Council at its forty-fifth session.

The study will be made available in a conference room paper.

(f) Global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

At its seventy-third session in December 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/262 on a global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and requested the Human Rights Council to continue to pay attention to the situation regarding racial equality in the world, and in that regard requested the Council, through its Advisory Committee, to prepare a study on appropriate ways and means of assessing the situation, while identifying possible gaps and overlaps. In resolution 73/262, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of that resolution.

At its twenty-first session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the topic and established a drafting group to prepare that study. The drafting group currently comprises Ion Diaconu, Ludovic Hennebel (Rapporteur), José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar, Elizabeth Salmón and Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Chair).

At its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee decided to seek additional views from Member States and other stakeholders, including international organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to submit, by 15 December 2019, input on appropriate ways and means of assessing the situation regarding racial equality in the world. It also decided to provide information on the implementation of the current mandate to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-second session and to be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session. Moreover, the Committee requested the drafting group to submit the study to it at its twenty-fifth session, taking into account the above-mentioned input from stakeholders.

(g) Importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development

In its resolution 39/9, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee, taking into account the views of Member States, to prepare a research-based report on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development, to present an oral update on the preparation of the report to the Council at its forty-second session and to present the report to the Council at its forty-fifth session.

At its twenty-second session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the topic and established a drafting group to prepare that report. The drafting group currently comprises Lazhari Bouzid, Ion Diaconu, Ludovic Hennebel (Chair), Xinsheng Liu, Ajai Malhotra (Rapporteur), Elizabeth Salmón and Cheikh Tidiane Thiam.

At its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee decided that the oral update on the preparation of the report on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its forty-second session would include information on the current status of the report and an overview of the views of stakeholders. It also requested the drafting group to submit a final report to the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, taking into account the views of the relevant stakeholders, with a view to presenting the report to the Council at its forty-fifth session.

(h) Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms

In its resolution 41/6, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a report, in close cooperation with the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee, the treaty bodies and the special procedures established by the Council and to present the report to the Council at its forty-seventh session. The report was to include good practices by States in nominating, electing and appointing candidates to ensure balanced gender representation, in line with the system-wide strategy on gender parity, and recommendations to assist the Council and Member States in that regard. The Council

also requested the Advisory Committee to seek the views, inputs and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders in an inclusive manner, including Member States, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures, national human rights institutions, civil society and academic institutions, when preparing the above-mentioned report.

At its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the topic and established a drafting group to prepare that report. The drafting group currently comprises Ion Diaconu, Ludovic Hennebel, José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar (Chair), Elizabeth Salmón (Rapporteur) and Changrok Soh. The Committee decided to address a note verbale to stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions, requesting them to submit input for the report by 15 January 2020. The Committee also requested the drafting group to submit a preliminary outline of the report to it at its twenty-fourth session, taking into account the replies received to the above-mentioned note verbale.

The preliminary outline of the report will be made available in a conference room paper.

(i) New and emerging digital technologies and human rights

In its resolution 41/11, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a report, from within existing resources, on the possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, including mapping of relevant existing initiatives by the United Nations and recommendations on how human rights opportunities, challenges and gaps arising from new and emerging digital technologies could be addressed by the Council and its special procedures and subsidiary bodies in a holistic, inclusive and pragmatic manner, and to present the report to the Council at its forty-seventh session.

In the same resolution, the Human Rights Council decided to convene a panel discussion at its forty-fourth session on the impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, also decided that the discussions would be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and requested the Advisory Committee to present an oral update on its preparation of the above-mentioned report during the panel discussion.

At its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on the topic and established a drafting group to prepare that report. The drafting group currently comprises Ludovic Hennebel, Xinsheng Liu, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar, Elizabeth Salmón (Chair), Dheerujlall Seetulsingh and Changrok Soh (Rapporteur). In line with the request of the Human Rights Council, the Committee decided to seek input through a note verbale requesting stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures of the Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, the technical community and academic institutions, to submit information by 15 October 2019. Furthermore, it requested the drafting group to submit a preliminary outline of the report to the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, taking into account the replies received to the above-mentioned note verbale, with a view to presenting an oral update on the preparation of the report to the Council at its forty-fourth session.

The preliminary outline of the report will be made available in a conference room paper.

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

(a) Review of methods of work

According to paragraph 77 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee may propose within the scope of the work set out by the Council, for

the latter's consideration and approval, suggestions for further enhancing its procedural efficiency.

In paragraphs 35 to 39 of section III of the annex to its resolution 16/21, the Human Rights Council made reference to the Advisory Committee. In paragraph 39 of the same resolution, the Council stipulated that the Committee should endeavour to enhance intersessional work between its members in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 81 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Advisory Committee may therefore address issues related to its methods of work.

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

In paragraph 35 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council stipulated that it should, within existing resources, strengthen its interaction with the Advisory Committee and engage more systematically with it through work formats, such as seminars, panels and working groups, and by sending feedback to the inputs of the Committee.

At its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee decided to produce reflection papers for its own use at each of its sessions, which could be published on the OHCHR website.

At its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee held a discussion on the following reflection papers and research proposals:

- (i) Economic, social and cultural rights on the agenda of international jurisdiction (Ion Diaconu);
- (ii) Refugees' and internally displaced persons' human rights (Mona Omar);
- (iii) Right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law (Ludovic Hennebel);
- (iv) Possible human rights violations in the European Union hotspot camps (Jean Ziegler).

Following the discussions held at its twenty-third session, the Advisory Committee decided to follow up on the research proposal prepared by Ion Diaconu, which had already been submitted to the Committee at its twenty-first session.

The Advisory Committee also decided to merge the proposals entitled "Refugees' and internally displaced persons' human rights" and "Possible human rights violations in the European Union hotspot camps". The merged proposal will be elaborated further and submitted to the Committee for consideration at its twenty-fourth session.

The Advisory Committee further decided to continue the discussion on the above-mentioned topics at its twenty-fourth session. It may also continue its discussions under item 3, including on new priorities.

5. Report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-fourth session

The Advisory Committee will have before it for adoption a draft report on its twenty-fourth session, prepared by the Rapporteur.

Pursuant to paragraph 38 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the annual report of the Advisory Committee will be submitted at the September session of the Council and be the subject of an interactive dialogue with the Committee's Chair. The reports of the Committee on its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions will be considered at the forty-fifth session of the Council.