



General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 May 2022

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee

Twenty-eighth session

8–12 August 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. 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/28/1).

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-eighth 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:* Nurah Alamro (Saudi Arabia, 2024); Buhm-Suk Baek (Republic of Korea, 2023); Nadia Amal Bernoussi (Morocco, 2023); Lazhari Bouzid (Algeria, 2022); Milena Costas Trascasas (Spain, 2022); José Augusto Lindgren Alves (Brazil, 2024); Xinsheng Liu (China, 2022); Ajai Malhotra (India, 2023); Itsuko Nakai (Japan, 2022); Javier Palummo (Uruguay, 2022); Elizabeth Salmón (Peru, 2023); Patrycja Sasnal (Poland, 2023); Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius, 2023); Vassilis Tzevelekos (Greece, 2024); Catherine Van de Heyning (Belgium, 2023); and Frans Jacobus Viljoen (South Africa, 2024).

2. 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 45/4. The most recent reports on the mandate are contained in documents A/HRC/48/58 and A/76/153.

(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 most recently through Council resolution 44/10. The most recent reports on the topic are contained in documents A/HRC/46/27 and A/76/146.

(d) Impact of new technologies for climate protection on the enjoyment of human rights

In its resolution 48/14, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study and to prepare a report, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, on the impact

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

of new technologies for climate protection on the enjoyment of human rights, and to submit the report to the Council at its fifty-fourth session.

At its twenty-seventh session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on this topic and established a drafting group for the preparation of the report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-fourth session. At present, the drafting group comprises Buhm-Suk Baek, Milena Costas Trascasas (Chairperson), Ajai Malhotra, Javier Palummo, Elizabeth Salmón, Patrycja Sasnal (Rapporteur), Vassilis Tzevelekos and Frans Viljoen.

At the same session, the Committee decided to seek input through a note verbale in which it requested stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations regional economic commissions and other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, the technical community and academic institutions, to submit information by 29 April 2022. This deadline was later extended.

The Advisory Committee also decided to entrust the drafting group with the task of exploring the possibility of convening before its twenty-eighth session an intersessional seminar on the impact of new technologies for climate protection on the enjoyment of human rights, with the participation and involvement of specialists in the field. It requested the drafting group to submit an outline of the report at its twenty-eighth session, taking into account the inputs pursuant to the above-mentioned note verbale.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Advisory Committee will have before it an outline of the report by the drafting group, which will be circulated in the form of a conference room paper.

(e) Advancement of racial justice and equality

In its resolution 48/18, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study in which it examined patterns, policies and processes contributing to incidents of racial discrimination and made proposals to advance racial justice and equality, which should be firmly anchored in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of its Goals, in consultation where possible with OHCHR and the international independent expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement established by the Council in its resolution 47/21, and to present the study to the Council at its fifty-fourth session.

At its twenty-seventh session, the Advisory Committee held meetings to discuss this topic and designated a drafting group for the preparation of the report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-fourth session. The drafting group currently comprises Nurah Alamro, Buhm-Suk Baek, Nadia Amal Bernoussi, Lazhari Bouzid, Milena Costas Trascasas, José Augusto Lindgren Alves, Xinsheng Liu, Ajai Malhotra, Javier Palummo, Elizabeth Salmón, Dheerujall Seetulsingh and Catherine Van de Heyning (Chair) and Frans Viljoen (Rapporteur).

The Advisory Committee also decided to entrust the drafting group with the task of exploring the possibility of convening before its twenty-eighth session an intersessional seminar on the impact of new technologies for climate protection on the enjoyment of human rights, with the participation and involvement of specialists in the field. It requested the drafting group to submit a preliminary draft of the report to the Committee at its twenty-eighth session.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Advisory Committee will have before it a preliminary draft of the report by the drafting group, which will be circulated in the form of a conference room paper.

3. 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-eighth 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-seventh session, the Advisory Committee decided to submit for consideration of and approval by the Human Rights Council the following research proposals:

- Protection of academic freedom and free flow of research: lessons learned from the pandemic
- Assessing the human rights impact of neurotechnology: towards the recognition of neurorights
- New and emerging digital technologies in the military domain and human rights
- The pandemic and its impact on gender equality: lessons for the future

The Advisory Committee may decide to continue, during its twenty-eighth session, its discussions under item 3, including on some of the above-mentioned topics and other new priorities.

(c) Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications

In accordance with paragraphs 91 to 93 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee appoints five of its members, one from each regional group, with due consideration to gender balance, to constitute the Working Group on Communications. In the event of a vacancy, the Committee is to appoint an independent and highly qualified expert from the same regional group. Since there is a need for independent expertise and continuity with regard to the examination and assessment of the communications received, the independent and highly qualified experts of the Working Group are appointed for three years. Their mandate is renewable once only.

The current members of the Working Group on Communications were last appointed by the Advisory Committee at its twenty-third and twenty-sixth sessions (A/HRC/AC/23/2, para. 25–27, A/HRC/AC/26/2, paras. 23–26) and during the intersessional period of 2022 (A/HRC/AC/27/2, paras. 24–26).

At its twenty-eighth session, the Advisory Committee will make new appointments to replace the members of the Working Group whose term expires on 30 September 2022 and a member to replace Iurii Alexandrovich Kolesnikov, who passed away in May 2022.

4. Report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-eighth session

The Advisory Committee will have before it for adoption a draft report on its twenty-eighth 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 to the Council at its September session

and will be the subject of an interactive dialogue with the Committee's Chair. The reports of the Committee on its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions will be considered by the Council at its fifty-first session.
