



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

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Current mandate holder: Paul Hunt
Mandate started: 2002

Term of mandate holder: 2002-2008
Mandate up for renewal: 2008

Areas of focus

- Gather information and report on the status of the right to health, including laws, policies, good practices and obstacles, while applying a gender perspective and paying special attention to the needs of children;
- Promote the right to health as a fundamental human right; clarify the scope and content of the right to health; and identify good practices for the operationalisation of the right to health at the community, national and international levels;
- The Special Rapporteur has been asked to study the relationship between the right to health and poverty reduction strategies, as well as issues of neglected diseases and diseases particularly affecting developing countries;
- The right to health embraces a wide range of socio-economic factors that promote conditions in which people can lead a healthy life, and extends to the underlying determinants of health, such as food and nutrition; housing; access to safe and potable water and adequate sanitation; safe and healthy working conditions; a healthy environment; and access to health-related education and information.

Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- The Special Rapporteur also submits reports to the General Assembly (2003-2005).

Country visits

Mozambique (2003)
Peru (2004)
Romania (2004)
Sweden (2006)
Uganda (2005)

Outstanding requests

China (2006)
Serbia and Montenegro (2005)
Thailand (2005)
Turkmenistan (2006)
USA (2004)

Pending reports: Annual report, Summary of communications and Mission to Uganda (E/CN.4/2006/48, Add.1-2).

Thematic research

- Human rights-based approach to health indicators (2006);
- Mental disability and the right to health (2005);

- Trade issues and the right to health (2004);
- The right to sexual and reproductive health (2004).

Communications (2005)

- 40 communications to 25 Member States and two international organisations;
- 13 were letters of allegation and 24 were urgent appeals;
- 27 communications were sent jointly with other special procedures;
- Seven replies were received.