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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Seventh session

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

Seventh session

Geneva, 14-18 January 2008

Addendum

### **Annotations to the provisional agenda**

#### **Item 1. Opening of the session**

The seventh session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent will be held in Geneva from 14 to 18 January 2008. The session will be opened by the Director of the Operations Programmes and Research Division.

#### **Item 2. Election of the Chairperson-Rapporteur**

The Working group will elect a Chairperson-Rapporteur from among its members. It is the practice for the acting Chairperson to be re-elected in this capacity.

#### **Item 3. Adoption of the agenda**

The members of the Working Group will adopt the agenda of the seventh session, the draft of which will, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Working Group at its seventh session.

#### **Item 4. Organization of work**

The attention of the members of the Working Group is drawn to the provisional agenda (A/HRC/7/AC.3/1), the provisional programme of work, and the information note by the secretariat on the purpose and themes to be treated at the seventh session.

### **Item 5. Discussion on the Working Group's contribution to the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference**

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was created by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/68 (para.8) with a mandate:

- (a) To study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the diaspora and to this end, gather all relevant information from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources, including through holding public meetings with them;
- (b) To propose measures to ensure full and effective access to the justice system by people of African descent;
- (c) To submit recommendations on the design, implementation and enforcement of effective measures to eliminate racial profiling of people of African descent;
- (d) To elaborate short-, medium and long-term proposals for the elimination of racial discrimination against people of African descent, including proposals for a mechanism to monitor and promote all their human rights, bearing in mind the need for close collaboration with international and development institutions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to promote the human rights of people of African descent, inter alia through:
  - (i) Improving the human rights situation of people of African descent by devoting special attention to their needs, inter alia through the preparation of specific programmes of action;
  - (ii) Designing special projects, in collaboration with people of African descent to support their initiatives at the community level and to facilitate the exchange of information and technical know-how between these populations and experts in these areas;
  - (iii) Developing programmes intended for people of African descent which allocate additional investments to health systems, education, housing, electricity, drinking water and environmental control measures and promote equal opportunities in employment, as well as other affirmation or positive action initiatives, within the human rights framework. Paragraph 101 of the Durban Programme of Action urges States "to establish programmes to promote the access

without discrimination of individuals or groups of individuals who are victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to health care, and to promote strong efforts to eliminate disparities, inter alia in the infant and maternal mortality rates, childhood immunizations, HIV/AIDS, heart diseases, cancer and contagious diseases”.

In compliance with its mandate, the Working Group has adopted the approach of studying thematic issues at each of its sessions. At its last six sessions it studied and proposed conclusions and recommendations on the following topics:

- (a) The administration of justice
- (b) The media
- (c) Access to education
- (d) Racism and employment
- (e) Racism and health
- (f) Racism and housing
- (g) Participation of people of African descent in political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society and in the advancement and economic development in their countries
  - General
  - Millennium Development Goals
- (h) Empowerment of women of African decent
- (i) Racial profiling

At its 9th meeting, on 31 August 2007, the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference decided (PC.1/13), without a vote, on the objectives of the Durban Review Conference on the basis of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as contained in General Assembly resolution 61/149 and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2(see A/62/375, annex I). It also decided (PC.1/10) to request ... “the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and other relevant human rights mechanisms including other special procedures to assist the Preparatory Committee by undertaking review and submitting recommendations, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contributions to the outcome of the Durban Review Conference”. The report of the Preparatory Committee was adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on 18 December 2007 A/62/437, resolution III)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing, the resolution had only just been adopted and its number not yet attributed.

At its seventh session, with the assistance of invited panellists, the Working Group will review, discuss and analyse conclusions and recommendations made by the Working Group at its previous sessions with a view to distilling from the discussion its contribution to the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. The Working Group will identify and discuss obstacles that have in the past impeded the implementation of its recommendations and reflect upon the best ways to achieve a greater impact in the improvement of the situation of people of African descent. It will also make recommendations to the Preparatory Committee accordingly.

The Working Group will discuss the workplan it adopted earlier. It will assess its implementation and, if necessary, make appropriate adjustments.

The Working Group will discuss improvements **in the combat against racism**, major challenges and new manifestations of racism and intolerance since the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

#### **Item 6. Adoption of the report**

The Working Group will adopt the report on its seventh session which will contain its conclusions and recommendations regarding the structure, outline and constituent elements of its contribution to the Preparatory Committee.

#### **Item 7. Closing of the session**

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