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Advisory Committee

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations*

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee will elect, from among its members, a Chair and its Bureau.

* Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

The Advisory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda.¹

Organization of work

Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee is to, at the beginning of the session, adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item.² Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will have before it, for its consideration and approval, a draft timetable prepared by the Secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment of its programme of work for the thirty-first session.

Composition of the Advisory Committee

In its decision 18/121, the Human Rights Council decided that the cycle of the Advisory Committee would be adjusted to run from 1 October to 30 September. The terms of membership will therefore end on 30 September of each year.

The current composition of the Advisory Committee and the term of membership of each expert are as follows:³ Nurah Alamro (Saudi Arabia, 2024); Noor Al-Jehani (Qatar, 2025); Joseph Gérard Angoh (Mauritius, 2026); Buhm-Suk Baek (Republic of Korea, 2026); Nadia Amal Bernoussi (Morocco, 2026); Rabah Boudache (Algeria, 2025); Aldo de Campos Costa (Brazil, 2024); Milena Costas Trascasas (Spain, 2025); Riva Ganguly Das (India, 2026); Sebastião Da Silva Isata (Angola, 2025); Jewel Major (Bahamas, 2026); Javier Palummo (Uruguay, 2025); Vasilka Sancin (Slovenia, 2025); Patrycja Sasnal (Poland, 2026); Vassilis Tzevelekos (Greece, 2024); Catherine Van de Heyning (Belgium, 2026); Frans Viljoen (South Africa, 2024); and Yue Zhang (China, 2025).

3. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions and currently under consideration by the Committee

(a) Integration of a gender perspective

In its resolution 6/30, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to regularly and systematically integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate, including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against women, and to include in its reports information on and a qualitative analysis of the human rights of women and girls.

(b) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

In its resolutions 8/5 and 18/6, the Human Rights Council requested, inter alia, the Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within its respective mandate, to the resolutions and to make contributions towards their implementation. In its resolution 18/6, the Council also decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedure mandate of Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. The mandate has been renewed periodically and most recently through Council resolution 54/4.⁴

(c) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities

In its resolution 7/9, the Human Rights Council encouraged the Advisory Committee and other mechanisms of the Council to integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities, as

¹ A/HRC/AC/31/1.

² See A/520/Rev.17.

³ The year in which the term of membership expires is shown in parentheses.

⁴ The most recent reports on the mandate are contained in documents A/HRC/54/28 and A/78/262.

appropriate, in carrying out their work and in their recommendations in order to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council. In its resolution 26/20, the Council decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedure mandate of Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. The mandate has been renewed periodically and most recently through Council resolution 53/14.⁵

(d) Neurotechnology and human rights

In its resolution 51/3, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study in an accessible format, including an easy-to-read version, on the impact, opportunities and challenges of neurotechnology with regard to the promotion and protection of all human rights, including recommendations on how human rights opportunities, challenges and gaps arising from neurotechnology could be addressed by the Human Rights Council and its special procedures and subsidiary bodies in a coherent, holistic, inclusive and action-oriented manner, and to present the study to the Council at its fifty-seventh session.

In resolution 51/3, the Human Rights Council also requested the Advisory Committee, when preparing the above-mentioned study, to seek the views and inputs from, and to take into account the relevant work already done by, stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, medical and technical communities, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Advisory Committee held meetings to discuss this topic and designated a drafting group for the preparation of a report thereon to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session. The drafting group currently comprises Nurah Alamro, Noor Al-Jehani, Joseph Gérard Angoh, Buhm-Suk Baek, Milena Costas Trascasas (Rapporteur), Riva Ganguly Das, Jewel Major, Javier Palummo, Vasilka Sancin, Patrycja Sasnal, Vassilis Tzevelekos (Chair), Catherine Van de Heyning, Frans Viljoen and Yue Zhang.

At the same session, the Committee decided to seek the views of and inputs from stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, medical and technical communities, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders. It also requested the drafting group to submit a preliminary draft of the report at its thirtieth session, taking into account the discussions held at the twenty-ninth session.

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee took note of the preliminary draft report submitted by the drafting group, and held meetings to discuss the topic. At the same session, the Committee welcomed the active participation of panellists, Member States and civil society in the discussion, and also welcomed the input received from Member States and other stakeholders in response to the note verbale and the questionnaire circulated by the Committee after its twenty-ninth session. The Committee requested the drafting group to submit a draft report at its thirty-first session, taking into account the discussions held at the thirtieth session.

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

⁵ The most recent reports on the topic are contained in documents [A/HRC/52/32](#) and [A/78/174](#).

(e) Human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain

In its resolution 51/22, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study examining the human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain, while taking into account ongoing discussions within the United Nations system, and to present the study to the Council at its sixtieth session.

In resolution 51/22, the Human Rights Council also requested the Advisory Committee to seek the views of and inputs from, and to take into account relevant work already done by, stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, entities, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures of the Council, the treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, multi-stakeholder initiatives and other relevant stakeholders, when preparing the above-mentioned study.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on this topic and designated a drafting group for the preparation of a study thereon to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session. The drafting group currently comprises Buhm-Suk Baek (Chair), Nadia Amal Bernoussi, Aldo de Campos Costa, Milena Costas Trascasas, Riva Ganguly Das, Jewel Major, Javier Palummo (Rapporteur), Vasilka Sancin, Vassilis Tzevelekos, Catherine Van de Heyning, Frans Viljoen and Yue Zhang.

At the same session, the Advisory Committee requested the drafting group to prepare a draft questionnaire to seek the views of and inputs from stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, entities, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, international and regional organizations, the Office of the High Commissioner, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, multi-stakeholder initiatives and other relevant stakeholders, to be considered by the Committee at its thirtieth session and transmitted thereafter. It also requested the drafting group to submit an outline of the report at its thirtieth session, taking into account the discussions held at the twenty-ninth session.

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee took note of the outline of the report and the draft questionnaire submitted by the drafting group, held meetings to discuss the topic, and welcomed the participation of panellists in the discussion. At the same session, the Committee decided to transmit a questionnaire by means of a note verbale to stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, entities, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and multi-stakeholder initiatives, to seek their views and inputs on the topic by 30 November 2023. The Committee also requested the drafting group to consider, at the thirty-first session, the replies received pursuant to the above-mentioned note verbale, and to submit a preliminary draft of the report to the Committee at its thirty-second session.

At its thirty-first session, the Advisory Committee will hold discussions on the topic and consider the inputs received from stakeholders in response to the note verbale and the questionnaire circulated by the Committee after its thirtieth session.

4. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**(a) Review of methods of work**

According to paragraph 77 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee may propose within the scope of the work set out by the Council, for the latter's consideration and approval, suggestions for further enhancing its procedural efficiency.

In paragraphs 35 to 39 of section III of the annex to its resolution 16/21, the Human Rights Council made reference to the Advisory Committee. In paragraph 39 of the same resolution, the Council stipulated that the Committee should endeavour to enhance intersessional work

between its members in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 81 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1.

At its thirty-first session, the Advisory Committee may therefore address issues related to its methods of work.

(b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities

In paragraph 35 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council stipulated that it should, within existing resources, strengthen its interaction with the Advisory Committee and engage more systematically with it through work formats, such as seminars, panels and working groups, and by sending feedback to the inputs of the Committee.

At its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee decided to produce reflection papers for its own use at each of its sessions, which could be published on the OHCHR website.

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee decided to submit for consideration of and approval by the Human Rights Council the research proposal entitled “Protecting the rights of victims in United Nations human rights mechanisms: the right to a remedy and reparation for gross human rights violations”.⁶

At the same session, the Advisory Committee invited Frans Viljoen to prepare, taking into account the discussions held at that session, a reflection paper on racial discrimination in the context and application of border control policies and procedures, for consideration at its thirty-first session.

The Advisory Committee may decide to continue, during its thirty-first session, its discussions under agenda item 4, including on some of the above-mentioned topics and other new priorities.

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

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

The current members of the Working Group on Communications were last appointed by the Advisory Committee at its twenty-sixth,⁷ twenty-eighth⁸ and thirtieth⁹ sessions and during the intersessional period of 2023.

At its thirty-first session, the Advisory Committee will take note of the new appointment made in the intersessional period through the silence procedure to replace the member of the Working Group from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, who resigned in November 2023.

5. Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirty-first session

The Advisory Committee will have before it for adoption a draft report on its thirty-first session, prepared by the Rapporteur.

Pursuant to paragraph 38 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the annual report of the Advisory Committee will be submitted to the Council at its September session and will be the subject of an interactive dialogue with the Committee Chair. The reports of

⁶ A/HRC/AC/30/2, annex IV.

⁷ A/HRC/AC/26/2, paras. 23–25.

⁸ A/HRC/AC/28/2, paras. 23–26.

⁹ A/HRC/AC/30/2, paras. 21–24.

the Committee on its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions will be considered by the Council at its fifty-seventh session.
