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**THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Summary**

This report, submitted in response to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72, contains a summary of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, separately or jointly with others, with regard to the implementation of the right to development. Particular importance is placed on those activities which relate to right to development issues identified in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as in the agreed conclusions contained in the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its sixth session.

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## Introduction

1. In its resolution 1998/72, the Commission on Human Rights invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present a report to the Commission each year for the duration of the existence of the follow-up mechanism established pursuant to paragraph 10 of that resolution and to provide interim reports to the open-ended working group on the right to development established therein, in each case covering:

(a) The activities of the Office relating to the implementation of the right to development as contained in the High Commissioner's mandate;

(b) The implementation of resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly with regard to the right to development;

(c) Inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system for the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Commission in that regard.

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with the aforementioned resolution to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-second session. This report is also submitted to the Working Group on the Right to Development at its seventh session, which is scheduled to meet two months prior to the session of the Commission, from 9 to 13 January 2006.

### **I. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AS CONTAINED IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MANDATE**

3. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to provide substantive and administrative support to the open-ended working group (the Working Group on the Right to Development). It may be recalled that the Working Group is mandated to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration on the Right to Development.

4. In addition, OHCHR provided support to the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, established under Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/7, replacing the independent expert on the right to development, which was discontinued at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The task force's mandate was renewed in Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/4 upon recommendation of the Working Group at its sixth session. The objective of the task force is to provide the necessary expertise to the Working Group to enable it to make appropriate recommendations to the various actors on the issues identified for the implementation of the right to development. The task force comprises five experts nominated by the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Right to Development and appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights.

5. Furthermore, OHCHR has been asked to support specific activities mandated in the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights. The following section summarizes briefly the major activities that were undertaken in implementing the mandates on the right to development.

### **Meeting of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development**

6. The first meeting of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development took place in Geneva from 13 to 17 December 2004. Pursuant to Commission resolution 2004/7, the task force considered the following issues: (a) obstacles and challenges to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in relation to the right to development; and (b) social impact assessment in the areas of trade and development at the national and international level. The meeting was attended widely by representatives of Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as scholars and experts in the field of human rights and development. The meeting arrived at a set of conclusions and recommendations on the mandated issues, reflected in its report (E/CN.4/2005/WG.18/2). These conclusions and recommendations were considered by the Working Group at its sixth session.

7. The second meeting of the high-level task force, which was reconstituted pursuant to Commission resolution 2005/4, took place from 14 to 18 November 2005. The mandate given to the task force was to examine Millennium Development Goal 8, global partnership for development, and to suggest criteria for its periodic evaluation with the aim of improving the effectiveness of global partnerships with regard to the realization of the right to development. OHCHR invited the following regional institutions to participate in the meeting: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

8. In preparation for this meeting, OHCHR commissioned two background papers, by Mr. Fateh Azzam and Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr on: the right to development and national strategies for the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 8, and Millennium Development Goal 8 and criteria for its evaluation. The conclusions and recommendations of the task force with respect to the mandated issues are reflected in its report (E/CN.4/2005/WG.18/TF/3), to be submitted to the seventh session of the Working Group, meeting from 9-13 January 2006.

9. The Office also contacted research institutions, individual experts, civil society organizations and the Member States to seek inputs on their experiences in implementing the right to development in general and on the issues mandated to the task force in particular, for consideration at the meeting of the task force. In this regard, an advisory group of experts was established to provide advisory support to the task force. To assist the task force, OHCHR compiled comments received from the advisory group of experts and other interested parties, and prepared a note on Goal 8 in the context of the 2005 World Summit outcome document.

### **Sixth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development**

10. OHCHR organized the sixth session of the Working Group from 14-18 February 2005. In the course of the preparation for the Working Group, the Office submitted the relevant background and pre-session documentation, including the annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development (E/CN.4/2004/22). At this session, the Working Group considered the report of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, expressing appreciation for its efforts and commending the collaborative approach of the experts in exploring ways of bridging the various perspectives and experiences in making constructive and operational

suggestions for furthering the implementation of the right to development. The Working Group adopted conclusions and recommendations, which are reflected in its report (E/CN.4/2005/25), in part based on those submitted by the high-level task force.

### **The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the right to development**

11. Prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, OHCHR organized the third Social Forum in 2005, the theme of which was "Poverty and economic growth: challenges to human rights", as decided at its fifty-sixth session in Sub-Commission resolution 2004/8. The discussion focused on the principle of accountability, its role and implications, in the relationship between economic growth, poverty and human rights, particularly in the context of poverty reduction strategies. Three panels addressed the following themes of debate: (a) the perspective of those living in poverty; (b) growth with accountability; and (c) methods and instruments of accountability. The Social Forum recommended that strategies to reduce poverty include the means for individuals and communities to participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and the establishment of monitoring and accountability mechanisms, to make duty-bearers answerable for their acts or omissions and to provide rights-holders with the opportunity to assess whether the duty-bearers have succeeded or failed in discharging their tasks. This may imply some form of remedy, including reparation for individuals whose rights are infringed as a result.

12. OHCHR further supported the work of the expert of the Sub-Commission, Ms. Florizelle O'Connor, in the preparation of a concept document on the right to development, which was submitted for the consideration of the Sub-Commission at its fifty-seventh session. In its resolution 2005/17, the Sub-Commission decided to submit Ms. O'Connor's concept document, together with a summary of the other views and ideas on this subject discussed at its fifty-seventh session to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-second session (see E/CN.4/2006/25).

13. The Sub-Commission further requested Ms. O'Connor to continue her work and to submit to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-eighth session a working paper, taking into consideration the discussions at the present session and including, if financial and staff support are available from within existing resources, meeting with people in selected geographic areas for discussions to obtain local people's views on development programmes in their community.

### **Other activities**

14. Pursuant to the recommendation of the sixth session of the Working Group (E/CN.4/2005/25, para. 54 (k)), OHCHR also prepared a draft outline for a compendium on partnerships for development cooperation and other multilateral and bilateral arrangements, for the consideration of the Working Group at its seventh session.

15. The Secretary-General further submitted a report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the right to development (A/60/286) containing information supplementing the High Commissioner's report on the right to development submitted to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/22).

16. In her report to the General Assembly (A/60/36, para. 4), the High Commissioner informed the General Assembly about the Plan of Action adopted by OHCHR, which responded to the Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005). She further informed the General Assembly of her vision for human rights within the reform of the United Nations, with regard to which a key challenge was to scale up implementation of international human rights norms and standards at the country level, so as to ensure the enjoyment by all of all rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development. This would rely on building closer working relationships with our national-level partners, including Governments, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as on making full use of the country-specific experience and expertise of the different components of the human rights programme, including the treaty bodies and the special procedures.

17. With respect to the right to development, the High Commissioner stressed in her report that the deeper involvement of OHCHR in the area of human rights and development would build on existing expertise in rights-based approaches, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. In her view, the growing consensus around the right to development had been reflected by the institution of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development. (A/60/36, para. 35).

18. OHCHR also facilitated the address of the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Right to Development to the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

## **II. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH REGARD TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

19. The following activities are grouped according to right to development issues identified in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights<sup>1</sup> on the right to development and the conclusions contained in the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its third session (E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1). Those right to development issues on which the Office is working jointly with other United Nations bodies are included in chapter III of this report.

### **Human rights and poverty reduction**

20. Following a process of consultations with various stakeholders (Member States, multilateral organizations and NGOs), including a workshop at OHCHR on 19 November 2004, a revised version of the Guidelines on a Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies was produced in May 2005. The revised draft is being considered for publication by OHCHR.

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<sup>1</sup> See for example General Assembly resolutions 56/150 and 57/223 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2002/69 and 2003/83.

21. OHCHR has supported the ad hoc expert group of the Sub-Commission, established in 2001 pursuant to resolution 2001/31 of the Commission on Human Rights, which submitted an interim working paper in 2005 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/20). The group decided to submit draft guiding principles on the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty as an annex to its final report to the Sub-Commission in 2006. OHCHR participated in the meeting with the members of the ad hoc expert group and held an initial discussion on the guiding principles at a meeting hosted by ATD - fourth World in Pierrelaye, France, from 22 to 24 September 2005.

22. OHCHR has also provided support to the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, Arjun Sengupta, who held consultations from 7 to 11 March 2005 with staff at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington, D.C., to discuss issues relevant to his mandate, including the poverty and social impact analysis and poverty reduction strategy papers. Mr. Sengupta also went on a fact-finding mission to the United States from 23 October to 8 November 2005 and will present a report on the mission to the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights.

### **The Millennium Development Goals**

23. OHCHR has continued to identify interlinkages between efforts to realize human rights and efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To operationalize these links, and in doing so to build on OHCHR's existing capacities in rights-based approaches to development, the OHCHR Plan of Action announced the establishment of a unit dedicated to working on the Goals, in particular poverty reduction strategies and a rights-based approach to poverty. In cooperation with partners at the national and international levels, OHCHR will assist Member States by providing human rights advice on strategies for achieving the Goals, including on the right to development. Furthermore, in the context of implementing the OHCHR Plan of Action, OHCHR will focus on the various dimensions of country engagement - such as country strategies, support to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), and supporting pilot initiatives to apply a rights-based approach to poverty reduction strategies; leadership and knowledge management, including research and analysis, supporting evaluation, and developing the advocacy capacity of the High Commissioner and OHCHR; partnerships and networking, including in the context of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), with other agencies and with civil society; and ensuring links with the rest of OHCHR.

24. The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the 2005 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2005/65) addressed the human rights dimensions of the Millennium Declaration and, in particular, the links between human rights and the Millennium Development Goals, as human rights and the Goals shared similar motivations and were complementary in their approaches, potentially forming a mutual reinforcing strategy, in which the Goals supported the realization of human rights and the protection of rights promoted the sustainable achievement of the Goals. The report further stressed that, while achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would greatly advance the realization of human rights for much of the world's populations, it is only in ensuring respect for human rights that the Goals can be achieved in a sustainable way. The report further identified a number of basic human rights concerns in the process of achieving the Goals, namely respecting the principle of non-discrimination, ensuring meaningful participation, and the need for adequate monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The High Commissioner particularly drew attention to the close

relationship between the Millennium Development Goal 8, on a global partnership for development, and the right to development, which both emphasize a facilitative international environment for development (ibid., para. 33).

25. As mentioned above, the second meeting of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, held from 14 to 18 November 2005, focused on examining Millennium Development Goal 8, on a global partnership for development, and suggested criteria for its periodic evaluation, which could contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of global partnerships with regard to the realization of the right to development (E/CN.4/2005/WG.18/TF/3).

### **Globalization and international economic and financial issues**

26. On 2 June 2005, a staff member of OHCHR participated as a trainer in an event organized by the World Bank and UNIFEM on “Equitable development and the MDGs: Addressing equity challenges in labour and trade agendas”, presenting material on “Human rights and trade”. The presentation outlined the human rights norms and mechanisms at the international level, with a particular focus on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and identified ways in which they can help to shape trade reform that promotes equality between men and women in the labour, agricultural and services sectors.

27. In November 2005, in the context of and prior to the Sixth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong, OHCHR released a publication on “Human rights and world trade agreements: using general exceptions clauses to protect human rights”. In the light of the increasing scrutiny of the relationship between trade and human rights in recent years, this publication explores one of several, namely the use of general exceptions clauses in world trade agreements as a vehicle to protect human rights, in particular on how three specific exceptions - allowing States to take measures to protect public morals, human life or health, and public order - could be relevant to human rights. Important aspects of the publication include: the argument that recognizing international human rights norms as legitimate exceptions to trade rules would help dispel some of the perceived drawbacks of trade liberalization; exploring how States could comply with both their human rights obligations and their WTO commitments; and describing how to avoid the practical and legal pitfalls of raising human rights concerns before a forum meant to settle international trade disputes.

28. Furthermore, OHCHR continued to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, who, in the follow-up to his recommendations after a visit to the WTO in July 2003, continued to address the impact of trade agreements, particularly at the bilateral level, on the enjoyment of the right to health. In his report to the General Assembly this year (A/60/348), he has also addressed the issue of migration of health professionals from developing to developed countries (the so-called skills drain).

### **The role and the human rights of women**

29. In the period under review, OHCHR continued to work closely with other United Nations bodies and agencies in providing guidance and developing strategies in the area of human rights



of women. The Office participated in and contributed to the activities of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Taskforce on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance, in particular to the Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, published in September 2005, and to the Handbook on Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Crisis which is in the process of being prepared.

30. OHCHR continues to support the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Mr. Miloon Kothari. In order to implement the Commission's resolutions on women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing (resolutions 2003/22 and 2005/25), OHCHR has financially and substantially contributed to the holding of three regional consultations and training workshops for civil society organizations and grass-root representatives in Kenya in October 2002, together with UN-Habitat, and in Mexico in December 2003, in Egypt (July 2004) and in Hungary (November 2005).

31. Additional civil society regional consultations to support the work on women and adequate housing have been held in India in October 2003, in Fiji (October 2004) and in the United States of America (October 2005). Given the wealth of information contained in testimonies given during such consultations relating to the obstacles encountered by women with respect to adequate housing and related rights, OHCHR is also supporting the initiative of the Special Rapporteur to produce a major study on the subject during 2006.

32. OHCHR and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized a round table in Ouarzazate, Morocco, from 15 to 19 November 2004 for representatives of national machineries (NMs) for the advancement of women and of national human rights institutions (NHRI), from Australia, Bolivia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Germany, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Uganda and Zambia. The round table aimed at strengthening the capacity of NMs and NHRIs to promote and protect the human rights of women through the development of institutional links and joint strategies. It also discussed ways and means for the promotion of gender equality and the full implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Furthermore, two international seminars were held containing direct references to gender issues, in particular on "NHRIs, trafficking and smuggling", in Campeche, Mexico, in March 2005, and "NHRIs and the right to education" in Copán, Honduras, September 2005. During the seminar on "NHRIs, trafficking and smuggling", a working group addressed the issue of trafficking in women and children. The participants of the seminar on "NHRIs and the right to education" agreed to establish a plan of action addressing the NHRIs, and emphasizing the need to remove obstacles preventing women and the girl-child to access quality education.

### **Democracy, good governance and the rule of law**

33. In its resolution 2005/68 on the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, the Commission on Human Rights requested OHCHR: (a) to ensure relevant United Nations agencies and other bodies with governance programmes, including relevant international financial and development institutions, are aware of the outcomes of the seminar and to encourage them to examine whether their approaches to good governance promote

human rights; (b) to publish a selection of practices arising from the seminar and the material provided by States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations for consultation by States; (c) to convene in 2006 a seminar, from extra-budgetary resources, on the role of anti-corruption measures at the national and international levels in good governance practices for the promotion and protection of human rights.

34. Pursuant to this resolution, OHCHR prepared and distributed a CD-ROM on good governance practices and their contribution to human rights protection and promotion in June 2005, in collaboration with UNDP. The CD-ROM provides the key background material for a seminar examining the relationship between governance and human rights, which took place in September 2004 in Seoul, organized pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/65 and 2004/70. The CD-ROM also includes the final report of the seminar to the sixty-second session of the Commission in 2006 in the six official languages.

35. OHCHR also prepared a publication on 24 good-governance practices, including, but not limited to, the ones presented in the 2004 Seoul seminar, exploring the relationship between the rule of law, democratic participation, delivery of services, corruption and the protection of the human rights. The publication is to be finalized by December 2005.

36. Furthermore, OHCHR commenced preparations for a seminar in 2006 on anti-corruption measures and the promotion of human rights. Two note verbales were issued, in August and October 2005, requesting submission of relevant material by Member States and NGOs with relevant expertise.

37. In February 2005, OHCHR organized the second expert seminar on the interdependence between democracy and human rights, with a focus on the rule of law in accordance with Commission resolution 2003/36. The seminar offered an opportunity to address major contemporary challenges to the realization of democracy and the rule of law from the human rights perspective - including the management of internal disorder, emergencies and conflicts; impunity; corruption; and access to justice by the disadvantaged groups - and contributed to the dissemination of the existing expertise in these areas. Through the ensuing conclusions and recommendations, the seminar laid the grounds for the elaboration of regional frameworks addressing the specific regional challenges and barriers affecting smooth transitions towards democratization as well as potential factors for progress in this direction.

38. The first such regional seminar was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 5 to 7 September 2005 for Latin America and the Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean. Participants included senior government officials, representatives of ombudspersons' associations and of regional networks of NGOs. The agenda allowed for discussions and adoption of recommendations of three topics (a) impunity and access to justice; (b) corruption and social justice; and (c) conflict and State security. Participants at the workshop recommended that States reaffirm their commitment with regard to interdependence between the concept of democracy, human rights, rule of law and development as mutually reinforcing concepts. Participants also recommended that States adopt policies of public security that respect human rights in order to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and the right to development.

39. Efforts are also under way to provide technical assistance to parliamentarians through a series of human rights training exercises aiming to familiarize them with international

human rights norms, procedures relevant to the exercise of their legislative and oversight powers and the principles of good governance conducive to the realization of sustainable human development.

40. OHCHR has developed tools on the rule of law, which will provide practical guidance to field missions and transitional administrations in critical transitional justice and rule of law-related areas. Each tool can be used individually, and also fits into a coherent operational perspective. The tools are intended to outline the basic principles involved in: mapping the justice sector, prosecution initiatives, truth commissions, and vetting and monitoring legal systems.

### **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

41. OHCHR continued to participate under the United Nations cluster framework, as defined by the Secretary-General under the coordination of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Office also continued to be in contact with the NEPAD secretariat.

42. Furthermore, NEPAD participated in the second meeting of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development in November 2005, making a presentation on the work of NEPAD, particularly with respect to development partnerships, and actively participating in the meeting.

## **III. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN REGARD TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

### **Cooperation with the United Nations Development Group**

43. OHCHR continued to collaborate with UNDG and the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs on the inter-agency plan of action, the Action 2 Initiative, developed pursuant to the request of the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1). In this report, the Secretary-General placed particular emphasis on enhancing human rights at the country level, through programmes and activities of the United Nations system. The plan of action, endorsed by principals of UNDG, ECHA and OHCHR in September 2003, places its focus on building the capacity of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) with the ultimate goal of assisting interested Member States in establishing and strengthening national human rights promotion and protection systems consistent with international human rights norms and principles. To better coordinate the support to country teams, UNDG, ECHA and OHCHR have established an Action 2 inter-agency Task Force and Secretariat.

44. The Office continued to collaborate closely with UNDG to enhance linkages and promote the integration of human rights into development programming, particularly in the context of the unified United Nations analytical and programmatic framework, the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). OHCHR prepared and submitted country profiles to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the 16 CCA/UNDAF roll-out countries for 2005, aimed at providing UNCTs with relevant

observations and recommendations of the treaty bodies and special procedures for guidance throughout the programming process. OHCHR further prepared and submitted to UNCTs a study of the 2003 CCA/UNDAF documents from a human rights perspective. OHCHR also contributed to the inter-agency preparation of a note on good examples of UNDAFs reflecting human rights-based approach. Both documents have been disseminated to all UNCTs, with a view to support them in the preparation of CCA/UNDAFs.

45. At the request of UNCTs, OHCHR has also provided 10 in-country workshops to several UNCTs in cooperation with Resident Coordination offices. In close consultation with the inter-agency task force, OHCHR has taken stock of learning material on rights-based approaches to CCA/UNDAF from various United Nations agencies. OHCHR has reviewed the current inter-agency module by gathering feedback from resource persons and participants in the workshops piloted in 2004. OHCHR also actively supported the work of UNCT thematic groups. OHCHR also conducted a human rights segment of induction briefings for new Resident Coordinators held in New York. OHCHR will further develop specific training sessions for United Nations Resident Coordinators during their induction in Geneva, with a view to strengthening their knowledge and competencies.

### **Cooperation with UNDP**

46. OHCHR has continued to implement the joint UNDP/OHCHR HURIST (Human Rights Strengthening) programme. HURIST has been active in some 30 countries in all regions of the world, focusing on piloting a human rights-based approach to the activities of UNDP. Current activities explore capacity development for a human rights-based approach in poverty reduction, access to justice, parliamentary development, and strengthening linkages between treaty body reporting and national level development processes.

47. In 2005, HURIST supported three human rights-based reviews of UNDP country programmes. It also focused on building capacities in UNDP Regional Resource Centres (formerly called Sub-Regional Resource Facilities, or SURFs) to help implement HURIST pilot programming initiatives and provide follow-up support to country offices. In 2005 HURIST supported a regional lessons-learning project on a rights-based approach to development in Asia and the Pacific, and a lessons-learned workshop concerning human rights-based country programme reviews was carried out in March 2005. A separate independent evaluation of six HURIST-support national human rights action plans is currently under way. The programme concludes its current phase in December 2005. An independent evaluation of HURIST took place in mid-2005, providing a framework for inter-agency discussions on the future of the programme. UNDP and OHCHR are currently exploring the ways to continue their cooperation in the future.

### **Cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization**

48. After the adoption in November 2004 by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of a set of Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, collaboration between the two organizations has continued mainly through consultations on ways

to contribute to the effective implementation of the Guidelines. OHCHR and FAO also held an event to inform the membership of the Commission on Human Rights about the process and outcome of the voluntary guidelines during the sixty-first session of the Commission.

### **Cooperation with UNAIDS**

49. OHCHR continues to work closely with UNAIDS. In 2005 OHCHR continued its joint programme of activities with UNAIDS including finalization of a handbook for national institutions on HIV/AIDS and human rights, the organization of parallel events at the Commission focusing on the role of national institutions and on developments relating to discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. Joint briefings were provided to the treaty bodies in relation to the situation of HIV/AIDS in six States parties, as well as support to special procedures mandate holders. OHCHR participates in UNAIDS Global Reference Group on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS.

### **Cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

50. In 2005, OHCHR cooperated with UNESCO on several orientation programmes in human rights and human rights-based approach to programming for selected UNESCO staff, "A human rights approach to UNESCO programming: a learning module for training of resource persons". This training programme was aimed at further increasing UNESCO staff members' awareness and knowledge of human rights and human rights-based approach to programming so that they can provide support to efforts within UNESCO for mainstreaming human rights and rights-based approaches to programming, by serving as resource persons.

### **Cooperation with UNICEF**

51. OHCHR continues to closely cooperate with UNICEF in the context of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. UNICEF has pursued its mandate, through a combination of a human rights-based approach to its programmes of cooperation with Governments and results-based planning and management. In the course of 2005, OHCHR, UNICEF and WHO continued to provide support to the Secretary-General's study on violence against children. In particular, UNICEF offices in different parts of the world played a significant role in facilitating the regional consultations and in supporting country-level preparatory and follow-up processes. OHCHR worked closely with UNICEF in organizing the annual day of the general discussion (of the Committee on the Rights of the Child) on the theme "Children without parental care", which took place on 16 September 2005. Moreover, UNICEF actively supported the organization of a subregional seminar held in Buenos Aires, from 28 to 30 November 2005, on the implementation of the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

### **Cooperation with the World Health Organization**

52. OHCHR continued to collaborate with the World Health Organization in various ways in 2005. The Office continued working with WHO in a project to identify indicators for monitoring the right to health, including through OHCHR's participation in workshops and informal consultations organized by WHO. OHCHR also continued to work closely with WHO

through the support extended by the Office to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including on the Special Rapporteur's mission to Uganda in March. Ongoing activities of the Special Rapporteur include the final publication on a right-to-health analysis of neglected diseases in collaboration with UNDP, World Bank, and WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), as well as further conceptual development on thematic issues such as access to essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health, and mental disability. OHCHR also has provided support for a WHO draft publication on health, human rights and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

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