

Note to correspondents

NOTE/06/10

14 June 2006

FIRST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Information for Media Coverage of the Session

The Human Rights Council will held its first session from 19 to 30 June 2006 at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

The opening of the session will be held in the Assembly Hall on 19 June, and the Council will continue to meet at that location until 23 June. The rest of the meetings of the Council will be held in room XVIII of E building. A press gallery is reserved on a balcony of the 5th floor on the Lausanne side and correspondents are asked not to circulate around the Assembly Hall after the beginning of the meeting.

The information below is aimed at facilitating the work of accredited correspondents covering the Council's proceedings.

This note will be updated as necessary.

Media Accreditation

Correspondents who wish to obtain accreditation should send photocopies of the following documents: a valid professional press card, an identity card or passport, and a letter of assignment from the Editor-in-Chief of the media organization concerned. These documents must be faxed to Ms. Elena Ponomareva-Piquier, Chief of Press and External Relations Section, Information Service (fax number +41 (0)22 917 0073). Ms. Ponomareva-Piquier can be reached at +41 (0)22 917 2336. Ms. Dalmas-Fegli, Information Assistant, can be reached at +41 (0)22 917 2313.

Security passes can be picked up from the Identification Unit of the Division of Security and Safety Services located at the visitor's entrance to the Palais des Nations (Pregny Gate).

United Nations Press Releases and Meetings Coverage

Background press releases in English and French will be available in the press room 1 and in the Documentation Centre (Room C.329)

The Information Service of the United Nations will provide continuous, in-depth coverage of the work of the Council in English and French. The press releases summarizing each public meeting of the Council will be available in press room 1 and in the Documentation Centre (Room C.329). For any questions concerning the press releases, please call Thierry Potvin, Editor (French) (+41 (0)22 917 2311) or Dalia Baligh, Editor (English) (+41 (0)22 917 2310) . For information on distribution of hard copies of the press releases, please call François Richer (+41 (0)22 917 4359).

All press releases of the Information Service will be available as soon as they are finalized, in English and French, on the Internet site of the United Nations Office at Geneva (www.unog.ch/news).

Media Liaison

The Spokesperson of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. José-Luis Díaz, will be available during the session. Mr. Diaz can be contacted at +41 (0)22 917 9242, (jdiaz@ohchr.org). Ms. Praveen Randhawa can also offer assistance to correspondents. Please contact Ms. Randhawa at +41 (0)22 917 9602 (prandhawa@ohchr.org).

Ms. Renata Sivacolundhu can offer assistance to correspondents concerning the arrangement of interviews with participating dignitaries during the first week of the Council. Please contact Ms. Sivacolundhu at +41 (0)22 917 1905 (sivacolundhu@un.org).

Mr. Rolando Gomez will liaise with the Chairman of the first session of the Council and the Bureau of the Council. He can be reached at + 41 (0) 22 917 2326 (rgomez@unog.ch).

Media Centre

A Media Centre will be set up from 19 to 30 June in hall 13/15 (second floor, Building A). The Centre will contain some 20 workstations for journalists with temporary Council accreditation, including computers equipped with wireless connections, cable Internet links for laptops, electrical outlets and two telephones with local service.

Documentation

Documents of the Council will be made available to correspondents as soon as they are published in press room 1.

For further information on documents, journalists can obtain assistance from the Documentation Centre of the Information Service, Room C.329 (telephone +41 (0)22 917 2304 or 2305).

Council documents will also be available in English, French and Spanish, on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at www.ohchr.org.

Press Conferences

Press conferences at the Palais des Nations will be organized throughout the Council involving United Nations officials, as well as speakers invited to address the Council and representatives of Member States. Press conferences will be announced on the board in press room 1, on the internal public address system and on the UNOG website (www.unog.ch/news).

Attendance at press conferences will be strictly limited to accredited correspondents and the only exceptions will be members of the delegation giving the press conference and the United Nations information staff designated to cover it.

Radio

Upon their request for accreditation, radio correspondents are asked to contact Ms. Yvette Morris, Chief of the Radio and Television Section, who can be reached at +41 (0)22 917 4606 or at +41 (0)79 217 3064.

The UN Radio Studios are operational from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reservations are required in advance. To reserve a studio, please call +41 (0)22 917 2566/1077.

Audio mult-boxes will be available in the press gallery in the Assembly Hall and in Conference Room XVIII.

Television

Access to the Assembly Hall

Cameramen and photographers will have access to the floor of Assembly for the first five minutes of the session on 19 June. Cameramen may film on the shoulder only. For the remainder of the proceedings in the Assembly Hall, camera crews may cover from the press gallery in the fifth floor balcony on the Lausanne side of the Hall. Audio mult-boxes will be available.

Access to the Conference Room XVIII

Television crews accompanied by UN staff will be able to take general views of the Conference Room. Access to the centre of the room is restricted to the UN television crew and one other television crew at a time. Priority will be given to television teams from the same country as the speaker addressing the Council.

Facilities

UN Television will provide coverage of statements in Pal, Betacam, DV and DVCAM to interested television and documentary producers. Coverage requests should be made in writing, in advance. Coverage requests and bookings for television studio and transmission facilities should be sent to:

UN Television
Room E.10,
Palais des Nations,
8-14 Avenue de La Paix
CH 1211-Geneva 10
Fax: 41 22 917 0031
Email: untv@unog.ch

Photographers

Photographers will work in areas on the floor designated by Information staff . Pool coverage may be arranged as needed.

For further information, please contact Yvette Morris (+41 (0)22 917 4606 or +41 (0)79 217 3064).

The public will have access through the webcast to all public meetings of the Human Rights Council during the first week of the session. The webcast will only be available in the language of the floor.

Useful numbers

The following numbers and other information will be helpful to correspondents covering the Council:

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Room No.</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E.mail address</u>	<u>Fax No.</u>
Marie HEUZÉ , Director, Spokesperson for the United Nations at Geneva	C.302	022.917 2302 079-333 2120	mheuze@unog.ch	022.917 0030
Elena PONOMAREVA- PIQUIER , Chief, Press and External Relations Section	C.300	022.917 2336 079-217 3065	eponomareva@unog.ch	022.917 0030
Rolando GOMEZ , Liaison with the Chairman and the Bureau	C. 315	022 917 2326 079 477 0880	rgomez@unog.ch	022.917 0030
Renata Sivacolundhu , Arranging interviews with dignitaries attending the Council	C.309	022 917 1905	sivacolundhu@un.org	022.917 0030
José Luis DIAZ , Spokesperson for the High Commissioner for Human Rights		022.917 7359 079-217 3009	jdiaz@ohchr.org	022.917 0353
Praveen RANDHAWA , Assistance to correspondents		022.917 9602 079-4444145	prandhawa@ohchr.org	022.917 0353
Thierry POTVIN , Editor, French Press Coverage	C.307	022.917 2311	tpotvin@unog.ch	022.917 0030
Dalia BALIGH , Editor, English Press Coverage	C.317	022.917 2310	dbaligh@unog.ch	022.917 0030
François RICHER Information clerk, Distribution of press materials	C.331	022.917 4359	fricher@unog.ch	022.917 0165

Catherine DALMAS-FEGLI , Information Assistant, Accreditation of journalists	C.323	022.917 2313 079-477 0865	cfegli@unog.ch	022.917 0073
Yvette MORRIS , Chief, Radio and TV Section	E.10-3	022.917 4606 079-217 3064	ymorris@unog.ch untv@unog.ch	022.917 0031
Luca SOLARI , Radio Engineer, Request for facilities	80	022.917.2566	lsolari@unog.ch	
François SUBIGER , Radio Engineer, Request for facilities	80	022.917 1077 076-593 5021	fsubiger@unog.ch	

(Calls placed from inside the Palais des Nations can be made by replacing "917" by "7"; when placing calls from outside Switzerland, please dial the country code (41) and omit the zero before the number above.)

* * * * *

For use of the information media; not an official record