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## REMINDER

**Intersessional Working Group established in accordance with Human Rights Council's resolution 3/4 entitled "Agenda, annual programme of work, methods of work and rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council"**

**Groupe de travail intergouvernemental d'intersessions établis conformément à la résolution 3/4 intitulé « ordre du jour, programme de travail annuel, méthodes de travail et règlement intérieur du Conseil des droits de l'homme »**

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions and has the honour to remind them that the meetings of the intersessional Working Groups established pursuant to Council's resolution 3/4 entitled "Agenda, annual programme of work, methods of work and rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council" will begin its work **at 10.00 am on Monday 15 January 2007, in room XVII of the Palais des Nations.**

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council has also the honour to communicate attached herewith a series of materials, namely:


- the draft timetable for the Working group;
- the preliminary non-paper from the Secretariat on some issues relating to working arrangements of the HRC throughout the year;
- the Asian Group's non-paper on working methods of the HRC;
- the European Union's non-paper on the future agenda for the HRC;
- the JUSCANZ paper on proposed ground rules for special sessions of the HRC;
- the NAM's initial contribution on the agenda for the HRC;
- the NAM's initial contribution on ground rules for special sessions of the HRC; and;
- the Philippines' working paper on draft rules of procedure for the HRC.

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Le Secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme présente ses compliments à toutes les missions permanentes de Genève, les départements et agences spécialisées des Nations Unies, les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales, les institutions nationales des droits de l'homme et, à l'honneur de leur rappeler que la réunion du groupe de travail intergouvernemental d'intersessions établis conformément à la résolution 3/4 intitulé « ordre du jour, programme de travail annuel, méthodes de travail et règlement intérieur du Conseil des droits de l'homme » débutera ses travaux **le lundi 15 janvier 2007, à 10h00, en salle XVII du Palais des Nations.**

Le Secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme a également l'honneur de leur communiquer, à cet effet, les documents suivants :

- un projet de programme de travail pour le groupe de travail ;
- un non-papier préliminaire du Secrétariat sur quelques questions concernant les modalités de travail du Conseil tout le long de l'année ;
- le non-papier du Groupe Asiatique sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil ;
- le non-papier de l'Union Européenne sur le futur agenda du Conseil ;
- le papier du JUSCANZ sur des règles de base proposées pour les sessions spéciales du Conseil ;
- la contribution initiale du NAM sur l'agenda du Conseil ;
- la contribution initiale du NAM sur des règles de bases proposées pour les sessions spéciales du Conseil ;
- un document de travail des Philippines sur un projet de règles de procédure pour le Conseil.

  
12 January 2007

**Timetable for the Working Group established pursuant resolution 3/4  
of the Human Rights Council (15 to 19 January 2007)**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday 15 January</b>	Agenda & annual programme of Work <i>Facilitator: Guatemala</i>	Methods of work & rules of procedure <i>Facilitator: Philippines</i>
<b>Tuesday 16 January</b>	Agenda & annual programme of Work <i>Facilitator: Guatemala</i>	Methods of work & rules of procedure <i>Facilitator: Philippines</i>
<b>Wednesday 17 January</b>	Agenda & annual programme of Work <i>Facilitator: Guatemala</i>	Methods of work & rules of procedure <i>Facilitator: Philippines</i>
<b>Thursday 18 January</b>	Agenda & annual programme of Work <i>Facilitator: Guatemala</i>	Methods of work & rules of procedure <i>Facilitator: Philippines</i>
<b>Friday 19 January</b>	Agenda & annual programme of Work <i>Facilitator: Guatemala</i>	Methods of work & rules of procedure <i>Facilitator: Philippines</i>

## **Preliminary non-Paper from the Secretariat on some issues relating to working arrangements of the HRC throughout the year**

(21 November 2006)

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The present preliminary non-paper was prepared at the request of the President in preparation for the Third Council session which should dwell, according to decision 1/105, on issues relating to the Methods of work and agenda.

### **1. Process:**

- a. Due to the transitional and institution-building character of the present period, the agenda of the HR Council as proposed by the President contains only one substantive item entitled "Implementation of GA resolution 60/251". As a result, the work of the Council is organized not on the basis of its agenda (which is a normal practice for UN bodies), but in accordance with the "draft framework for a programme of work of the Human Rights Council for the first year" as adopted by Council in its decisions 1/105 and 2/103.
- b. The issue of the agenda was included as a separate segment in the Council's programme of work for its November-December 2006 and March-April 2007 sessions. Should the draft resolution L.28 submitted by the Africa group be adopted, the process of elaborating the agenda of the Council for the second year onwards would be undertaken "in a structured framework by establishing an open-ended intergovernmental working group on the agenda of the Human Rights Council under the leadership of the President of the Council, which shall convene no more than two annual sessions of ten working days each and present its report to the relevant session of the Council".
- c. In view of the priority accorded under GA resolution 60/251 to the ongoing work on UPR and review of mandates which should be completed before June 2007 and bearing in mind already scheduled meetings of other inter-sessional working groups (see para. 5 below), a space for convening yet another working group on the agenda would be hard to find.

### **2. Frequency and duration of the Council sessions throughout the year:**

- a. **Current practice:** The cycle of work of the HRC for its first year consists of 4 sessions amounting to 11 weeks of plenary meetings in total: 2 weeks in June, 3 weeks in September/October, 2 weeks in November/December and 4 weeks in March/April, the latter session being accepted as the main one.
- b. Without counting the special sessions (three in the first 6 months of Council's existence!) and frequent informal consultations, the above tight schedule of HRC for its first year has also accommodated 2 weeks of meetings of the working group on UPR and 4 weeks of meetings of

the working group on review of mandates, as well as 8 weeks of meetings of five other intersessional working groups, thus making another 14 weeks of meetings. Coupled with over 5 weeks of meetings of Council's inherited subsidiary expert body - Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and its working groups, the grand total of Council and Council-related meetings in the first year of its history would reach over 30 weeks, or 7 1/2 months in session.

- c. **Future trends:** GA resolution 60/251 very clearly states that the Council 'shall meet regularly throughout the year and schedule no fewer than three sessions per year, including a main session, for a total duration of no less than ten weeks'.
- d. **Three sessions would be the first option to consider** but the fact that the Council would have to adopt important decisions by the conclusion of the twelve month period which started with its first session implies that a session would have to be organized in June 2007. This, in turn, implies that for the first two years of its work (2006/2007), the Council will presumably work on the basis of a four sessions per year pace. Although this may not be considered as setting a precedent **it would nevertheless creates some expectations or perceptions that the normal frequency of meetings is four sessions per year and this would be the second option to consider**
- e. In setting up a yearly calendar of meetings, it is of importance to also recognize that the May/July segment is always a very difficult period of time for the Conference Services that have to accommodate important meetings and Conferences every year in Geneva at that particular moment. Additionally, the October/November segment is usually found less palatable for a number of delegations that either send some of their experts to the Third Committee session or because of a lack of visibility for the Council at a time when the GA is in session.

Option A: Four sessions per year

- i. **Spring and Main Session: 4 weeks in March/April**
- ii. **Summer Session: (1 or) 2 weeks in June**
- iii. **Fall Session: 3 weeks in September**
- iv. **Winter Session: (1 or) 2 weeks in November /December.**

Option B: Three sessions per year:

- i. **Spring and Main Session: 4 weeks in March/April**
- j. **Fall Session: 3 weeks in September**
- k. **Winter Session: 3 weeks in November /December.**

- f. **UPR: It should be borne in mind that this proposed schedule and/or duration of Council's regular sessions will need to be changed in the near future depending on the modalities and time allocation that will be adopted for the UPR process.**

3. **Agenda, timetable and programme of work for the year:**

- a. **It is important to note that there is often a confusion made between the agenda of the Council, its programme of work and its timetable.** In the mind of the Secretariat these three documents are fundamentally different. While the agenda is of significant importance for the legal and political distribution of work of the Council under a number of items the programme of work relates to the translation into in deeds of the Council's agenda for one particular session. The timetable for each session is a living and very flexible document prepared on the basis of the programme of work and varies frequently whereby by essence the agenda should be relatively stable and not vary for a number of years to ensure consistency and predictability. The work programme is a mean to ensure that all stakeholders are fully aware of how and when the Council will deal with specific items/issues during any given year.
- b. In terms of the Council **agenda**, the Secretariat would consider that, based on many interventions by delegations, a simple and user-friendly document would be a preferred option rather than the very lengthy type of agenda which prevailed at the time of the Commission. Other delegations have however come up with different points of view. This would however have to be confirmed and drafted by the Council itself.
- c. As far as the **timetable and working programme**, the Secretariat would consider it convenient to regroup matters to be considered between those issues that have necessarily to be considered at each session of the Council and all the other ones. Additionally, in the latter group of issues, some should be considered at given sessions while others could be distributed at various moments based on precedents and preferred options. This is notwithstanding any decision of a policy or political nature that the Council may take in adopting its agenda.

i. **Standing issues to be discussed at each session:**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Programme of work/timetable
3. Adoption of the session's report (part of the Annual Report)
4. Updates by the High Commissioner for Human Rights
5. All other issues relating to the promotion and protection of human rights including initiatives/ issues/ decisions/ resolutions (1/105)
6. Follow up to decisions of the HRC (2/103)

ii. **Issues to be considered at given sessions throughout the year:**

1. Election of the Bureau of the Council (Summer Session)
2. Adoption of the Annual report of the Council (Summer Session – see below)
3. High Level Segment (At the start of the Spring Session)

iii. **Other issues:**

1. **Interactive dialogues (ID) with mandate-holders:** further to the reform of the special procedures, the Council will have to organize the format of the interactive dialogue with the system of special procedures taking into account the framework established by GA resolution 60/251 and the Council's decisions 1/102 (including its Annex) and 2/102. The ID could either take place in one go, for instance during the Spring session or divided in two parts (Spring and Fall sessions) on the basis of thematic clusters of issues yet to be developed. It should however be pointed out that such a clustering would be extremely difficult to undertake since many different types of clustering could be envisaged and that in turn it would make its adoption difficult.
2. **Presentation of reports prepared by the HC/SG and other reports.** This could either take place with mandate-holders' reports (see above sub-paragraph 1) or in one go at the Fall session should all ID take place during the Spring session. Some adaptations may be necessary on a case by case basis since some reports by the HC/SG are dealing with topics which are similar or comparable to the documents prepared by Special rapporteurs.
3. **General debate(s) and conclusions of the Council's work:** This may or may not be organized in the same manner as during the CHR sessions. It will be closely linked with the presentation of Special Rapporteurs and SG/HC reports.
4. Distribution of such presentation of reports, interactive dialogues and adoption of conclusions could thus be divided in the following manner :

**Option A:**

**Spring session:** All Interactive Dialogues with special rapporteurs, general debate on the issues raised by the Special Rapporteurs and adoption of resolutions stemming out of these debates and dialogues

**Fall session:** Consideration of most of the HC/SG and other reports, subsequent ID and general debates and adoption of resolutions stemming out of these debates and dialogues.

### **Option B:**

Spring and Fall sessions to deal with specific issues and resolutions thereupon according to thematic clusters yet to be developed.

- iv. **Reports of Inter-governmental Working Groups:** In the past, all working groups were scheduled in such a manner that they would be in a position to report to the yearly session of the Commission in March. Opportunity may thus be taken to reschedule these meetings in such a manner that reports of the IWG would be spread between the Spring and Fall sessions.

#### **4. Annual Report of the Council:**

- a. OP5 (j) of GA Resolution 60/251 very clearly states that the Council should submit an annual report to the GA. This has been understood as implying that one report only would eventually be adopted but that this would comprise several parts, each one concerning a given ordinary or special session of the Council. Hence, there is formally only one report of the HRC to be adopted by the GA but it comprises several parts relating to different sessions.
- b. The current 10-week rule applicable to documents submitted to the GA would seem to imply that the Annual Report could be consolidated and adopted in June. However, this would also imply that the Report would be adopted at the end of the session when any new Bureau would be elected. The Council would then have to ponder whether this arrangement is appropriate or would need to be adapted. A discussion of the matter would need to take into consideration whether the report will eventually be discussed by the plenary or the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee. In the former case the report could be also adopted in the Fall session while in the latter it should be adopted in June at the latest.
- c. This technical matter is however much less complicated and controversial than the pending issue of reporting lines and, more generally, of relations between the GA/Third Committee and the HR Council which goes beyond the scope of the present non-paper.

#### **5. Rules of procedures :**

- a. At present, the Council is working on the basis of Section XIII of the GA Rules of procedures and GA Resolution 60/251. It is also basing itself, as appropriate, on CHR precedents and its own emerging practice. The Secretariat would consider that, in due time, when the reform processes and the setting up of the UPR mechanism are achieved, as well as the above issues decided, it would be of use to consolidate the currently applicable rules and procedures and those new ones in one single document. At this stage it is however premature to anticipate how this would be shaped up.

- b. Some Governments have already demonstrated their interest and produced initiatives in this regard.
- c. **Council's future work on the rules of procedure could most probably be organized in the form of another intersessional working group (see above paragraph 1 (c)), which may also be requested to make recommendations on certain issues relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, such as speaking time, interactive dialogues, modalities for HLS, guidelines on parallel events, etc.**



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mission Permanente du Royaume  
d'Arabie Saoudite auprès  
des Nations Unies  
Genève



الوفد الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية  
لدى المقر الأوربي للأمم المتحدة  
جنيف

Ref. No. 11/25/1461

Geneva, 17 November 2006

Excellency,

I have pleasure in attaching hereto a non-paper on the method of work of the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council that was prepared and endorsed by members of the Asian Group as a contribution that we hope will be considered during our deliberations on this subject.

The dissemination of this non-paper to the Regional Groups would be highly appreciated.

I take this opportunity, Excellency, to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdulwahab ATTAR  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative  
Coordinator of the Asian Group

H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso DE ALBA  
Designated Chair of Human Rights Council  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Mexico  
Avenue de Budé 16 – CP 433  
**1211 GENEVA 19**

## **NON-PAPER - ASIAN GROUP**

### **Working Methods of the Human Rights Council**

With a view to enhancing the transparency, predictability, inclusiveness and efficiency of the Human Rights Council, the following suggestions on the working methods of the Council are being submitted for consideration. These working methods will be applied to regular sessions of the Human Rights Council and without prejudice to the rule of procedure.

#### ***1. Structured Agenda for the Human Rights Council***

Without prejudice to the outcome of discussions on the agenda of the Human Rights Council, every session should have a structured agenda and work programme, the draft of which shall be communicated in advance to the Members of the Council at least 2 weeks before the start of the session.

#### ***2. Early deadline for submission of draft resolutions/decisions***

It is important that all delegations be given adequate time to study draft resolutions/decisions. It is proposed that for future session of the Council, the deadline for submission of drafts, with a few appropriate exceptions preferably be the end of the first/second week, depending on the length of the Session. This arrangement will be operative until the adoption of the agenda of the Council.

#### ***3. Limit the number of open-ended informal consultations during sessions,***

Without prejudice to circumstances which may merit the holding of urgent consultations, it is recommended that the number of open-ended informal consultations be limited as much as possible, and all delegations be informed of the schedule of informal consultations at least 2 days in advance.

#### ***4. President's Open-Ended Consultations***

It is proposed that the President, or one of the Vice Presidents designated by him may hold Open-Ended consultations, when necessary, to be chaired by the President or a Vice-President to give an update on the status of all draft resolutions/decisions/proposals arising from the open-ended informal consultations by co-sponsors, informal informals, or tabled by individual countries or groups not considered in informal meetings.

The President or the designated Vice President chairing these consultations should provide a table of the most complete and updated information on drafts, allowing delegations to assess the situation of negotiations from a "bird's-eye point of view". It would not be a negotiating forum. If there were still need for delegations to discuss a certain draft, the President/Vice President could encourage discussions to continue in informal consultations on the draft in question.

#### ***5. Participation of non-members of the Council***

Participation of and consultation with the observers, including States that are not members of the Council, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, shall be based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and

practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities.

Any change regarding future participation in accordance with EOCOSOC resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 should be endorsed by the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Council.

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Finland's EU Presidency

eu2006.fi

H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba  
President of the Human Rights Council  
Office of the United Nations  
Palais des Nations

Geneva, 22 November 2006

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose a non-paper on the future agenda for the Human Rights Council that has been prepared by the European Union as a contribution to the discussions on the subject in the third session of the Council.

We would highly appreciate the dissemination of this non-paper to all Regional Groups and through the extranet pages of the Council.

Excellency, I take this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Vesa Himanen  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

OHCHR REGISTRY

27 NOV 2006

Recipients : HRC

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**NON-PAPER - EUROPEAN UNION  
FUTURE AGENDA FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

A future agenda of the Human Rights Council needs to provide both predictability and flexibility:

**1. Predictability:**

- provides all stakeholders with the clarity that certain issues of key interest to them will be discussed and acted upon during the course of a year
- allows all stakeholders to plan their activities in preparation for handling those issues
- allows NGOs, NHRIs and other non-governmental stakeholders to plan their attendance

**2. Flexibility:**

- enables issues to be spread through the year in a manner that makes operational sense (eg coinciding with events/reports on related issues)
- enables the Council to be responsive to developments on the ground
- requires states to reflect annually on what issues they most want to raise, rather than assuming that every year and every session will bring the same specific issues

Every session should have the same **basic agenda** to avoid the need to renegotiate it every time. The only exception to this would be the High Level Segment, which would occur only once a year at the Main Session.

The basic agenda should include:

- a) report/update from the High Commissioner and interactive dialogue (report at main session, update at others)
- b) urgent situations (to be notified to the President preferably 7 days prior to the start of the Council session)
- c) reports from Special Procedures and interactive dialogue (the presentation of reports by Special Procedures to be evenly distributed throughout the year).
- d) promotion and protection of human rights (see below on detail of this agenda item)
- e) recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and complaints mechanisms for decisions by the Council
- f) expert advice (receipt and discussion of expert advice solicited by Council)
- g) adoption of the report of the session.

- The **specific issues** to be addressed under 'promotion and protection of human rights' would change each session. To provide predictability and flexibility, the following mechanism could be envisaged prior to the March main session, all delegations submit to the President the issues they wish to see addressed in the Council sessions over the coming year.
- The Bureau agrees an allocation of these issues across the sessions, taking account of the length of the session and the time available at each session, when the issue was last considered and an even distribution of issues over the year.
- This is without prejudice to:
  - The ability of delegations to withdraw proposed initiatives at any time
  - The ability of delegations to raise urgent situations or issues, preferably 7 days prior to any session, for inclusion in the programme of work
  - Special sessions on urgent issues at any time, subject to the conditions set out in A/60/251.

The Council would agree the preliminary annual programme of work proposed by the Bureau before the end of its March session.

## JUSCANZ paper

### **Proposed Ground rules for Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council**

In order to promote effective use of the special session provision of the HRC it would be beneficial to elaborate some ground rules or best practices in keeping with the guidance of UNGA60/251:

1. States initiating the convening of a special session should accompany their request with a specific description of the human rights violations that give rise to the request.
2. In determining the date for holding a special session, the urgency of the situation must be balanced against the need to allow for adequate preparation. To promote predictability, a benchmark time period, for example 4 working days, should be established between receipt of the request for a special session and its convening.
3. If the requesting (or other) States intend to present a draft resolution or decision before the special session, this text should be made available as soon as possible and not later than 48 hours (2 working days) prior to the convening of the special session.
4. At least one open-ended consultation on the text of any draft resolution or decision should be held before the convening of the session to permit amendments to be considered prior to tabling in plenary with a view to achieving consensus if possible.
5. The OHCHR should, where feasible, provide a background note regarding the situation that is the subject of the request for a special session, including information on any relevant UN organs and mechanisms already seized of the matter and circulate this note prior to the convening of the session. Special session documentation should be made available to all States in a transparent manner.
6. The HCHR or her representative should address the situation at the beginning of a special session.
7. If the President needs to consult on the conduct of a special session before and/or after its opening, this should be done in a manner that provides for equitable regional representation and involves all the key concerned parties to the issue at hand.
8. A special session should be results oriented and geared to achieving practical outcomes, the implementation of which can be monitored and reported on at the next regular session of the HRC.
9. As a general principle, once a special session has been held on a given subject, no further special sessions should be convened on this same subject until a regular HRC session has taken up the issue.

August 24, 2006



**CHAIR OF  
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**RS-48/06**



(December 8, 2006)

To: H. E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Ambassador, PM of Mexico, President of the Human Rights Council.

From: H. E. Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández, Ambassador, PM of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the NAM.

Subject: **NAM initial contribution on ground rules for special sessions of the Human Rights Council.**

Excellency, *Luis Alfonso*

*First of all allow me to send you my regards.*

*I have the honor to address this letter to you in your capacity as President of the Human Rights Council.*

*In this regard, it is my pleasure, in my capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, to send you enclosed hereto the initial proposal of NAM to the elaboration of ground rules for special sessions of the Human Rights Council.*

*I would like to inform you that this document is presented as a first step in order to contribute to the work of the Working Group established for the elaboration of rules of procedure of the HRC. In this connection, it is the intention of NAM Members to continue the discussions on this matter with a view to further improve, if necessary, this proposal.*

*I would highly appreciate the dissemination of this contribution to all Regional Groups and through the extranet page of the Council.*

*Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.*

*Juan Antonio Fernández*  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Cuba

No. of pages (incl. this page): 3

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<b>Member Countries</b>	Mauritius
Algeria	Mongolia
Angola	Morocco
Antigua and Barbuda	Mozambique
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Bahrain	Namibia
Bangladesh	Nepal
Barbados	Nicaragua
Belarus	Niger
Belize	Nigeria
Berlin	Oman
Bhutan	Pakistan
Bolivia	Palestine
Bolswana	Panama
Brunei	Papua New Guinea
Darussalam	Pon
Burkina Faso	Philippines
Burundi	Qatar
Cambodia	Rwanda
Cameroon	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cape Verde	Saint Lucia
Central African Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Chad	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
Chile	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Senegal
Comoros	Seychelles
Congo	Sierra Leone
Côte d'Ivoire	Singapore
Cuba	Somalia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	South Africa
Dominica	Sri Lanka
Dominican Republic	Sudan
Ecuador	Suriname
Egypt	Swaziland
Equatorial Guinea	Syrian Arab Republic
Eritrea	Thailand
Ethiopia	Timor Leste
Gabon	Togo
Gambia	Trinidad and Tobago
Ghana	Tunisia
Grenada	Turkmenistan
Guatemala	Uganda
Guinea	United Arab Emirates
Guinea-Bissau	United Republic of Tanzania
Guyana	Uzbekistan
Haiti	Vanuatu
Honduras	Venezuela
India	Vietnam
Indonesia	Yemen
Iran	Zambia
Iraq	Zimbabwe
Jamaica	
Jordan	<b>Observer Countries</b>
Kenya	Armenia
Kuwait	Azerbaijan
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Lebanon	Brazil
Lesotho	China
Liberia	Costa Rica
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Croatia
Madagascar	El Salvador
Malawi	Kazakhstan
Malaysia	Kyrgyzstan
Maldives	Mexico
Mali	Paraguay
Mauritania	Serbia
	Ukraine
	Uruguay
	<b>Observer Organizations</b>
	African Union
	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
	Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste
	League of Arab States
	New Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico
	Organization of the Islamic Conference
	United Nations



Thursday, 8 December 2006

**NAM's Non Paper on ground rules for Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council. (\*)**

The general framework for the convening of special sessions derives from paragraph 10 of resolution 60/251 in which the General Assembly decided that "*the Council (...) shall be able to hold special sessions, when needed, at the request of a member of the Council with the support of one third of the membership of the Council*".

The following proposed rules complement the general framework:

1. The request of an special session of the Human Rights Council following the requirement established in op 10 GA Res. 60/251 will be submitted to the President and to the Secretariat of the Council. The request shall specify the title of the meeting.
2. The Secretariat of the Council shall immediately communicate the request to all UN Member States and make available the information to the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as to non-governmental organizations in consultative status by the most expeditious means of communication.
3. The special session will be convened as soon as possible, not earlier than 2 working days and not later than 5 natural days after the request is formally submitted as established in paragraph 1.
4. The duration of the special session shall, in principle, not exceed three days (6 working sessions).
5. The President of the Council will make consultations, including with the key concerned States, on the conduct of the special session. Members of the Council and concerned States shall be given sufficient time for delivering their statements. Observer States should also be granted the opportunity to duly participate in the debate. The

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\* This is a first contribution of NAM to the elaboration of rules for the special sessions of the HRC. The Movement will continue developing this proposal in the near future.

Thursday, 8 December 2006

specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations in consultative status could also contribute to the special session as decided by the Council.

6. The rules of procedure of special sessions shall be the rules of procedure applied for regular sessions of the Council.



**CHAIR OF  
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**RS-45/06**



(December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

**To:** H. E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Ambassador, PM of Mexico,  
President of the Human Rights Council.

**From:** H. E. Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández, Ambassador, PM of Cuba,  
in his capacity as Chair of the NAM.

**Subject:** NAM initial contribution to the agenda for the Human  
Rights Council.

Excellency, *Luis Alfonso*

First of all allow me to send you my regards.

I have the honor to address this letter to you in your capacity as President  
of the Human Rights Council.

In this regard, it is my pleasure, in my capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned  
Movement, to send you enclosed hereto the initial proposal of NAM to the  
agenda for the Human Rights Council.

I would like to inform you that this document is presented as a first step in  
order to contribute to the work of the Working Group established for the  
elaboration of the agenda of the HRC. In this connection, it is the intention  
of NAM Members to continue the discussions on this matter with a view to  
further improve, if necessary, this proposal and address other issues of the  
interest of delegations that were raised during the process of consultations.

I would highly appreciate the dissemination of this contribution to all  
Regional Groups and through the extranet page of the Council.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest and most  
distinguished consideration.

*Juan Antonio Fernández*  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Cuba

No. of pages (incl. this page): 4

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Member Countries	Observer Countries	Observer Organizations
Afghanistan	Armenia	African Union
Algeria	Azerbaijan	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
Angola	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste
Antigua and Barbuda	Brazil	League of Arab States
Bahamas	China	New Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico
Bahrain	Costa Rica	Organization of the Islamic Conference
Bangladesh	Croatia	United Nations
Barbados	El Salvador	
Belarus	Kazakhstan	
Belize	Kyrgyzstan	
Benin	Mexico	
Bhutan	Paraguay	
Bolivia	Serbia	
Botswana	Ukraine	
Brunei	Uruguay	
Darussalam		
Burkina Faso		
Burundi		
Cambodia		
Cameroon		
Cape Verde		
Central African Republic		
Chad		
Chile		
Colombia		
Comoros		
Congo		
Côte d'Ivoire		
Cuba		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		
Democratic Republic of the Congo		
Djibouti		
Dominica		
Dominican Republic		
Ecuador		
Egypt		
Equatorial Guinea		
Eritrea		
Ethiopia		
Gabon		
Gambia		
Ghana		
Grenada		
Guatemala		
Guinea		
Guinea-Bissau		
Guyana		
Haiti		
Honduras		
India		
Indonesia		
Iran		
Iraq		
Jamaica		
Jordan		
Kenya		
Kuwait		
Lao People's Democratic Republic		
Lebanon		
Lesotho		
Liberia		
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		
Madagascar		
Malawi		
Malaysia		
Maldives		
Mali		
Mauritania		
Mauritius		
Mongolia		
Morocco		
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Nepal		
Nicaragua		
Niger		
Nigeria		
Oman		
Pakistan		
Palestine		
Panama		
Papua New Guinea		
Paru		
Philippines		
Qatar		
Rwanda		
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Lucia		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
Sao Tome and Principe		
Saudi Arabia		
Senegal		
Seychelles		
Sierra Leone		
Singapore		
Somalia		
South Africa		
Sri Lanka		
Sudan		
Suriname		
Swaziland		
Syrian Arab Republic		
Thailand		
Timor Leste		
Togo		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Tunisia		
Turkmenistan		
Uganda		
United Arab Emirates		
United Republic of Tanzania		
Uzbekistan		
Vanuatu		
Venezuela		
Vietnam		
Yemen		
Zambia		
Zimbabwe		

6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2006

## CONTRIBUTION BY NAM ON THE AGENDA OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In its XIV Summit in Havana, the Heads of State or Government of the Movement call for the early adoption of a standard agenda for the sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC). They request also that the items on the agenda of the Council be allocated to each of its sessions in an equitable and balanced manner and also to allow for effective participation of developing countries and NGO's.

NAM decides that the agenda of the Council should promote and advance sustainable development, through programs and partnerships with governments and it should also promote the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, they call the Council to agree on a program that will lead to the elevation of the right to development to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, elaborated in the core human rights instruments.

### Proposal of Principles guiding the definition of the agenda:

#### 1. Predictability:

- provides all stakeholders with the clarity of the program of work of the Council
- allows all stakeholders to plan their activities and attendance to the meetings of the Council.

#### 2. Transparency:

- strengthens the confidence building process and the climate of genuine dialogue and cooperation needed.

#### 3. Accountability:

- facilitates the preparation for interactive dialogues with mandate holders.
- facilitates also the interaction with the rest of the components of the UN human rights machinery.

#### 4. Balance:

- ensures that all human rights, civil, cultural, economic, political, social and the right to development, be universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and treated in an equal footing and with the same emphasis.

5. Objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity:

- eliminates double standards and political manipulation; avoid confrontation and promote cooperation, genuine dialogue and respect for cultural and religious diversity, as well as national and regional particularities.

6. Flexibility:

- enables the Council to consider emerging issues as needed.
- The Council should have only one agenda.

The Council will decide in an annual program of work allocating the consideration of its agenda items throughout the year. The only exception to this would be the High Level Segment, which would occur only once a year at the Main Session.

The NAM proposes the following Agenda (\*):\*

- a) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/141, including the annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (report at main session) and the effective functioning of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- b) The realisation of the Right to Development.
- c) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- d) Civil and Political Rights.
- e) Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. Comprehensive follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (sub items under this agenda item will be developed in the future to cover, inter alia, the incitement to racial and religious hatred).
- f) Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Peoples, Groups and Individuals (children, women, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, human rights defenders, human rights of civilians in armed conflict, and others recognized as such in International Human Rights Law).
- g) Situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan:
  1. Violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan.
  2. Right to self determination of the Palestinian people.

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\* This is a first contribution of NAM to the fulfillment of the mandate of the Working Group established for the elaboration of the agenda of the HRC. The Movement will continue developing this proposal in the near future.

- h) Report of the expert advice body and the complaint mechanism.
- i) Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms.
- j) Universal Periodic Review.
- k) Capacity building and technical cooperation.
- l) Adoption of the report of the session.

*Working Paper*

*Permanent Mission of the Philippines*

**Draft** as of 12 October 2006

**Human Rights Council**

**Draft Rules of Procedure**

**Guidelines from UNGA Resolution 60/251**

The Council shall “*apply the rules of procedure established for committees of the General Assembly, as applicable, unless subsequently otherwise decided by the Assembly or the Council, and also decides that the participation of and consultation with observers, including States that are not members of the Council, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, shall be based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities (OP11).*”

## **Proposed Outline of Draft Rules of Procedure of the Human Rights Council**

- I. SESSIONS**
- II. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**
- III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND AGENDA FOR REGULAR SESSIONS**
- IV. DELEGATIONS**
- V. CREDENTIALS**
- VI. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS**
- VII. SECRETARIAT**
- VIII. LANGUAGES**
- IX. RECORDS**
- X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**
- XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS**



# DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

## I. SESSIONS

### REGULAR SESSIONS

#### *Number of sessions*

#### **Rule 1 [OP10, GA resolution 60/251]<sup>[1]</sup>**

The Human Rights Council shall meet regularly throughout the year and schedule no fewer than three sessions per year, including a main session, for a total duration of no less than ten weeks.

#### *Place of meeting*

#### **Rule 2 [3]**

The Human Rights Council shall meet in the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### *Notification of session*

#### **Rule 3 [5]**

The Office of the High Commissioner shall notify the Members and observers<sup>[2]</sup> of the United Nations, at least \_\_\_ days in advance, of the opening of a regular session of the Council.

*Temporary adjournment of session*

**Rule 4 [6]**

The Human Rights Council may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

*Summoning of special sessions*

**Rule 5 [OP10, GA resolution 60/251]**

The Human Rights Council shall be able to hold special sessions, when needed, at the request of a member of the Council with the support of one third of the membership of the Council.

*Notification of special session*

**Rule 6 [8]**

Special sessions of the Council shall be convened within \_\_\_\_ days of the receipt by the Office of the High Commissioner of a request for such a session as provided in Rule 6.

**Rule 7 [18]**

The Office of the High Commissioner shall notify the members and observers at least \_\_\_\_ days before the date fixed for the opening of a special session.

## II. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### Rule 8 [OP11, GA resolution 60/251]

Participation of and consultation with observers, including States that are not members of the Council, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, shall be based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities.

## III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND AGENDA FOR REGULAR SESSIONS

### *Organization of work*

#### Rule 9 [new]

At the beginning of each Council-year, the Council shall adopt a program of work for each session for the year 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.

### *Adoption of the agenda*

#### Rule 10 [12]

At each session the provisional agenda shall be submitted to the Council for approval as soon as possible after the opening of the session.

### *Amendment and deletion of items*

### **Rule 11 [13]**

Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Council by a majority of the members present and voting.

*Debate on inclusion of items*

### **Rule 12 [23]**

Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda, when that item has been recommended for inclusion by the Council, shall be limited to three Members in favour of, and three against, the inclusion. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

## **IV. DELEGATIONS**

*Composition*

### **Rule 13 [25]**

The delegations of each Member and observer shall consist of not more than five representatives and five alternate representatives and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by the delegation.

*Alternates*

### **Rule 14 [26]**

An alternate representative may act as a representative upon designation by the chairman of the delegation.

## V. CREDENTIALS

### *Submission of credentials*

#### **Rule 15 [27]**

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner if possible not less than one week before the opening of the session. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

## VI. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

### *Temporary President*

#### **Rule 16 [30]**

At the first session of each Council year, the chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Council has elected a President for the year.

### *Elections*

#### **Rule 17 [para 1, Rule 18, ECOSOC]**

(a) Each year, at the commencement of its first meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice Presidents<sup>[3]</sup> from among the representatives of its members. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau.

(b) One of the Vice-Presidents shall serve as Rapporteur. [new]

### *Term of Office*

#### **Rule 18 [new]**

The President and the Vice-Presidents shall, subject to Rule 20, hold office for a period of one year. They shall not be eligible for re-election.

### *Absence of officers*

#### **Rule 19 [105]**

If the President finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his/her place. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President. If the President ceases to hold office pursuant to Rule 20, the remaining members of the Bureau shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his/her place until the election of a new President [para 2, Rule 20, ECOSOC].

### *Replacement of the President or a Vice-President*

#### **Rule 20 [22 of ECOSOC]**

If the President or any Vice-President ceases to be able to carry out his/her functions or ceases to be a representative of a member of the Council, or if the Member of the United Nations of which he/she is a representative ceases to be a member of the Council, he/she shall cease to hold such office and a new President or Vice-President shall be elected for the unexpired term.

### *Functions of the President*

#### **Rule 21 [106]**

The President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Council, direct its discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to

speak, put questions and announce decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may, in the course of the discussion of an item, propose to the Council the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. He/she may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.

#### **Rule 22 [107]**

The President, in the exercise of his/her functions, remains under the authority of the Council.

*The President shall not vote*

#### **Rule 23 [104]**

The President of the Council shall not vote, but another member of his/her delegation may vote in his/her place.

### **VII. SECRETARIAT**

*Duties of the Secretariat*

#### **Rule 24 [47]**

The Office of the High Commissioner shall act as Secretariat for the Council. In this regard, it shall receive, translate, print and distribute documents, reports and resolutions of the Council, its committees and its organs; interpret speeches made at the meetings; prepare, print and circulate the records of the session; have the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the Council; distribute all documents of the Council to the Members and observers and, generally, perform all other work which the Council may require.

## VIII. LANGUAGES

### *Official and working languages*

#### **Rule 25 [51]**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be both the official and the working languages of the Council.

### *Interpretation*

#### **Rule 26 [52]**

Speeches made in any of the six languages of the Council shall be interpreted into the other five languages.

#### **Rule 27 [53]**

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the Council. In this case, he/she shall provide for interpretation into one of the languages of the Council. Interpretation into the other languages of the Council by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

### *Languages of verbatim and summary records*

#### **Rule 28 [54]**

Verbatim or summary records shall be drawn up as soon as possible in the languages of the Council.

### *Languages of resolutions and other documents*

#### **Rule 29 [55]**

All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the languages of the Council.



*Publications in languages other than the languages of the Council*

**Rule 30 [56]**

Documents of the Council shall, if the Council so decides, be published in any language other than the languages of the Council.

**IX. RECORDS AND REPORT**

*Records and sound recordings of meetings*

**Rule 31 [58]**

(a) Verbatim records of the meetings of the Council shall be drawn up by the Secretariat. The Council shall decide upon the form of the records of the meetings.

(b) Sound recordings of the meetings shall be made by the Secretariat.

*Resolutions*

**Rule 32 [59]**

Resolutions adopted by the Council shall be communicated by the Secretariat to the

Members and observers within \_\_\_\_ days after the close of each session.

*Report to the General Assembly*

**Rule 33 [OP5(j), GA resolution 60/251]**

The Council shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

## **X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

### *Working Groups and Informal arrangements*

#### **Rule 34 [new]**

The Council may set up working groups, or other informal arrangements. Participation in these bodies shall be decided upon by the members, taking into account operative paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/251. The rules of procedure of these bodies shall follow those of the Council, as applicable, unless decided otherwise.

### *Universal Periodic Review*

#### **Rule 35 [new]**

The Council shall establish a Universal Periodic Review. The modalities of which are as follows:

### *Quorum*

#### **Rule 36 [new]**

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the members of the Council are present. The presence of one-third of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken.

*Speeches*

**Rule 37 [109]**

No representative may address the Council without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

*Statements by the Secretariat*

**Rule 38 [112]**

The High Commissioner, or a member of the Secretariat designated by him/her as his/her representative, may at any time make either oral or written statements to the Council concerning any questions under consideration by it.

*Points of order*

**Rule 39 [113]**

During the discussion of any matter, a Representative of a delegation of a Council Member State may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A member may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A member rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

*Time-limit on speeches*

**Rule 40 [114]**

The Council may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a representative exceeds his/her allotted time, the President shall call him/her to order. In this regard and in accordance with Rule 8, representatives of entities other than members and observers shall be accorded appropriate time limits on speeches. [new]

*Closing of list of speakers, right of reply*

**Rule 41 [115]**

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Council, declare the list closed. He/she may, however, accord the right of reply to any member or observer [new] if a speech delivered after he/she has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

*Adjournment of debate*

**Rule 42 [116]**

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two members may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

### *Closure of debate*

#### **Rule 43 [117]**

A member may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his/her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two members opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Council is in favour of the closure, the President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

### *Suspension or adjournment of the meeting*

#### **Rule 44 [118]**

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move the suspension of the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the meeting.

### *Order of procedural motions*

#### **Rule 45 [119]**

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

*Proposals and amendments*

**Rule 46 [120]**

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat which shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Council unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

*Decisions on competence*

**Rule 47 [121]**

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Council to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

*Withdrawal of motions*

**Rule 48 [122]**

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

*Reconsideration of proposals*

**Rule 49 [123]**

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Council, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

*Voting rights*

**Rule 50 [124]**

Each member of the Council shall have one vote.

*Majority required*

**Rule 51 [125]**

Decisions of the Council shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting, subject to Rule 36.

*Meaning of the phrase "members present and voting"*

**Rule 52 [126]**

For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

### *Method of voting*

#### **Rule 53 [127]**

(a) The Council shall normally vote by show hands, but any member may request a roll-call. The roll-call shall be taken in the French alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each member shall be called in any roll-call, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention". The result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the French alphabetical order of the names of the members.

(b) When the Council votes by mechanical means, a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. Any member may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Council shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members; nevertheless, the result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the same manner as that of a roll-call vote.

### *Conduct during voting*

#### **Rule 54 [128]**

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit members to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to explain his/her vote on his/her own proposal or amendment.

### *Division of proposals and amendments*

#### **Rule 55 [129]**

A representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favour and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are



approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

### *Voting on amendments*

#### **Rule 56 [130]**

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first, when two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Council shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of the proposal.

## **XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Rule 57 [153]**

No resolution or decision involving expenditure shall be recommended for approval unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

[1] [denotes based on relevant rule of GA Rules of Procedure unless stated otherwise]

[2] see Rule 9

[3] In the election of the President of the Council, regard shall be had for the equitable geographical rotation of this office among the following regional groups: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and other States. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the regional groups other than the one to which the President belongs.