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Twentieth meeting of chairpersons
of the human rights treaty bodies
Geneva, 26 and 27 June 2008

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The twentieth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies will be held on 26 and 27 June 2008, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994.
2. The present document contains the provisional agenda and annotations for the twentieth meeting.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters.
4. Meeting with the President of the Human Rights Council.
5. Enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies: a coordinated approach to the work of the treaty bodies:
 - (a) Discussion of the recommendations of the seventh inter-committee meeting;
 - (b) Harmonization of working methods.
6. Joint meeting of the fifteenth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures with chairpersons of treaty bodies.
7. Informal consultation with States.
8. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the twenty-first meeting of chairpersons.

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers

The meeting will convene at the United Nations Office at Geneva (Palais Wilson) on Thursday, 26 June 2008, at 10 a.m. The meeting will confirm its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson who have acted in these capacities for the seventh inter-committee meeting.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting will adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in the present document.

Item 3. Organizational matters

Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider and adopt a programme of work.

Item 4. Meeting with the President of the Human Rights Council

Under this agenda item, participants will meet with the President of the Human Rights Council, who will provide an update on progress achieved so far in the Human Rights Council, including in the context of the universal periodic review mechanism.

Item 5. Enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies: a coordinated approach to the work of the treaty bodies:

(a) Discussion of the recommendations of the seventh inter-committee meeting

Under this agenda item, participants will consider the recommendations contained in an advance unedited version of the report of the seventh inter-committee meeting, held from 23 to 25 June 2008;

(b) Harmonization of working methods

Under this agenda item, the participants will discuss the working methods of treaty bodies, including coordination and possibilities for harmonization. The meeting will consider a non-paper on possible areas of harmonization prepared by the Secretariat. The meeting will also have before it the updated version of the report on the working methods of the human rights treaty bodies (HRI/MC/2008/4) as well as the updated version of the report on reservations (HRI/MC/2008/5).

Item 6. Joint meeting of the fifteenth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures with chairpersons of treaty bodies

The chairpersons will meet with the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups, who have convened for their fifteenth meeting. The topic of discussion will be the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council, including information to be provided by treaty bodies and special procedures mandate-holders, as well as follow-up to recommendations.

Item 7. Informal consultation with States

Under this agenda item, the chairpersons will meet with representatives of States. It is proposed that the topic of discussion during this informal consultation be the strengthening of support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies including through harmonization and simplification of their working methods, as well as the relationship of the treaty body system to the wide human right machinery of the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council.

Item 8. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the twenty-first meeting of chairpersons

The chairpersons will adopt a report on their meeting, including conclusions and recommendations, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/90 of 4 December 2000.

In addition, the chairpersons will determine the dates of their twenty-first meeting, to be held in 2009.
