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Agenda item 1
Organizational and procedural matters

Annotations to the agenda for the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council

Note by the Secretary-General*

* Late submission.

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1. Organizational and procedural matters

Date and venue of the session

1. In accordance with its annual programme of work, the Human Rights Council will hold its twenty-first session from 10 to 28 September 2012 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
2. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Council, as contained in section VII of the annex to resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, the organizational meeting for the twenty-first session will be held on 27 August 2012.

Agenda of the session

3. The agenda of the Council is contained in section V of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. The Council will have before it the present annotations relating to items included in the agenda for the twenty-first session.

Composition of the Human Rights Council

4. The composition of the Council at its twenty-first session is as follows:¹ Angola (2013); Austria (2014); Bangladesh (2012); Belgium (2012); Benin (2014); Botswana (2014); Burkina Faso (2014); Cameroon (2012); Chile (2014); China (2012); Congo (2014); Costa Rica (2014); Cuba (2012); Czech Republic (2014); Djibouti (2012); Ecuador (2013); Guatemala (2013); Hungary (2012); India (2014); Indonesia (2014); Italy (2014); Jordan (2012); Kuwait (2014); Kyrgyzstan (2012); Libya (2013); Malaysia (2013); Maldives (2013); Mauritania (2013); Mauritius (2012); Mexico (2012); Nigeria (2012); Norway (2012); Peru (2014); Philippines (2014); Poland (2013); Qatar (2013); Republic of Moldova (2013); Romania (2014); Russian Federation (2012); Saudi Arabia (2012); Senegal (2012); Spain (2013); Switzerland (2013); Thailand (2013); Uganda (2013); United States of America (2012); Uruguay (2012).

Bureau of the Human Rights Council

5. The composition of the Bureau of the Council for its sixth cycle, which will run until 31 December 2012, is as follows: President of the Council, Laura Dupuy Lasserre (Uruguay); Vice-Presidents, Christian Strohal (Austria), Anatole Fabien Nkou (Cameroon), András Dékány (Hungary); Vice-President and Rapporteur, Gulnara Iskakova (Kyrgyzstan).

Selection and appointment of mandate holders

6. In accordance with paragraph 47 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and the requirements set out in Council decision 6/102, the consultative group composed of Mohamed Ali Alhakim (Iraq), Harriet Berg (Norway), Roberto Flores Bermúdez (Honduras), Umunna H. Orjiako (Nigeria) and Fedor Rosocha (Slovakia) will propose to

¹ The term of membership of each State expires in the year indicated in parentheses.

the President of the Council a list of candidates for Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, for which new mandate holders will be appointed at the twenty-first session.

7. In accordance with the procedure stipulated in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the appointment of special procedures mandate holders will be completed upon the subsequent approval of the Council. The mandate holders in question shall be appointed before the end of the twenty-first session.

Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

8. At its seventh session, in 2008, the Council elected the 18 members of the Advisory Committee, of whom four members for a one-year term, seven for a two-year term and seven for a three-year term.

9. At its tenth session, in 2009, the Council re-elected the four members originally elected for a one-year term for another three-year term, their terms of office ending in March 2012.²

10. Pursuant to Council decision 18/121, the Council decided, as a transitional measure, that the period of office of members of the Advisory Committee ending in March 2012 will be exceptionally extended until 30 September 2012. Consequently, the mandate of four members elected at the tenth session in 2009 will expire in September 2012.

11. Paragraph 70 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 provides that the Council shall elect the members of the Advisory Committee, in secret ballot, from the list of candidates whose names have been presented in accordance with the agreed requirements.

12. Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the annex to resolution 5/1, the Council adopted decision 6/102 containing technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures for members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, with the aim of ensuring that the best possible expertise is made available to the Council.

13. In accordance with paragraph 71 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the list of candidates and relevant information was made available to Member States and to the public in a note by the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/17).

Report of the session

14. At the end of its session, the Council will have before it for adoption a draft report prepared by the Rapporteur. The report will include resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council and the President's statements, as well as a technical summary of the proceedings held during the twenty-first session.

² Following the death of Miguel Alfonso Martínez (Cuba) in 2010, elections were held at the fourteenth session of the Council, and Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua) was elected for the remainder of the term (until March 2012).

2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

15. All reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Secretary-General are submitted under agenda item 2, which remains an open-ended item throughout the session. These reports will be considered at the time of consideration of relevant agenda items, as appropriate. Specific timing of their introduction will be reflected in the programme of work.

Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity

16. In its resolution 18/2, the Council requested OHCHR to convene, in cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, an expert workshop to prepare concise technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. The Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/22 and Corr.1-2).

The question of the death penalty

17. In its decision 18/117, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit a yearly supplement to his quinquennial report on capital punishment and the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, paying special attention to the imposition of the death penalty on persons younger than 18 years of age at the time of the offence, on pregnant women and on persons with mental or intellectual disabilities. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the death penalty (A/HRC/21/29 and Corr.1).

Human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice

18. In its resolution 18/12, the Council requested the High Commissioner to submit an analytical report to the Council at its twenty-first session on the protection of human rights of juveniles deprived of their liberty, mindful of all applicable human rights standards and taking into account the work of all relevant human rights mechanisms of the United Nations. The Council will have before it the analytical report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/26).

19. Also in its resolution 18/12, the Council invited OHCHR to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in the organization of an expert consultation on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system, and to submit a report thereon. The Council will have before it the joint report of OHCHR, UNODC and the Special Representative (A/HRC/21/25).

Promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet

20. In its decision 18/119, the Council decided to convene, at its nineteenth session, a panel discussion on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet, with a particular focus on the ways and means to improve its protection in accordance with international human rights law. In the same resolution, it requested OHCHR to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion. The Council will have before it the summary report of OHCHR (A/HRC/21/30).

The right to development

21. In its resolutions 65/219 and 66/155, the General Assembly requested the High Commissioner to report on her activities to the Council and also requested the Secretary-General to provide an interim report on the implementation of those resolutions to the Council, including efforts undertaken at national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development. The Council will consider the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/28) (see also paragraphs 44 to 45 below).

Rights of the child

22. In its resolution 19/37, the Council requested the High Commissioner to prepare a summary of the full-day meeting on the rights of the child, held at the nineteenth session, before the twenty-first session. The Council will have before it the summary report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/31) (see also paragraphs 46 and 47 below).

Human rights of indigenous peoples

23. In its resolutions 15/7 and 18/8, the Council requested the High Commissioner to submit an annual report on the rights of indigenous peoples to the Council, containing information on relevant developments of human rights bodies and mechanisms and activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner that contribute to the promotion of and respect for, and the full application of, the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and follow up on the effectiveness of the Declaration. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/23).

24. Also in its resolution 18/8, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with OHCHR, the Office of Legal Affairs and other relevant parts of the Secretariat, to prepare a detailed document on the ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of recognized indigenous peoples' representatives on issues affecting them, and on how such participation might be structured, and to present it to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/24).

25. Reference is also made to the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see paragraphs 68 to 71 below) and to the panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples (see paragraph 51 below).

Violence against women

26. In its resolution 20/12, the Council requested OHCHR to prepare a summary report of the proceedings, including conclusions and recommendations made by participants, of the panel discussion on the theme of remedies for women subjected to violence held as part of the 2012 annual discussion on women's rights at the twentieth session of the Council, and to submit it to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it the summary report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/65).

Business and human rights

27. In its resolution 17/4, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on how the United Nations system as a whole, including programmes and funds and specialized agencies, can contribute to the advancement of the business and human rights agenda and the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, addressing in particular how capacity-building of all relevant actors to this end can best be addressed within the United Nations system. It also requested that the

report be presented to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/21 and Corr.1).

World Programme for Human Rights Education

28. In its resolution 12/4, the Council requested OHCHR to prepare a plan of action for the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and non-governmental actors. In its resolution 15/11, the Council decided to follow up on the implementation of the World Programme and requested OHCHR to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the World Programme and to submit it to the Council at its last session in 2012. The Council will have before it the progress report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/20 and Corr.1).

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

29. In its resolution 19/22, the Council requested the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/32) (see also paragraphs 63 and 64 below).

Situation of human rights in the Republic of Mali

30. In its resolution 20/17, the Council invited the High Commissioner to monitor the human rights situation in the north of the Republic of Mali and to report thereon to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/64).

Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights

31. In its resolution 12/2, the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its fourteenth session and annually thereafter, in accordance with its programme of work, containing a compilation and analysis of any available information, from all appropriate sources, on alleged reprisals, as well as recommendations on how to address the issues of intimidation and reprisals. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/18). Reference is also made to the panel discussion to be held during the twenty-first session on this issue (see paragraph 66 below).

Incompatibility between democracy and racism

32. In its resolution 18/15, the Council invited, inter alia, the relevant mechanisms of the Council and United Nations treaty bodies to continue to pay particular attention to violations of human rights stemming from the rise of racism and xenophobia in political circles and society at large, and invited the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its twenty-first session on the implementation of that resolution. The Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/27).

Advisory services and technical assistance to Cambodia

33. In its resolution 18/25, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the role and achievements of OHCHR in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/35) (see also paragraphs 91 and 92 below).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

34. In its resolution 19/29, the Council requested the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance and to work with the Government of Yemen, as needed, to identify additional areas of assistance to enable Yemen to fulfil its human rights obligations. In the same resolution, the Council also requested OHCHR to present to the Council, at its twenty-first session, a progress report on the situation of human rights in Yemen and on the follow-up of that resolution as well as Council resolution 18/19. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/37).

Support to end human rights abuses and combat impunity in Somalia

35. In its resolution 17/25, the Council requested OHCHR to enhance its technical assistance for the Transitional Federal Government and its subnational authorities. In its resolution 19/28, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its twenty-first session, a report assessing current United Nations support for efforts in Somalia to end all human rights abuses and combat impunity, as reflected in the report on Somalia of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/18/6). The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/36) (see also paragraphs 94 and 95 below).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan in the field of human rights

36. In its resolution 18/17, the Council invited OHCHR, in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan, to identify and assess areas of assistance and, upon its request, to assist the Government in its efforts to promote and protect human rights. In the same resolution, the Council requested OHCHR to present a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/34).

3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

A. Economic, social and cultural rights

Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity

37. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (A/HRC/21/22) (see paragraph 16 above).

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation

38. In its resolution 16/2, the Council extended the mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a Special Rapporteur for further three years. In its resolution 18/1, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur to present her annual report in accordance with its programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Catarina de Albuquerque (A/HRC/21/42 and Add.1-6).

Extreme poverty and human rights

39. In its resolution 12/19, the Council requested the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to submit a progress report presenting

recommendations on how to improve the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights. In its resolution 15/19, the Council invited the Independent Expert to pursue further work on the draft guiding principles with a view to submitting a final draft of the revised guiding principles to the Council at its twenty-first session, in order to allow the Council to take a decision on the way forward with a view to the adoption by 2012 of guiding principles on the rights of persons living in extreme poverty. In its resolution 17/13, the Council extended the mandate of the current mandate holder as Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. The Council will consider the report and the final draft of the revised guidelines submitted by the Special Rapporteur, Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona (A/HRC/21/39).

B. Civil and political rights

The question of the death penalty

40. Reference is made to the Secretary-General's report on the question of the death penalty (A/HRC/21/29) (see paragraph 17 above).

Human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice

41. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/21/26) and to the joint report of OHCHR, UNODC and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (A/HRC/21/25) (see paragraphs 18 and 19 above).

Promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet

42. Reference is made to the summary report of the High Commissioner on the panel discussion on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet, held at the nineteenth session (A/HRC/21/30) (see paragraph 20 above).

Truth, justice, reparation and guarantees on non-recurrence

43. In its resolution 18/7, the Council decided to appoint, for a period of three years, a Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, and requested the special rapporteur to report annually to the Council and the General Assembly. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Pablo De Greiff (A/HRC/21/46 and Add.1).

C. Right to development

44. Pursuant to resolution 9/3, the Council decided that the Working Group on the Right to Development shall convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council. The Council will have before it the report of the Working Group on its thirteenth session, held from 7 to 11 May 2012 (A/HRC/21/19).

45. Reference is also made to the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner on the right to development (A/HRC/21/28) (see paragraph 21 above).

D. Rights of peoples, and specific groups and individuals

Rights of the child

46. In its resolution 66/141, the General Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to

the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda. The Council will have before it the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Radhika Coomaraswamy (A/HRC/21/38).

47. Reference is also made to the High Commissioner's summary report of the full-day meeting on the rights of the child, held at the nineteenth session (A/HRC/21/31) (see paragraph 22 above).

Human rights of indigenous peoples

48. In its resolution 15/14, the Council decided that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples will be considered at its annual September session. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, James Anaya (A/HRC/21/47 and Add.1-6).

49. Reference is also made to the High Commissioner's annual report on the human rights of indigenous peoples (A/HRC/21/23) and to the report of the Secretary-General on participation at the United Nations of recognized indigenous peoples' representatives (A/HRC/21/24) (see paragraphs 23 and 24 above).

50. Reference is also made to the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see paragraphs 68 to 71 below).

51. In its resolution 18/8, the Council decided to hold, on an annual basis, a half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples and, in this regard, to hold, at its twenty-first session, a half-day panel discussion on access to justice by indigenous peoples. The Council will hold a panel discussion during the session (see annex).

Violence against women

52. Reference is made to the summary report of the High Commissioner on the panel discussion on the theme of remedies for women subjected to violence held at the twentieth session of the Council. (A/HRC/21/65) (see paragraph 26 above).

E. Interrelation of human rights and human rights thematic issues

Business and human rights

53. Reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General on the advancement of the business and human rights agenda (A/HRC/21/21 and Corr.1) (see paragraph 27 above).

World Programme for Human Rights Education

54. Reference is made to the progress report of the High Commissioner on the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/21/20 and Corr.1) (see paragraph 28 above).

Contemporary forms of slavery

55. In resolution 15/2, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences to submit annual reports on the activities of the mandate to the Council, together with recommendations on measures that should be taken to combat and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices and to protect the human rights of victims of such practices. The Council will

consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Gulnara Shahinian (A/HRC/21/41 and Add.1-2).

Implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

56. In its resolution 18/11, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, with the new title of Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, for a further period of three years. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur to continue to include in his report comprehensive information on the adverse effects that the improper management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes may have on the enjoyment of human rights. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Calin Georgescu, (A/HRC/21/48 and Add.1-3).

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

57. In its resolution 18/4, the Council requested the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination to consult States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in the implementation of that resolution, and to report its findings to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/21/43 and Add.1-2).

Human rights and international solidarity

58. In its resolution 17/6, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity for a period of three years. In its resolution 18/5, the Council requested the Independent Expert to continue to identify areas to be addressed, the main concepts and norms that can form the basis of a framework, and good practices to inform the future development of law and policy with regard to human rights and international solidarity. It also requested the Independent Expert to continue her work in the preparation of a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity and in further developing guidelines, standards, norms and principles and to submit a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Council at its twenty-first session. Reference is also made to the Expert Workshop on human rights and international solidarity held from 7 to 8 June 2012. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Virginia Dandan (A/HRC/21/44 and Add.1).

59. Reference is also made to the report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on human rights and international solidarity (A/HRC/21/66) (see paragraph 76 below).

Democratic and equitable international order

60. In its resolution 18/6, the Council decided to establish, for a period of three years, a special procedures mandate of Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and requested the Independent Expert to present his first report to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Alfred de Zayas (A/HRC/21/45 and Corr.1).

Activities of private military and security companies

61. In its resolution 15/26, the Council decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group with the mandate to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework, including, inter alia, the option of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies, including their accountability. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that the working group shall present its recommendations at the twenty-first session of the Council. The Working Group held its first session from 23 to 27 May 2011 and its second session from 13 to 17 August 2012. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the submission of the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/21/40).

Human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking

62. Reference is made to the interim report of the Advisory Committee on the issue of terrorist hostage-taking (A/HRC/21/58) (see paragraph 74 below).

4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

63. In its resolution 19/22, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the commission of inquiry established pursuant to resolution S-17/1, and requested the commission to continue its work. The Council also requested the commission of inquiry to conduct and continuously update a mapping exercise of gross violations of human rights since March 2011, including an assessment of casualty figures, and to publish it periodically. The Council will consider the report of the commission of inquiry (A/HRC/21/50), submitted also pursuant to Council resolution 20/22.

64. Reference is also made to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 19/22 on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (A/HRC/21/32) (see paragraph 29 above).

Situation of human rights in the Republic of Mali

65. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the north of the Republic of Mali (A/HRC/21/64) (see paragraph 30 above).

5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

66. In its decision 18/118, the Council decided to convene, at its twenty-first session, a panel discussion on the issue of intimidation or reprisal against individuals and groups who cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. The Council will hold the panel discussion during the session (see annex).

67. Reference is also made to the report of the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals, as well as recommendations on how to address the issues of intimidation and reprisals (A/HRC/21/18) (see paragraph 31 above).

A. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

68. In its resolution 6/36, the Council decided to establish a subsidiary expert mechanism to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples in the manner and form requested by the Council. The Council will consider the report of the fifth session of the Expert Mechanism, held from 9 to 13 July 2012 (A/HRC/21/52).

69. In its resolution 18/8, the Council requested the Expert Mechanism to continue to build on its previous studies, including its study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making (A/HRC/18/42). The Council will consider the follow-up report on the study of the Expert Mechanism on the right to participate in decision-making, with the focus on extractive industries (A/HRC/21/55).

70. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Expert Mechanism to prepare a study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples, and to present it to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will consider the study of the Expert Mechanism (A/HRC/21/53).

71. The Council also requested the Expert Mechanism to undertake, with the assistance of OHCHR, a questionnaire to seek the views of States on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies in order to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Council will have before it a compilation of replies to the questionnaire (A/HRC/21/54).

B. Advisory Committee

72. In its decision 18/121, the Council decided that that the cycle of the Advisory Committee shall be adjusted to run from 1 October to 30 September, to ensure that the annual reporting of the Committee to the Council and the interactive dialogue thereon will take place at the end of the cycle.

73. The Advisory Committee held its seventh session from 8 to 12 August 2011, its eighth session from 20 to 24 February 2012 and its ninth session from 6 to 10 August 2012. In accordance with paragraph 80 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and the above decision 18/121, the Council will consider the reports of the Advisory Committee on those sessions in an interactive dialogue with the Chairperson of the Committee (A/HRC/21/56).

74. At its sixteenth session, the Council held a panel discussion on the issue of human rights in the context of action taken to address terrorist hostage-taking, and at its eighteenth session it considered the report of the High Commissioner on the above-mentioned panel discussion (A/HRC/18/29). In its resolution 18/10, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the issue for the purposes of promoting awareness and understanding, paying particular attention to its impact on human rights and the role of regional and international cooperation in this field, and requested the Advisory Committee to present an interim report to the Council at its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on this issue (A/HRC/21/58).

75. In its resolution 16/3, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on how a better understanding and appreciation of traditional values of dignity, freedom and responsibility can contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, and to present that study to the Council before its twenty-first session. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on this issue (A/HRC/21/57).

76. In its resolution 18/5, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare inputs to contribute to the elaboration by the Independent Expert on human rights and

international solidarity of a draft declaration on the rights of peoples and individuals to international solidarity, and to the further development of guidelines, standards, norms and principles with a view to promoting and protecting that right. The Council will consider the report of the Advisory Committee (A/HRC/21/66).

C. Complaint procedure

77. In its resolution 5/1, the Council established the complaint procedure as contained in section IV of the annex to that resolution. In paragraph 98 of the annex to resolution 5/1, the Working Group on Situations was requested, on the basis of the information and recommendations provided by the Working Group on Communications, to present the Council with a report on consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to make recommendations to the Council on the course of action to be taken.

78. The Working Group on Communications will hold its eleventh session from 27 to 31 August 2012.

79. At its twenty-first session, the Council will consider issues relating to the complaint procedure in two closed meetings.

D. Special procedures

80. Pursuant to Council decision 2/102, the Council will consider a note by the High Commissioner transmitting to the Council the report of the nineteenth meeting of the special procedures (A/HRC/21/51).

81. The Council will have before it the joint communications report of special procedures (A/HRC/21/49). The full report will be available online.

6. Universal periodic review

82. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review started the second cycle of the review process and held its thirteenth session from 21 May to 4 June 2012. At its twenty-first session, the Council will consider and adopt the final outcome of the review of the following countries: Morocco, Ecuador, Tunisia, Bahrain, Indonesia, Finland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Brazil, the Philippines, Algeria, Poland, the Netherlands and South Africa (A/HRC/21/3-16).

83. Pursuant to the President's Statement 9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, agreed upon on 9 April 2008, the report of the Working Group, together with the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as voluntary commitments made by the State under review and replies presented by the State under review, before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary, to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group, will constitute the outcome of the review, which shall be adopted by the Council at its plenary session through a standardized decision. It was also agreed that a summary of the views expressed on the outcome of the review by the State under review, and of Member and observer States of the Council, as well as general comments made by other relevant stakeholders, before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary, would be included in the report of the session of the Council.

84. Furthermore, in its decision 17/119, the Council decided that the order of the review established for the first cycle of the review shall be maintained for the second and

subsequent cycles, and that the second and subsequent cycles of the review should focus on, inter alia, the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the development of human rights situations in the State under review.

7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

85. In its resolution 19/18, the Council requested the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, particularly by providing detailed information on non-implementation and the measures required to ensure the most adequate and effective implementation of the recommendations by all parties concerned, including United Nations bodies, in accordance with section B, paragraph 3, of Council resolution S-12/1. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/21/33).

8. Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system

86. In its resolution 6/30, the Council decided to incorporate into its programme of work an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms. In its resolution 19/5, the Council decided to focus on the issue of economic, social and cultural rights of women and the empowerment of women in this regard, including in the context of the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, in its annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective to be held at the twenty-first session. The Council will hold the annual discussion on the above-mentioned theme (see annex).

9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Elaboration of Complementary Standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects

87. In its decision 3/103, the Council decided to establish an ad hoc committee on the elaboration of complementary standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects and requested it to report regularly to the Council on the actual progress in the elaboration of complementary standards. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on its fourth session, held from 10 to 22 April 2012 (A/HRC/21/59).

88. Reference is also made to the report of the High Commissioner on the incompatibility between democracy and racism (A/HRC/21/27) (see paragraph 32 above).

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

89. In its resolutions 9/14 and 18/28, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent for a further period of three years, and requested the Working Group to submit an annual report to the Council on all activities relating to its mandate. The Council will consider the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/21/60 and Add.1-2).

Nelson Mandela International Day

90. At its eighteenth session, the Council held a high-level panel discussion to reflect on current human rights situations worldwide with regard to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, drawing inspiration from the example of Nelson Mandela for promoting and protecting human rights without distinction as to race, colour or national or ethnic origin. In its resolution 20/18, the Council decided to hold, at its twenty-first session, a high-level panel discussion on how the values of reconciliation, peace, freedom and racial equality can contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).

10. Technical assistance and capacity-building

Advisory services and technical assistance to Cambodia

91. In its resolution 18/25, the Council decided to extend by two years the mandate of the special procedure on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, and requested the Special Rapporteur to report on the implementation of his mandate to the Council at its twenty-first and twenty-fourth sessions, and to engage in a constructive manner with the Government of Cambodia for the further improvement of the situation of human rights in the country. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Surya Prasad Subedi (A/HRC/21/63 and Add.1).

92. Reference is also made to the report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of OHCHR in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia (A/HRC/21/35) (see paragraph 33 above).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

93. Reference is made to the progress report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Yemen (A/HRC/21/37) (see paragraph 34 above).

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

94. In its resolution 17/25, the Council requested the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia to report at its twenty-first session on the situation of human rights and the implementation of technical cooperation in Somalia. In its resolution 20/21, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert for one year, from September 2012, with a view to maximizing the provision and flow of technical assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, in order to support the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Shamsul Bari (A/HRC/21/61).

95. Reference is also made to the report of the Secretary-General on assessing current United Nations support for efforts in Somalia to end all human rights abuses and combat impunity (A/HRC/ 21/36) (see paragraph 35 above).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan in the field of human rights

96. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the implementation of resolution 18/17 on technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan in the field of human rights (A/HRC/21/34) (see paragraph 36 above).

Technical assistance for the Sudan in the field of human rights

97. In its resolution 18/16, the Council decided to renew for a period of one year the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan and requested the Independent Expert to engage with the Government of the Sudan with a view to identifying areas of assistance that will aid the Sudan to fulfil its human rights obligations, and to submit a report for consideration at its twenty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Mashood Baderin (A/HRC/21/62).

Annex

Panels and discussions mandated to be held at the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council

<i>Resolution / Decision</i>	<i>Panels / Discussions</i>
6/30 and 19/5 Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system	Annual discussion
18/8 Human rights and indigenous peoples	Half-day panel
18/118 Panel discussion on reprisals against individuals and groups who cooperate with the United Nations and its mechanisms	Panel discussion
20/18 Nelson Mandela International Day	High-level panel discussion