



## OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



### **The role of good governance in the promotion of human rights**

**Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/65**

*The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Guided* by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement of all peoples and all nations applying to every individual and every organ of society, and also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), which affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

*Recognizing* the importance of a conducive environment, at both the national and the international levels, for the full enjoyment of all human rights,

*Emphasizing* that the strengthening of good governance at the national level, including through the building of effective and accountable institutions for promoting growth and sustainable human development, is a continuous process for all Governments, regardless of the level of development of the countries concerned,

*Welcoming* the growing recognition of the importance of good governance in the promotion of human rights, in particular in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Brussels Declaration (A/CONF.191/12) and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/11), the Monterrey Consensus adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/CONF.198/3, annex), and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolution 2, annex),

*Recognizing* the importance of initiatives at the regional level endorsed by the United Nations and founded on good governance frameworks and welcoming in particular the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by the African Union and its subsequent endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly in resolutions 57/2 of 16 September 2002 and 57/7 of 4 November 2002 and the conclusions of the Eleventh Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region, held in Islamabad in February 2003 (E/CN.4/2003/109, annex I),

*Noting* that good governance practices necessarily vary according to the particular circumstances and needs of different societies, and that the responsibility for determining and implementing such practices, based on transparency and accountability, and for creating and maintaining an enabling environment conducive to the enjoyment of all human rights at the national level rests with the State concerned,

*Affirming* the need for enhanced cooperation at the international level between States and through the United Nations system to ensure that States needing external inputs in order to improve good governance activities have access, if and when required, to the necessary information and resources,

*Recognizing* the need for a closer examination of the role of good governance for the promotion of human rights and the relationship between good governance practices and the promotion and protection of all human rights in all countries,

1. *Recognizes* that transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, is the foundation on which good governance rests and that such a foundation is a sine qua non for the promotion of human rights, including the right to development;

2. *Emphasizes*, in this context, the need to promote partnership approaches to international development cooperation and to ensure that prescriptive approaches to good governance do not impede such cooperation;

3. *Welcomes* the provision by States and intergovernmental organizations of practical examples of activities that have been effective in strengthening good governance practices for the promotion of human rights at the national level, including activities in the context of development cooperation between States, and encourages all relevant actors, including

non-governmental organizations, to share practical experiences with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on their activities to promote good governance and human rights;

4. *Welcomes* the conclusion contained in the report of the High Commissioner to the Commission on the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights (E/CN.4/2003/103) that there is a growing awareness of the importance of good governance for the realization of a broad range of human rights and sustainable development;

5. *Invites* the High Commissioner, where appropriate and relevant, to draw on the material provided in response to the invitations issued pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 2002/76 of 25 April 2002 and paragraph 3 of resolution 2001/72 of 25 April 2001 in analysis and technical assistance activities undertaken as part of the programme of his Office and to inform the Commission of the utility of the material in this respect;

6. *Welcomes* the High Commissioner's commitment, using extrabudgetary funding and working jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a seminar as soon as possible before the sixty-first session of the Commission, as requested in paragraph 5 of resolution 2002/76, on the issue of practical approaches and activities that have been effective in strengthening good governance practices for the promotion of human rights at the national level, examining and building upon the material provided and experience obtained pursuant to paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 2001/72 and paragraph 4 of its resolution 2002/76;

7. *Requests* the High Commissioner to invite States, national human rights institutions, relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations, other relevant international bodies and relevant national and international non-governmental organizations to attend the seminar and to report to the Commission as soon as possible on the outcomes of the seminar;

8. *Requests* the High Commissioner to compile indicative ideas and practices arising from the seminar and the material provided by States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that could be consulted by interested States when required;

9. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights at its sixtieth session under the same agenda item.

*61st meeting*

*24 April 2003*

[Adopted without a vote.]

See chap. XVII. - E/CN.4/2003/L.11/Add.6]