

ECOSOC Decision 2004/248

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/5¹ of 8 April 2004, and approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination for a period of three years.

The Council also approved the request to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene a third meeting of experts on traditional and new forms of mercenary activities as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, whose main objectives will be:

(a) To give further consideration to the proposed new legal definition of a mercenary as contained in paragraph 47 of the report of the Special Rapporteur;²

(b) To make proposals on possible means of regulation and international supervision of the activities of private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and security services on the international market;

(c) To study and evaluate recent activities of mercenaries in Africa.

¹ See E/2004/23 (Part I), chap. II, sect. A.

² E/CN.4/2004/15.