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Sixteenth meeting of chairpersons
of the human rights treaty bodies
Geneva, 23-25 June 2004

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The sixteenth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies will be held from 23 to 25 June 2004, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, in which the Secretary-General was requested to finance, as of 1995, annual meetings of the chairpersons. Prior to their meeting in 1995, the chairpersons had met for the first time in 1984 and biannually from 1988 to 1994.
2. The present document contains the provisional agenda and annotations for the sixteenth meeting.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters.
4. Follow up to the recommendations of the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons.
5. Enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies: a coordinated approach to the work of the treaty bodies.
6. Enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies: streamlining reporting requirements.
7. Meeting of chairpersons of treaty bodies, special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights with the Board of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.
8. Joint meeting of the eleventh meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights with chairpersons of treaty bodies on anti-terrorism measures.
9. Meeting with the specialized agencies of the United Nations.
10. Update on the status of the Annual Appeal 2004 and the 2002-2004 Programme to support Human Rights Organs and Treaty Bodies.
11. Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
12. Informal consultation with States.
13. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the seventeenth 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 Wednesday, 23 June 2004, at 10 a.m. The meeting will elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

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. Follow-up to the recommendations of the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons

The chairpersons will consider follow-up to the recommendations of the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons, held in June 2003. A report on implementation of recommendations of the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons and the second Inter-Committee Meeting (HRI/MC/2004/2) providing information on the follow-up actions taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the treaty bodies will be provided to participants.

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

Under this agenda item, the chairpersons will discuss the working methods of treaty bodies, including coordination and possibilities for harmonization.

Item 6. Enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies: streamlining reporting requirements

Under this agenda item, strengthening support to, and enhancing the effectiveness of, the treaty bodies and streamlining treaty body reporting procedures and requirements will be considered. A report prepared by the Secretariat on coordinated reporting to the treaty bodies: provisional guidelines for reporting with an expanded core document and treaty-specific targeted reports (HRI/MC/2004/3), will provide background information. The annex to this document contains draft provisional guidelines for the preparation of reports, using an expanded core document and treaty-specific targeted reports.

The recommendations of the third Inter-Committee Meeting, to be held from 21 to 22 June 2004, will also be available to participants.

Item 7. Meeting of chairpersons of treaty bodies, special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights with the Board of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

Under this agenda item, the chairpersons of treaty bodies, special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights will meet with members of the Board of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation to discuss technical cooperation.

Item 8. Joint meeting of the eleventh meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights with chairpersons of treaty bodies on anti-terrorism measures

The chairpersons will meet with the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, who have convened for their eleventh meeting. As agreed at the joint meeting held during the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons, the topic of discussion will be anti-terrorism measures.

Item 9. Meeting with the specialized agencies of the United Nations

Under this item, United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes that work with the treaty bodies are requested to provide information on how treaty body recommendations are being followed-up at the national level.

Item 10. Update on the status of the Annual Appeal 2004 and the 2002-2004 Programme to support Human Rights Organs and Treaty Bodies

The chairpersons will have an opportunity to review the status of the initiatives to increase financial resources available to treaty bodies and strengthen the implementation of their recommendations. A presentation will be given on the status of contributions to the 2004 Annual Appeal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The chairpersons should review the specific activities that have been undertaken under the Programme to support Human Rights Organs and Treaty Bodies since their last meeting in June 2003, as well as consider what activities should be undertaken in the future.

Item 11. Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Under this agenda item, and in accordance with the established practice at previous meetings, the chairpersons will engage in a discussion with the members of the expanded Bureau of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights and members of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on issues of common concern and interest.

Item 12. 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

support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies of the human rights treaty system, and in particular the streamlining of reporting procedures and harmonization of working methods among treaty bodies (see items 5 and 6 above).

Item 13. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the seventeenth 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 fifty-ninth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/90 of 4 December 2000.

In addition, the chairpersons will determine the dates of their seventeenth meeting, to be held in 2005.
