



## A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A handbook on issues of transition  
from the Commission on Human Rights  
to the Human Rights Council



### Annex 3.1

#### **The Independent Expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia**

**Current mandate holder:** Charlotte Abaka  
**Mandate started:** 2003

**Term of mandate holder:** 2003-2006  
**Mandate up for renewal:** 2006

#### **Background and areas of focus**

- Liberia began by being considered under the confidential 1503 procedure at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights in 2003;
- The aim of the mandate is to assess the situation of human rights in the country;
- Facilitate cooperation between the Government of Liberia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights by providing technical assistance and advisory services;
- Gather information through country visits and discussions and consultations with representatives of the Government, UN specialised agencies such as the UN Mission in Liberia and the UN Development Programme, members of the diplomatic community and civil society groups.

#### **Differing working methods and reporting obligations**

- The Independent Expert does not transmit communications to the Government;
- In 2005, the Independent Expert facilitated a workshop on her report to the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission and strategies for its implementation.

#### **Cooperation with the Government**

- Prior to the sixtieth session of the Commission in 2004, several contacts were made with the authorities but the Independent Expert was unable to visit Liberia due to the security situation;
- The Independent Expert was unable to participate in important meetings and negotiations to end the war in Liberia that began in Accra shortly after the Expert's appointment;
- There has been no official interaction between the expert and the Economic Community of West African States;
- The Commission has noted the Government's positive attitude and its readiness to cooperate with the OHCHR on the question of human rights.

#### **Key developments**

- There have been improvements in the security situation, which have enhanced freedom of movement, facilitated the conduct of national elections and a presidential run off and allowed 70 per cent of the total population of registered internally displaced persons to return to Liberia;
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights have gradually moved towards being operational;
- The Government has also acceded to over 100 international instruments, including all the core human rights treaties;
- Domestic violence and harmful traditional practices against women are reportedly increasing and sexual violence, especially against children, is prevalent throughout the country.

#### **Country visits**

Liberia: 2004, 2005 and 2006.

**Pending reports**

Annual report (E/CN.4/2006/114).

**Communications to the Government of Liberia (2005)**

None.