



## 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

#### Working Group of experts on people of African descent

**Current chairperson:** Peter Kasanda

**Term of chairperson:** 2002-2006

**Mandate started:** 2002

**Mandate up for renewal:** 2006

#### Areas of focus

- Established by the Commission following the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance's Programme of Action to study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the Diaspora, as well as to consider the general well being of Africans and people of African descent throughout the world, using a victim-oriented approach;
- Focus on improving access to the justice system, eliminating racial profiling, improving the human rights situation of people of African descent, encouraging community-level initiatives and inter-community dialogue, and developing affirmative action measures;
- Promote tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity to combat prejudice against people of African descent;
- The main legal reference is the *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action* resulting from the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

#### Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- The Working Group holds a five-day session every year, organised on a thematic basis;
- At its fourth session in 2005, the Working Group decided to undertake country visits;
- The Working Group does not take up individual complaints and therefore does not transmit communications to Governments.

#### Country visits

Belgium (2005)

**Pending reports:** Annual report, Mission to Belgium (E/CN.4/2006/19 and Add.1).

#### Thematic research

- Participation in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, as well as in development (2006);
- Racism and employment, health and housing (2005);
- Administration of justice (2004);
- The media (2004);
- Access to education and information technology (2004).

#### Communications (2005)

None.