



General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 67 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/61/443/Add.2 and Corr.1)]

61/159. Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 5 (g) of its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which it decided that the Human Rights Council should assume the role and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993,

Taking note of all relevant resolutions on this issue adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

Taking note also of the relevant reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights¹ and the Joint Inspection Unit,²

Bearing in mind that the imbalance in the actual composition of the staff could result in diminishing the effectiveness of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner if it is perceived to be culturally biased and unrepresentative of the United Nations as a whole,

Regretting that efforts to address the imbalance regarding the regional geographical diversity of the staff have not resulted in a significant improvement, and noting the low representation from the United Nations regional groups of African, Asian, Eastern European, and Latin American and Caribbean States in the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Reaffirming that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

1. *Decides*, while considering the report of the Joint Inspection Unit:²

(a) To provide concrete support and guidance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in her ongoing efforts to overcome the status quo;

¹ E/CN.4/2006/103.

² JIU/REP/2006/3.

(b) To allow, in the effort to redress the specific geographical imbalance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the establishment of a temporary mechanism whereby recruitment of staff in the Office at the P-2 level would not be restricted to successful candidates from the national competitive examination;

(c) To re-evaluate the financing of human rights activities, as noted in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, with a view to increasing the support from core resources;

2. *Encourages* participation from a broader range of Member States in the associate experts programme, and, in this respect, urges participants to increase sponsorship of associate experts from developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit to assist the Human Rights Council to monitor systematically the implementation of the present resolution, inter alia, by submitting to the Human Rights Council in May 2009 a follow-up comprehensive report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit pending their fulfilment;

4. *Requests* the High Commissioner:

(a) To take further measures for the full and effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(b) To submit a comprehensive and updated report on the basis of paragraph 26 (e) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/72 of 20 April 2005³ to the Human Rights Council at its fourth session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session to bring those recommendations to the attention of the Fifth Committee, as soon as possible, for its consideration.

*81st plenary meeting
19 December 2006*

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2005/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.