



## 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

#### **Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia**

**Current mandate holder:** Ghanim Alnajjar  
**Mandate started:** 1993

**Term of mandate holder:** 2001-2006  
**Mandate up for renewal:** 2006

#### **Areas of focus**

- Seek and receive information about and report on the human rights situation in Somalia;
- Develop, through contributions from agencies and program of the United Nations currently in the field and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), a long-term programme of technical cooperation and advisory services aimed at re-establishing human rights and the rule of law and strengthening the police, judicial and prison systems;
- Gather information through country missions, as well as meetings and consultations with representatives of the Government, the African Union, the donor community, UN agencies, NGO organisations and civil society groups;
- The Independent Expert has proposed the formation of a committee of experts to receive complaints and collect and investigate allegations of past atrocities in Somalia.

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

- The Independent Expert was unable to visit Somalia during the first years after the establishment of the mandate due to security reasons;
- Since then, the Independent Expert has noted the freedom of movement afforded to him during his missions, and the willingness of authorities to facilitate his visit and meetings with him;
- The Independent Expert has engaged in formal meetings with the authorities, including the Prime Minister and members of the Transitional Federal Parliament, within the framework of partnerships for the promotion of human rights in Somalia.

#### **Key developments**

- In October 2004, the two-year Somali National Reconciliation Process culminated in a peace agreement and the election of the Transitional Federal Parliament and establishment of the Transitional Federal Government;
- Plans have started in February 2005 for the relocation of the Transitional Federal Parliament and Government of Somalia to the capital. In this context, the President and Prime Minister led high-ranking delegations on a “meet-the-people” mission to different parts of Somalia;
- Despite these improvements, most of the country is marked by insecurity and violence and the right to life continues to be violated on an extensive scale;
- By many accounts, economic, social and cultural rights have not benefited from any particular improvement in the past year and have instead been exacerbated by a year of climatic extremes in many parts of Somalia.

#### **Country visits**

Somalia: 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

**Pending reports**

Annual report (E/CN.4/2006/112).

**Thematic research**

- Mass graves in Hargeisa (1999, 1998, 1997);
- Allegations against Belgian, Canadian and Italian soldiers (1998).

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

- Five press releases;
- The 2005 annual report has not been published yet. As a result no information is available on communications to the Government.