

March 2011

HRC 16/L... Freedom of Opinion and Expression: Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling Human Rights Council Resolution 12/16 of 12 October 2009, 7/36 of 28 March 2008, and all previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to freedom of opinion and expression,

Recognizing that the effective exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is essential for the enjoyment of other human rights and freedoms, and constitutes a fundamental pillar for building a democratic society and strengthening democracy, bearing in mind that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling its resolutions 5/1 on the institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the code of conduct for special procedures mandate-holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate-holder shall discharge his/her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto;

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years;
3. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his tasks to provide all necessary information requested by him and to consider favourably his requests for visits and for implementing his recommendations;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the assistance necessary to the Special Rapporteur to fulfil his mandate in particular by placing adequate human and material resources at his disposal;
5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report to the Human Rights Council and to the United Nations General Assembly covering activities relating to his/her mandate;
6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with its programme of work.