



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 on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Current chairperson: Amada Benavides de Pérez
Mandate of the Working Group started: 2005

Term of the chairperson: 2005-2006
Mandate of the Working Group up for renewal: 2008

Areas of focus

- The Working Group was preceded by the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right to peoples to self-determination (1987-2005);
- Work to strengthen the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries;
- Develop a new legal definition of a mercenary;
- Pay particular attention to the impact of the activities of private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and security services on the international market on the enjoyment of human rights by everyone and every people and, in particular, on the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;
- The international legal framework includes the *International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries* .

Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- The Working Group consists of five members;
- The Working Group deferred decision on whether to utilise a complaints mechanism until after the situation with the Human Rights Council was clarified;
- The Working Group will undertake visits largely on the invitation of Governments;
- The Working Group will either meet one or three times annually depending on funding from the Secretariat and a decision from the Human Rights Council.

Country visits

None.

Thematic research

None.

