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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
Fifty-ninth session  
New York  
24 March - 11 April 1997

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at the United Nations Headquarters from 24 March to 11 April 1997. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 24 March 1997 at 10.30 a.m.
2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.
3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.
4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 8 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the fifty-ninth session. In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, representatives of States parties may be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.
5. At its fifty-eighth session, the Committee decided that two working groups, established under rules 62 and 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its fifty-ninth session. The working groups are scheduled to meet at the United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 21 March 1997.

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Representative of the Secretary-General
2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant
3. Election of the Chairperson and other officers of the Committee
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Organizational and other matters.
6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session:
  - (a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;
  - (b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.
7. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.
9. General Comments of the Committee
10. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.
11. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant
12. Future meetings of the Committee

## ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the Representative of the Secretary-General

The Representative of the Secretary-General will open the fifty-ninth session of the Committee and will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant

In accordance with article 38 of the Covenant and rule 16 of the rules of procedure, the nine members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Sixteenth Meeting of States parties to the Covenant on 12 September 1996, will make the following solemn declaration:

*"I solemnly undertake to discharge my duties as a member of the Human Rights Committee impartially and conscientiously".*

3. Election of the Chairperson and other officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 39, paragraph 1, of the Covenant and rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Under rule 58 of the rules of procedure, elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of an election to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

Under rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda of any session shall follow the election of officers when required under rule 17. In accordance with rule 9, during a session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the session. In this connection, it may be noted that the Committee decided at its fifty-eighth session to set up, in addition to the pre-sessional working group on communications, a working group under article 40 of the Covenant to prepare concise lists of issues concerning reports scheduled for consideration at the fifty-ninth session and to consider any draft general comment that may be put before it.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session

- (a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990, substantive resolutions on treaty-based bodies are adopted biennially ("odd years"). Consequently, the adoption by the Assembly of a substantive resolution on the work of the Committee is reserved until its fifty-second session in 1997.

- (b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.

A note indicating matters raised in the course of the discussion of the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments by the Third Committee together with the relevant General Assembly resolution will be circulated to members of the Committee.

7. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.Reports received

In addition to the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 8 below), the Secretary-General has received the reports of the following States parties :

| <u>State party</u>        | <u>Symbol</u>    | <u>Report</u> | <u>Date due</u> | <u>Date received</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Slovakia                  | CCPR/C/81/Add.9  | Initial       | 1993            | 09.01.1996           |
| Lithuania                 | CCPR/C/81/Add.10 | Initial       | 1993            | 16.04.1996           |
| Zimbabwe                  | CCPR/C/74/Add.3  | Initial       | 1992            | 20.11.1996           |
| Congo                     | CCPR/C/63/Add.5  | Second        | 1990            | 09.07.1996           |
| France                    | CCPR/C/76/Add.7  | Third         | 1992            | 15.03.1996           |
| Cyprus                    | CCPR/C/94/Add.1  | Third         | 1994            | 28.12.1994           |
| Iceland                   | CCPR/C/94/Add.2  | Third         | 1994            | 23.03.1995           |
| Libyan Arab<br>Jamahiriya | CCPR/C/102/Add.1 | Third         | 1995            | 29.11.1995           |
| Belgium                   | CCPR/C/94/Add.3  | Third         | 1994            | 21.08.1996           |
| Belarus                   | CCPR/C/84/Add.4  | Fourth        | 1993            | 11.04.1995           |
| Finland                   | CCPR/C/95/Add.6  | Fourth        | 1994            | 10.08.1995           |
| Romania                   | CCPR/C/95/Add.7  | Fourth        | 1994            | 26.04.1996           |
| Senegal                   | CCPR/C/103/Add.1 | Fourth        | 1995            | 19.09.1995           |
| Iraq                      | CCPR/C/103/Add.2 | Fourth        | 1995            | 05.02.1996           |
| Poland                    | CCPR/C/95/Add.8  | Fourth        | 1994            | 07.05.1996           |
| Italy                     | CCPR/C/103/Add.4 | Fourth        | 1995            | 30.10.1996           |

Reports due

The situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant is as follows:

States parties whose reports were due by the closing date of the fifty-eighth session (8 November 1996) but have not yet been received.

INITIAL REPORTS

| <u>State party</u>                        | <u>Date due</u>   | <u>Number of reminders sent</u> |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Equatorial Guinea                         | 24 December 1988  | 14                              |
| Somalia                                   | 23 April 1991     | 9                               |
| Croatia                                   | 7 October 1992    | 5                               |
| Grenada                                   | 5 December 1992   | 4                               |
| the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 16 September 1992 | 2                               |
| Israel                                    | 2 January 1993    | 6                               |
| Albania                                   | 3 January 1993    | 6                               |
| Bosnia - Herzegovina                      | 05 March 1993     | 2                               |
| Angola <sup>1</sup>                       | 9 April 1993      | 2                               |
| Benin                                     | 11 June 1993      | 4                               |
| Côte d'Ivoire                             | 25 June 1993      | 3                               |
| Seychelles                                | 4 August 1993     | 4                               |
| Cambodia                                  | 25 August 1993    | 2                               |
| Lesotho                                   | 08 December 1993  | 1                               |
| Czech Republic                            | 31 December 1993  | 2                               |
| Moldova                                   | 25 April 1994     | 3                               |
| Ethiopia                                  | 10 September 1994 | 3                               |
| Dominica                                  | 16 September 1994 | 3                               |
| Armenia                                   | 22 September 1994 | 3                               |
| Mozambique                                | 20 October 1994   | 3                               |
| Cape Verde                                | 05 November 1994  | 1                               |
| Malawi                                    | 21 March 1995     | 2                               |
| Kyrgystan                                 | 6 January 1996    | -                               |
| Namibia                                   | 27 February 1996  | -                               |
| Chad                                      | 8 September 1996  | -                               |
| Uganda                                    | 20 September 1996 | -                               |

SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS

| <u>State party</u>                    | <u>Date due</u>  | <u>Number of reminders sent</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Syrian Arab Republic                  | 18 August 1984   | 24                              |
| Gambia                                | 21 June 1985     | 22                              |
| Suriname                              | 2 August 1985    | 21                              |
| Kenya                                 | 11 April 1986    | 20                              |
| Mali                                  | 11 April 1986    | 20                              |
| Jamaica                               | 1 August 1986    | 18                              |
| Guyana                                | 10 April 1987    | 18                              |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 13 December 1987 | 16                              |
| Central African Republic              | 9 April 1989     | 13                              |
| Gabon                                 | 20 April 1989    | -                               |
| Viet Nam                              | 31 July 1991     | 8                               |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines      | 31 October 1991  | 9                               |
| San Marino                            | 17 January 1992  | 8                               |
| Sudan                                 | 17 June 1992     | 6                               |
| Philippines                           | 22 January 1993  | 6                               |
| Equatorial Guinea <sup>2</sup>        | 24 December 1993 | 4                               |
| Niger                                 | 31 March 1994    | 4                               |
| Algeria                               | 11 December 1995 | -                               |
| Ireland                               | 7 March 1996     | -                               |
| Somalia <sup>2</sup>                  | 23 April 1996    | -                               |
| Republic of Korea                     | 9 July 1996      | -                               |
| Burundi                               | 8 August 1996    | -                               |

THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS

| <u>State party</u>                | <u>Date due</u> | <u>Number of reminders sent</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lebanon                           | 21 March 1988   | -                               |
| Syrian Arab Republic <sup>3</sup> | 18 August 1989  | 13                              |
| Trinidad and Tobago               | 20 March 1990   | 12                              |
| Gambia <sup>3</sup>               | 21 June 1990    | 11                              |
| Suriname <sup>3</sup>             | 2 August 1990   | 11                              |
| Barbados                          | 11 April 1991   | 10                              |
| Kenya <sup>3</sup>                | 11 April 1991   | 10                              |
| Mali <sup>3</sup>                 | 11 April 1991   | 10                              |
| Nicaragua                         | 11 June 1991    | 9                               |
| Zaire                             | 31 July 1991    | 9                               |

THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS (ctd)

| <u>State party</u>                                 | <u>Date due</u>   | <u>Number of reminders sent</u> |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jamaica <sup>3</sup>                               | 1 August 1991     | 9                               |
| Australia  | 12 November 1991  | 8                               |
| Panama   | 31 March 1992     | 8                               |
| Guyana <sup>3</sup>                                | 10 April 1992     | 8                               |
| Rwanda <sup>1</sup>                                | 10 April 1992     | 2                               |
| Madagascar   | 31 July 1992      | 7                               |
| Central African Republic <sup>3</sup>              | 7 August 1992     | 7                               |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea <sup>3</sup> | 13 December 1992  | 6                               |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines <sup>3</sup>      | 8 February 1993   | 6                               |
| Austria  | 9 April 1993      | 5                               |
| Bolivia  | 11 November 1993  | -                               |
| Viet Nam <sup>3</sup>                              | 23 December 1993  | -                               |
| Tanzania   | 31 December 1993  | 4                               |
| Venezuela  | 31 December 1993  | 4                               |
| Gabon  | 20 April 1994     | -                               |
| Afghanistan  | 23 April 1994     | -                               |
| Luxembourg   | 17 November 1994  | 2                               |
| Bulgaria   | 31 December 1994  | 2                               |
| Egypt  | 31 December 1994  | 2                               |
| Guinea   | 31 December 1994  | 2                               |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of)                         | 31 December 1994  | 2                               |
| Congo  | 04 January 1995   | -                               |
| Cameroon   | 26 September 1995 | 1                               |
| El Salvador  | 31 December 1995  | -                               |
| Togo   | 31 December 1995  | -                               |

FOURTH PERIODIC REPORTS

| <u>State party</u>                  | <u>Date due</u>  | <u>Number of reminders sent</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lebanon                             | 21 March 1993    | -                               |
| Panama <sup>4</sup>                 | 6 June 1993      | 5                               |
| Madagascar <sup>4</sup>             | 3 August 1993    | 5                               |
| Yugoslavia                          | 3 August 1993    | 5                               |
| Ecuador                             | 4 November 1993  | 5                               |
| Dominican Republic                  | 3 April 1994     | 4                               |
| Chile                               | 28 April 1994    | 3                               |
| Syrian Arab Republic <sup>3/4</sup> | 18 August 1994   | 3                               |
| Uruguay                             | 31 December 1994 | 2                               |
| Trinidad and Tobago <sup>4</sup>    | 20 March 1995    | 2                               |

FOURTH PERIODIC REPORTS (ctd)

| <u>State party</u>      | <u>Date due</u>   | <u>Number of reminders sent</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Canada                  | 4 April 1995      | 2                               |
| Mongolia                | 4 April 1995      | 2                               |
| Gambia <sup>3/4</sup>   | 21 June 1995      | 1                               |
| India                   | 9 July 1995       | -                               |
| Costa Rica              | 2 August 1995     | 1                               |
| Hungary                 | 2 August 1995     | 1                               |
| Suriname <sup>3/4</sup> | 2 August 1995     | 1                               |
| Venezuela               | 1 November 1995   | 1                               |
| Denmark                 | 1 November 1995   | -                               |
| El Salvador             | 28 February 1996  | -                               |
| Barbados                | 11 April 1996     | -                               |
| Kenya                   | 11 April 1996     | -                               |
| Mali                    | 11 April 1996     | -                               |
| Tanzania                | 11 April 1996     | -                               |
| Nicaragua               | 11 June 1996      | -                               |
| Jamaica                 | 1 August 1996     | -                               |
| Norway                  | 1 August 1996     | -                               |
| Portugal                | 1 August 1996     | -                               |
| Sri Lanka               | 10 September 1996 | -                               |
| Japan                   | 31 October 1996   | -                               |
| Morocco                 | 31 October 1996   | -                               |

States parties whose reports are to be submitted  
between the closing date of the Committee's  
fifty-eighth session (8 November 1996) and the closing  
date of its fifty-ninth session (11 April 1997)

| <u>State party</u> | <u>Third periodic reports</u> | <u>Date due</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| San Marino         |                               | 17 January 1997 |

| <u>State party</u> | <u>Fourth periodic reports</u> | <u>Date due</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Jordan             |                                | 22 January 1997 |
| France             |                                | 3 February 1997 |
| Guyana             |                                | 10 April 1997   |



## 8. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the fifty-ninth session, prepared in consultation with the Chairman and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

### Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

|                                      |                  |                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Bolivia<br>(second periodic)         | CCPR/C/63/Add.4  | Tuesday, a.m./p.m.   | 25 March 1997 |
| Georgia<br>(initial)                 | CCPR/C/100/Add.1 | Wednesday, a.m./p.m. | 26 March 1997 |
|                                      |                  | Thursday, a.m.       | 27 March 1997 |
| Colombia<br>(fourth periodic)        | CCPR/C/103/Add.3 | Monday, a.m./p.m.    | 31 March 1997 |
| India<br>(third periodic)            | CCPR/C/76/Add.6  | Wednesday, a.m./p.m. | 2 April 1997  |
| Portugal (Macau)<br>(third periodic) | CCPR/C/70/Add.9  | Friday, a.m./p.m.    | 4 April 1997  |
| Lebanon<br>(second periodic)         | CCPR/C/42/Add.14 | Monday, a.m./p.m.    | 7 April 1997  |

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session.

## 9. General Comment of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will consider any draft general comment that may be put before it by its pre-sessional Working Group on article 40.

## 10. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

One hundred and forty one communications are pending before the Committee from earlier sessions. Taking into account the deadlines established by the Committee for submission of further information from the parties, 44 cases (earlier declared admissible) may be considered for the adoption of final views and 97 cases may be considered for a decision on admissibility. In addition, the Committee will have before it summaries of a number of recently registered communications and summaries of new communications registered after its last session, together with an indication of any action which may have been taken by the Special Rapporteur for new communications.

In accordance with article 5, para.3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.

11. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

Under this item, the Committee will assess the status of follow-up activities under the Optional Protocol and examine periodic reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur for the Follow-Up on Views.

12. Future meetings of the Committee

As the calendar of meetings held within the framework of the United Nations is submitted by the Secretary-General on a biennial basis for the approval of the Committee on Conferences and the General Assembly, the Committee may wish to take decisions under this item on the schedule of its meetings to be held in 1998 and 1999.

Notes

1. The Committee has requested the Government to submit a special report for discussion by the Committee.
2. The State party's initial report has not yet been received
3. The States Party's second periodic report has not yet been received
4. The States party's third periodic report has not yet been received