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Eighteenth meeting of chairpersons
of the human rights treaty bodies
Geneva, 22 and 23 June 2006

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The eighteenth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies will be held on 22 and 23 June 2006, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994.
2. The present document contains the provisional agenda and annotations for the eighteenth 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 seventeenth 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. Joint meeting of the thirteenth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures with chairpersons of treaty bodies.
8. Informal consultation with States.
9. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the nineteenth 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, 22 June 2006, 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 seventeenth meeting of chairpersons

The chairpersons will consider follow-up to the recommendations of the seventeenth meeting of chairpersons of human rights bodies, held in June 2005. A report by the secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations of the fourth Inter-Committee meeting and the seventeenth meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies (HRI/MC/2006/6), which provides 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 with regard to these recommendations, 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. The concept paper on the High Commissioner's proposal for a unified standing treaty body will be available to the meeting (HRI/MC/2006/2) as will a report prepared by the secretariat providing an overview of the current working methods of the human rights treaty bodies relating to the State party reporting process (HRI/MC/2006/4) and the working paper of the working group on reservations which met on 8 and 9 June 2006 (HRI/MC/2006/5).

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. The meeting will consider revised draft harmonized reporting guidelines, including guidelines on a common core document prepared by the technical working group of representatives of experts of each committee at their meetings on 8 to 9 December 2005 and 15 to 17 February 2006 (HRI/MC/2006/3) and the comments of the fifth inter-committee meeting on the draft guidelines.

Item 7. Joint meeting of the thirteenth 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 thirteenth meeting. The topic of discussion will be reform of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies.

Item 8. 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 of the human rights treaty system, including through the proposals put forward by the High Commissioner for a unified standing treaty body, as well as the streamlining of reporting procedures and harmonization of working methods among treaty bodies (see items 5 and 6 above).

Item 9. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the nineteenth 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-first session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/90 of 4 December 2000.

In addition, the chairpersons will determine the dates of their nineteenth meeting, to be held in 2007.
