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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Fifteenth session
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Ninth session
Geneva, 12-16 April 2010

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

Addendum

* Late submission.

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent will hold its ninth session in Geneva from 12 to 16 April 2010. The session will be opened by the Director of the Research and Right to Development Division.

Item 2. Election of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group

2. The Working Group will elect a Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group from among its members.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

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

Item 4. Organization of work

4. The attention of the members of the Working Group is drawn to the provisional agenda (A/HRC/15/AC.3/1), the provisional programme of work and the information note by the Secretariat on the purpose of, and themes to be treated at, the ninth session.

Item 5. Thematic discussion on structural discrimination against people of African descent

5. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was created by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/68. The Commission, in its resolution 2003/30, reformulated paragraph 8 (*d*) of resolution 2002/68 and expanded the mandate of the Working Group. On 24 September 2008, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 9/14, decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a further three years. The mandate is as follows:

(*a*) To study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the diaspora and, to that end, gather all relevant information from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources, including through the holding of 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 make proposals on the elimination of racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent in all parts of the world;

(e) To address all the issues concerning the well-being of Africans and people of African descent contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(f) To elaborate short-, medium- and long-term proposals for the elimination of racial discrimination against people of African descent, 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 through, inter alia, the following activities:

- (i) Improving the human rights situation of people of African descent by devoting special attention to their needs through, inter alia, 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) Liaising with financial and developmental institutional and operational programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, with a view to contribute to the development programmes intended for people of African descent by allocating additional investments to health systems, education, housing, electricity, drinking water and environmental control measures and promoting equal opportunities in employment, as well as other affirmative or positive measures and strategies within the human rights framework.

6. In compliance with its mandate, the Working Group has adopted the approach of studying thematic issues at each of its sessions. At its previous eight sessions, it studied and formulated 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;
 - (i) General;
 - (ii) Millennium Development Goals;

- (h) Empowerment of women of African descent;
- (i) Racial profiling;
- (j) The situation of children of African descent.

7. At its ninth session, with the assistance of invited panellists, the Working Group will examine the theme of structural discrimination against people of African descent. The discussion will be broken down into several sub-themes: structural discrimination in access to health; structural discrimination in access to education; the collection of disaggregated data as a tool in fighting structural discrimination; and structural discrimination in the administration of justice.

Item 6. Discussion on a draft programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent

8. In its resolution 64/169, the General Assembly proclaimed the year beginning on 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent, with a view to strengthening national actions, and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture. The Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and civil society to make preparations for and identify possible initiatives that could contribute to the success of the year. Finally, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, a report containing a draft programme of activities for the International Year, taking into account the views and recommendations of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as appropriate.

9. In accordance with resolution 64/169, the Working Group will identify possible initiatives to include in a draft programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent.

Item 7. Presentation and discussion of the draft report on the ninth session

10. The Working Group will present the draft conclusions and recommendations of the report on its ninth session and discuss the same with participants.

Item 8. Adoption of the report on the ninth session

11. The Working Group will adopt the report on its ninth session, which will contain possible initiatives to include in a draft programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent and conclusions and recommendations regarding structural discrimination against people of African descent.
