



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 to education

Current mandate holder: Vernor Muñoz Villalobos
Mandate started: 1998

Term of mandate holder: 2004-2007
Mandate up for renewal: 2007

Areas of focus

- Shift the understanding of education closer to a human right that the State has an obligation to promote and protect;
- Holistic approach to examining, monitoring and promoting the right to education, including the financing, establishment and operation of free compulsory education, the fight against all forms of exclusion and discrimination, and efforts to boost the quality of rights-based education;
- Promote assistance to Governments to secure the progressive implementation of the principle of compulsory primary education free of charge for all;
- Develop dialogue and cooperation with relevant United Nations (UN) bodies and agencies, such as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation;
- The legal framework includes the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- The Special Rapporteur makes his/her reports available to the Commission on the Status of Women whenever relevant.

Country visits

Botswana (2005)	Turkey (2002)
China (2003)	Uganda (1999)
Colombia (2003)	UK (1999 and 2002)
Germany (2006)	USA (2001)
Indonesia (2002)	

Outstanding requests

Bolivia (2006)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2006)
Chad (2005)
Ethiopia
Guatemala (2006)
Mongolia (2005)
Morocco (2005)

Outstanding requests

Papua New Guinea (2005)
Romania (2005)

Senegal (2005)
Turkey
Turkmenistan (2006)
United Arab Emirates (2005)

Visits agreed in principle

Malaysia (May/June 2006)

Pending reports: Annual report and mission to Botswana (E/CN.4/2006/45 and Add.1).

Thematic research

- Girls' right to educations (2006);
- Discrimination (2005);

- Economic exclusion (2004);
- Governmental obligations corollary to the right to education (1999).

Communications (2005)

- Questionnaire sent to States, civil society and other stakeholders;
- 20 replies from States and six from UN bodies and agencies.