

## ECOSOC Decision 2005/255

### **The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination**

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2005, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/2 of 7 April 2005<sup>1</sup> and endorsed the Commission's decision to establish a working group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, to be composed of five independent experts, one from each regional group, to meet intersessionally for a period of three years, with the following mandate:

(a) To elaborate and present concrete proposals on possible new standards, general guidelines or basic principles encouraging the further protection of human rights, in particular the right of peoples to self-determination, while facing current and emergent threats posed by mercenaries or mercenary-related activities;

(b) To seek opinions and contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on questions relating to its mandate;

(c) To monitor mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations in different parts of the world;

(d) To study and identify emerging issues, manifestations and trends regarding mercenaries or mercenary-related activities and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination;

(e) To monitor and study the effects of the activities of private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and security services on the international market on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly the right of peoples to self-determination, and to prepare draft international basic principles that encourage respect for human rights on the part of those companies in their activities.

The Council also endorsed the request of the Commission to the Working Group to report annually to the Commission and the General Assembly.

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<sup>1</sup> See E/2005/23 (Part I), chap. II.A.