

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



UNITED NATIONS



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HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

WHAT IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ?

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee was established by Council resolution 5/1 to function as a think-tank for the Council and work at its direction.

The Committee held its first meeting in August 2008. It meets twice a year, for one week in February and one week in August.

MANDATE & FUNCTIONS

The Advisory Committee provides expertise to the Council in the manner and form requested by the Council. It mainly focuses on conducting studies and providing research-based advice to the Council.

The Committee may also propose, within the scope of the work set out by the Council, for the latter's consideration and approval, suggestions for further research proposals. These proposals are implementation oriented and limited to thematic issues pertaining to the mandate of the Council, namely the promotion and protection of all human rights.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is composed of 18 independent experts from different professional backgrounds representing the various regions of the world. They are nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, normally at the September session of the Council.

Members serve in their personal capacity for three-year terms and are eligible for re-election only once. Their term of membership starts on 1 October of the year of their election.



THEMATIC ISSUES

The Advisory Committee has been mandated by the Human Rights Council to conduct research and studies on a number of issues.

ILLICIT FUNDS – The Committee will conduct a comprehensive research-based study on the impact of the flow of funds of illicit origin and the non-repatriation thereof to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, with a special emphasis on the right to development, with a view to compiling relevant best practices and main challenges, and to make recommendations on tackling those challenges based on the best practices in question (progress report to be presented in September 2017).

REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS – The Committee will prepare a report on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular on the progress made in the establishment of regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, and their achievements in all regions of the world (report to be presented in September 2018).

UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS – The Committee will develop a research-based study on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights, in which it identifies areas, reasons and cases where this issue arises in the world, and the ways in which human rights are threatened and violated, and makes recommendations for the protection of the human rights of members of this population (final report to be presented in September 2017).

LEPROSY-RELATED DISCRIMINATION – The Committee formulated a draft set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and their family members (endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2010 in its resolution A/RES/65/215). Currently the Committee is undertaking a study which reviews the implementation of the principles and guidelines, together with the obstacles thereto, and will submit a report to the Council containing practical suggestions for the wider dissemination and more effective implementation of the principles and guidelines (to be presented in June 2017).

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING – The Committee elaborated and presented a draft declaration to the Council in 2010, which served as the basis for the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training that the General Assembly adopted in December 2011.

RIGHT TO FOOD – Within the context of its work on the right to food, the Committee undertook a number of studies:

- on discrimination in the context of the right to food (A/HRC/16/40);
- on ways and means to further advance the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (A/HRC/19/75);
- on the relationship between severe malnutrition and childhood diseases, taking children affected by noma as an example (A/HRC/19/73);
- on the urban poor and their enjoyment of the right to food (A/HRC/22/61); and
- on rural women and their enjoyment of the right to food (A/HRC/22/72).

In September 2012, the Council established an open-ended

intergovernmental working group to finalize a draft declaration on the rights of peasants on the basis of the draft prepared by the Committee. The working group held its first session from 15 to 19 July 2013.

MISSING PERSONS – The Committee submitted to the Council a study on best practices on the issue of missing persons (A/HRC/16/70).

RIGHT TO PEACE – The Committee submitted a draft declaration on the right of peoples to peace in June 2012, following which the Council established an open-ended intergovernmental working group to negotiate a draft declaration based on the draft prepared by the Committee. The working group held three annual sessions from 2013 to 2015. In 2016, by its resolution 32/28 the Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration on the Right to Peace.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY – The Committee submitted a paper to the Council in September 2012 contributing to the process of elaboration of a draft declaration on human rights and international solidarity (A/HRC/21/66).

TRADITIONAL VALUES OF HUMANKIND – The Committee submitted to the Council a study on promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms through a better understanding of traditional values of humankind (A/HRC/22/71).

TERRORIST HOSTAGE TAKING – The Committee submitted to the Council a study on the issue of terrorist hostage-taking for the purposes of promoting awareness and understanding, paying particular attention to its impact on human rights and the role of regional and international cooperation in this field (A/HRC/24/47).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – The Committee submitted to the Council two studies on the ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights (A/HRC/19/74 and A/HRC/26/41).

CORRUPTION – The Committee submitted to the Council a report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, and made recommendations on how the Council and its subsidiary bodies should consider this issue (A/HRC/28/73).

POST-DISASTER AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

– The Committee submitted to the Council a report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, with a focus on human rights mainstreaming in relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts (A/HRC/28/76).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS – The Committee submitted to the Council a report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services (A/HRC/30/49).

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH SPORT AND THE OLYMPIC IDEAL – The Committee submitted to the Council a study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all (A/HRC/30/50).

HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES – The Committee submitted to the Council a report containing recommendations on a mechanism to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability (A/HRC/28/74). The Council, in line with the recommendation made by the Committee, established a mandate for a Special

Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (A/HRC/RES/27/21).

PREVENTION OF ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

– The Committee submitted to the Council a study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism (A/HRC/28/75), following which, in line with the recommendation made by the Committee, the Council established a mandate for an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (A/HRC/RES/28/6).

THE ACTIVITIES OF VULTURE FUNDS – The Committee submitted to the Council a report on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights (A/HRC/33/54).



MODALITIES & METHODS OF WORK

PREPARATION OF STUDIES AND REPORTS – In order to produce its reports and studies, the Committee usually forms drafting groups consisting of four to five of its members, who work closely with each other for the preparation of these documents. Studies and reports are then presented to the plenary of the Committee for successive rounds of discussion and revision. Drafting groups normally present a preliminary report and a progress report before submitting the final study or report to the Council.

INTERACTION WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS – In the preparation of its studies and reports, the Committee usually seeks comments through questionnaires from a range of stakeholders, including member States, international organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

States, NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and national human rights institutions also participate in the deliberations of the Committee during its sessions in Geneva.

ANNUAL REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE – The Chair of the Committee presents the Committee’s annual report to the Council’s September session. This is followed by an interactive dialogue with States and NGOs having ECOSOC consultative status.



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