INTERNATIONAL H**U**M A N
COUNCIL
ON **R**I**G**H**T**S POLICY

Annual Review
2005-2006

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The International Council was established in 1998 to conduct practical research into problems and dilemmas facing organisations that work in the field of human rights. The Council is interdisciplinary, strictly independent, international in membership and activity, and consultative in its approach. All the Council's activities relate directly to human rights.

Independent of governments and intergovernmental organisations as well as voluntary and private sector organisations, the Council works closely with all such bodies in the pursuit of its research objectives.

The Council is governed by its Executive Board, which is responsible for direction of the Council's programme, finances and organisation. All decisions to start research are taken by the Board. The Board appoints the International Council, which may have up to 30 Members and includes Board Members. Council Members meet annually to identify and discuss emerging international human rights issues and recommend themes for research to the Board.

The Council's Secretariat, based in Geneva, designs and manages the Council's projects and ensures that research findings are brought to the attention of relevant authorities and those who have a direct interest in the policy areas concerned.

The Council is registered as a not-for-profit foundation under Swiss law.

Mission Statement

The International Council on Human Rights Policy will provide a forum for applied research, reflection and forward thinking on matters of international human rights policy. In a complex world in which interests and priorities compete across the globe, the Council will identify issues that impede efforts to protect and promote human rights and propose approaches and strategies that will advance that purpose.

The Council will stimulate co-operation and exchange across the non-governmental, governmental and intergovernmental sectors, and strive to mediate between competing perspectives. It will bring together human rights practitioners, scholars and policy-makers, along with those from related disciplines and fields whose knowledge and analysis can inform discussion of human rights policy.

It will produce research reports and briefing papers with policy recommendations. These will be brought to the attention of policy-makers, within international and regional organisations, in governments and intergovernmental agencies and in voluntary organisations of all kinds.

In all its efforts, the Council will be global in perspective, inclusive and participatory in agenda-setting and collaborative in method.

CONTENTS

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

During the year under review, the Council took further steps in its efforts to continue to produce useful practical research of high quality and to communicate that research more effectively.

The Council published three reports. Each in different ways reflected the distinctive character of the Council's research. The first discusses benchmarks and indicators that national human rights institutions can use to assess their performance and compliance with the Paris Principles. A short, specific and accessible desk study, supported by responses to a questionnaire, it is designed for use by organisations that have different capacities and work in a variety of contexts. The second report looks at local government performance. It examines how local officials can use human rights methods and techniques to improve the quality of the services they provide, and how other actors (including government) can use human rights methods to hold local governments more effectively to account. Based on five country studies, it is an example of research that explores an area of human rights action that has been underdeveloped, and builds bridges between different professional communities (in this case decentralisation/governance and human rights). Finally, the Council published a report on the role of human rights in negotiation of peace agreements. This report also broke new ground: based on experience gathered during eight peace negotiations, it discusses many dilemmas that confront mediators, human rights proponents and parties to conflict when they try to create conditions for a just peace and to construct new institutions that can sustain it.

Encouragingly, these reports also indicate that the Council is making progress in its efforts to disseminate. The Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights co-published *Assessing the Effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions*, and as a result large numbers of copies were rapidly distributed to national institutions; the English version was reprinted in 2006. With UNDP's support, *Local Government and Human Rights – Doing Good Service* was also published in Russian and UNDP helped to distribute copies in the region. Finally, *Negotiating Justice? Human Rights and Peace Agreements* was sponsored and launched in Bern during a one-day seminar organised by the governments of Norway and Switzerland on the occasion of Norway's State visit to Switzerland: both states are actively involved in support for peace processes.

During the year the Council innovated in other directions as well. When plans were announced to reform the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and replace the UN Commission on Human Rights with

a new Human Rights Council, the International Council produced several *Flowerhill Notes*, which were designed to assist those involved in the reform process, and observers, to identify key issues and questions. The *Notes* were distributed electronically to a selected audience and some were subsequently disseminated more widely by other networks. The Council's mandate includes immediate policy response work in addition to long-term research and this was a first attempt to develop a method for such work that fits the Council's identity. We hope to build on this experience in the future.

The Council also took initial steps to strengthen its capacity to communicate its work more widely. The web site was redesigned and refreshed; we began restructuring the database; plans have been made for an electronic bulletin; and electronic alerts about new publications were sent out to a much larger audience.

In December, after seven years, Dr Anouchiravan Rousta left the Council. Anouch joined the Council when it set up offices in Geneva and as the organisation's first Finance Director he played a vital role in its early development. Patrick Cattan, who brings to the Council substantial financial experience, is well qualified to build on the solid foundations that he established. Jean-Nicolas Beuze left in April 2006, to rejoin the United Nations: as Research Director, Jean-Nicolas made numerous positive contributions to the Council in a short time. Two new Research Directors began work in May 2006: Magdalena Sepúlveda, a Chilean human rights lawyer, has been working in Colombia; and Susan McCrory, a former legal Adviser in the British government, comes from the International Committee of the Red Cross. With Monette Zard, the Secretariat has a complement of three Research Directors, and can hope to build a stronger, more stable research programme from 2006 onwards.

Robert Archer
April 2006

THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN 2005-2006

PROJECTS PUBLISHED

Negotiating Justice? Human Rights and Peace Agreements (128)

This report was published in March 2006 and formally launched on April 5th during a one-day seminar organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the State visit of HM King Harald V of Norway. The report examines the dilemmas and trade-offs that negotiators and peace mediators face when they consider human rights and, based on country studies (see below), suggests how such difficulties can be managed and sometimes resolved. It argues that human rights can make a practical and positive contribution to many areas of conflict resolution, during the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. It then examines in more detail the rights of forcibly displaced persons in relation to their return home and access to property; and the tensions arising from the requirements of international law regarding accountability and efforts to end impunity, that are particularly sensitive in the context of societies in transition. Finally, the report briefly addresses some of the challenges faced when agreements are implemented. Chapters end with detailed recommendations and a list of questions that those involved in peace negotiations might use to assist them in addressing the issues.

Research director:	Jean-Nicolas Beuze.
Start:	October 2004.
Papers commissioned:	October-November 2004.
Review meeting:	March 2005.
Draft report:	July 2005.
Consultation:	August-September 2005.
Title:	*Negotiating Justice? Human Rights and Peace Agreements.*
	In English. *Summary* in French, English and Spanish.
Publication:	March 2006.
Research team:	Lead researcher: Christine Bell. Country reports: Jasna Baksic Muftic (Bosnia-Herzegovina); Fabienne Hara (Burundi); Adrian Edwards (Cambodia); Ingrid Kircher and Martha Doggett (El Salvador); Marcie Mersky (Guatemala); Andrea Bartoli and Rati Jebashvili (Mozambique); Fionnuala Ni Aolain (Northern Ireland); Michael O'Flaherty (Sierra Leone). Thematic reports: Bill O'Neil (reform of the judiciary); Michelle Parlevliet (national human rights institutions); Catherine Phuong (forcible displacement); Naomi Roht-Arriaza (transitional justice).
Advisers:	Suliman Baldo, Maggie Beirne, Frank LaRue, Ian Martin, Francesc Vendrell.

Assessing the Effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions **(125)**

Published in September 2005, with a Foreword by Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, this report was formally launched in November in Abuja during the Fifth Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions. Demand has been high and the report has been reprinted; follow-up will continue into 2006. The research was undertaken in association with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which co-published the report and will reprint the English version in the first half of 2006. The project complements an earlier report, *Performance & Legitimacy: National Human Rights Institutions* (project 102), which the Council published in 2000 and reprinted in 2004 with a new Postscript. While *Performance & Legitimacy* focused on what national human rights institutions (NHRIs) need to do if they are to be effective and respected by governments and those who use their services, the new report is a short practical document designed to help national institutions, and organisations that work closely with them, to assess their work. It sets out practical benchmarks for assessing the compliance of a national human rights institution with the Paris Principles, and draws on key findings of *Performance & Legitimacy* to set indicators of performance and impact. With the help of specific examples, it goes on to discuss the value – and some of the risks – of using indicators to measure progress and aspects of effectiveness and impact.

Research director:	Jean-Nicolas Beuze.
Start:	May 2004.
Draft report:	Draft 1: October 2004; draft 2: March 2005.
Consultation:	November-December 2004.
Title:	*Assessing the Effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions.*
	In Spanish, French and English. Co-published with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
Publication:	September 2005.
Research team:	Lead researcher: Richard Carver.
Advisers:	Brice Dickson, Kim Forss, Imrana Jalal, Zonke Majodina, Orest Nowosad, Livingstone Sewanyana.

Local Government and Human Rights: Doing Good Service **(124)**

Published in November 2005, this report examines how the human rights framework can be used to improve the performance and accountability of local governments, and particularly the delivery of economic and social services. It suggests that civil society organisations and voters, as well as central government, can use human rights methods and principles to hold local governments to account and make sure that decent services are available to all those who are entitled to them. It also suggests that human

rights methods and principles can be useful to local government officials, both to improve planning and evaluation and to reduce and identify various kinds of risk. By making human rights methods and principles more accessible to officials who are currently unfamiliar with them, and by identifying where they can be used by other actors in the local government context, the report could help to mainstream human rights into local government policy. The project follows on from an earlier Council report on local government, *Local Rule* (reference 116, 2003), which surveyed human rights issues that arise in relation to decentralisation.

Research director:	Monette Zard.
Start:	November 2003.
Papers commissioned:	January-June 2004.
Review meeting:	June 2004.
Draft report:	Draft 1: September 2004; draft 2: March 2005; draft 3: July 2005.
Consultation:	October 2004-January 2005.
Title:	*Local Government and Human Rights: Doing Good Service.* In English and Russian. *Summary* in Spanish, French, English and Russian.
Publication:	November 2005.
Research team:	Lead researcher: Nancy Thède. Researchers: Manuel de la Fuente and Graziela Vasquez (Bolivia); Harihar Bhattachariya (India); Abid Qaiyum Suleri and Nadeen Ayaz (Pakistan); Soliman Santos (Philippines); Cheikh Guèye and Assane Mbaye (Senegal); Rwekaza Sympho Mukandala and Christopher Maina Peter (Tanzania); Mridula Ghosh (Ukraine). Additional research: Shivani Verma.
Advisers:	Catherine Dom, Peter Kagwanja, Walter Kälin, Rashid Seedat, Patrick van Weerelt, David Velásquez.

The "*Flowerhill Process*" on UN reform (130)

In March 2005, the UN Secretary-General set out proposals for reforming the UN's human rights institutions in his report *In Larger Freedom*. After consulting the Board and some of the major advocacy non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on UN matters, the Council decided that, given the potential importance of the reform proposals, it could make a useful contribution by producing short papers that set out issues and questions that needed attention, based on informal consultation with relevant organisations and human rights experts. Between April and June 2005, the Council produced four *Flowerhill Notes*, which dealt respectively with some of the main human rights proposals that were likely to come before the UN World Summit in September 2005, the reform plan of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the notion of peer review. The *Notes* were mailed electronically to interested

organisations and individuals in Geneva, New York and other regions. Some organisations redistributed the *Notes* through their networks. The 2005 exchange ceased in July when governments and other actors began to take positions rather than brief themselves. The initiative was appreciated in several quarters, however, and the Council will consult with Council and Board Members, as well as NGOs and other contacts, to see whether further short-term policy work should be done in 2006.

Project director:	Jean-Nicolas Beuze.
Research team:	Jean-Nicolas-Beuze, Ruby Madan.

PROJECTS IN DRAFT OR IN PRODUCTION

Issues of accountability for human rights NGOs (119)

In recent years, challenges have mounted to the legitimacy and accountability of NGOs generally, and human rights NGOs in particular. This report explores how human rights NGOs make themselves accountable, and to whom, through adherence to the values and principles embodied in the human rights framework. Its overall purpose is to assist NGOs to protect the quality of their work by developing appropriate mechanisms of accountability, and to help them defend their reputation in the face of criticism.

The Council circulated an initial draft in 2003, which received mixed reviews. Since 2004 the Council has therefore slowed the pace of the project, allowing time for further consultation and writing. A second draft of the report became available at the end of 2005. It went to the project's advisers and the Council's Board and after further editing and discussion will go out for review.

Research director:	Monette Zard.
Start:	August 2002.
Papers commissioned:	September-November 2002.
Draft report:	April 2003; third revised version December 2005.
Review meeting:	December 2002.
Consultation:	April-September 2003; February-December 2004.
Working title:	*Issues of Accountability for Human Rights NGOs*.
	In English. *Summary* in French, Spanish and English
Publication:	Fourth quarter 2006 (provisional).
Research team:	Original researcher: Mike Dottridge. Background paper: Hugo Slim. Additional writing: Robert Archer, Patricia Armstrong, Monette Zard.
Advisers:	Fateh Azzam, Ibrahim Kane, Regan Ralph, Wilder Tayler.

International human rights standard-setting (120B)

The Council has prepared this project in association with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). An initial draft became available in late 2005. After editing, it went out for review in early 2006. We expect to publish a final report in the second quarter of 2006.

The report is based on a review meeting which took place in Geneva in February 2005 and draws lessons from different experiences of human rights standard-setting processes that have taken place in recent years. Short papers were written for the meeting (for authors and topics see below). The meeting underlined how varied the experiences is: processes succeeded or failed for many, often serendipitous reasons. Based on the past, no single approach or list of criteria can provide a sound guide to organisations that seek to develop standards in the future. The report therefore lays out options – with respect to a standard's form, the actors involved in developing it, the political strategy for securing its adoption etc. – that can be considered by organisations wishing to set new standards.

Research director:	Jean-Nicolas Beuze.
Start:	September 2004.
Papers commissioned:	November 2004.
Expert meeting:	February 2005.
Draft report:	October 2005.
Consultation:	November-December 2005.
Working title:	*International Human Rights Standard-Setting Processes – Challenges and Opportunities*. In English.
Publication:	Mid-2006.
Research team:	Writers: Jean-Nicolas Beuze. Researchers: Mariette Grange (Convention on the Rights of All Migrants); Betty Murungi (International Criminal Court); Maria Stavropoulou (Guiding Principles on IDPs); Rachel Brett (Optional Protocol on child-soldiers to the CRC); Mark Thomson (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture); Julian Burger (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples); Caroline Lambert (Optional Protocol to the ICESCR); Theo van Boven (Right to Remedy and Reparations); Martin Scheinin (Minimum Standards of Humanity); Wilder Tayler (OAS standard-setting experience); Anuradha Mohit (Disability Convention); Kirsten Young (Landmines); Lee Swepston (ILO standard-setting mechanisms); Grainne O'Hara (UNHCR standard-setting processes); and Param Cumaraswamy (Bangalore Code of Judicial Conduct). Additional research: Tatiana Fedotova, Anna-Karin Heedh. Additional writing: Robert Archer, Cordula Droege.
Advisers:	Hina Jilani, Nigel Rodley, Ulrika Sundberg, Bacre Waly N'Diaye.

Poverty reduction programmes and human rights (121)

This project examines where use of human rights methods and principles can increase the effectiveness of programmes to reduce or eliminate poverty. It seeks, first, to identify pragmatically where development officials might implement programmes more effectively by making more conscious use of human rights methods and principles. In doing this, secondly, a conscious effort will be made to understand the strengths and weaknesses of development and human rights practice, to identify where the two methodologies are most useful to one another. The project attempts, thirdly, to write about human rights and human rights methods in language that is accessible to development professionals. The project gives specific attention to gender and gender dimensions of poverty.

During 2005, the research teams completed country papers, which were discussed at a review meeting in Phuket, attended by the researchers, project advisers, and several experts. The draft report was to have been prepared for late 2005, but writing has taken longer and the timetable has been adjusted accordingly.

Research director:	Robert Archer.
Start:	February 2004.
Papers commissioned:	November 2004-May 2005.
Review meeting:	July 2005.
Draft report:	November 2005; reset to December 2005; reset for mid-2006.
Consultation:	Planned for December 2005-February 2006. To be reset.
Working title:	*Making Human Progress – Poverty, Development, Rights.*
	In English. *Summary* in Spanish, French and English.
Publication:	Planned for June 2006. To be reset.
Research team:	Lead writer and researcher: Peter Rosenblum. Second lead researcher: Alta Folscher. Country research: Manuel de la Fuente and Edga Antonio Aramayo Tejada (Bolivia); Gonzalo de la Maza and Jorge Contesse (Chile); William Ahadzie and Raymond Atuguba (Ghana); Sriprapha Petcharamesree (Thailand); Meghna Guhathakurta (Bangladesh). Thematic papers: Roger Riddell and Agnès Picod (poverty approaches).
Advisers:	Akila Belembaogo, Shanthi Dairiam, Rosalind Eyben, Zie Gariyo, Agnès Picod (succeeded by Mac Darrow), Roger Riddell, Peter Uvin.

Migration, smuggled people and human rights (122)

This ongoing project of the Council analyses the foundations of international policies on irregular migration, and more specifically human smuggling, and constructs the case for integrating human rights principles more explicitly into those policies. It includes a legal analysis, prepared in early 2005, that explores the principles underlying international policies on migration and smuggling. It links three strands of thinking that have consistently influenced policy in this area and remain influential today: policies driven by law enforcement and protection of sovereign frontiers; policies driven by economic interest, which see benefits in controlled immigration of labour; and policies driven by protection, designed to prevent exploitation and abuse of the rights of vulnerable people. In the second half of 2005, the Council commissioned additional legal research on references to human rights in the UN Convention to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on Trafficking and Smuggling.

At the end of 2004 and the beginning of 2005, the Council commissioned country reports on Albania, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico and the United Kingdom, describing the legal environment in those countries and the different experiences of smuggled migrants. Submitted in June 2005, the reports were discussed in July, together with the legal work, at a review meeting in Geneva. An initial draft of the report was submitted in October 2005. It was decided in December that additional writing and editing would be needed before the draft could go out for review, and this work is currently being undertaken. Once prepared, the draft will be circulated for advice and comment in mid-2006.

Research director:	Monette Zard.
Start:	July 2004.
Papers commissioned:	January 2005 (legal study); January-March 2005 (country studies).
Review meeting:	July 2005.
Draft report:	October 2005.
Consultation:	December 2005-January 2006.
Working title:	*Migration, Smuggled People and Human Rights*. In English. *Summary* in French, Spanish and English.
Publication:	Fourth quarter 2006.
Research team:	Lead researchers: Jacqueline Bhabha (legal analysis), Philip Rudge (writer). Country research: Ilir Gedeshi (Albania); Paola Monzini (Italy); Ariadna Renteria Torres and Cesar Nunez (Mexico); Anni Santhiago (Malaysia); Sue Conlan (United Kingdom). Additional research: Rosalind Dixon.
Advisers:	Chaloka Beyani, Stefanie Grant, Walter Kälin, Juan Mendez, Jyoti Sanghera.

Human rights and politically-motivated violence (129)

This piece of work analyses how human rights organisations have traditionally discussed political violence and terrorism and tried to influence those responsible for it, with the aim of developing a human rights response that is credible and consistent, and adapted to the current context, but does not weaken or undermine the human rights obligations of states. The project will particularly consider how human rights organisations can balance their traditional advocacy and monitoring of state conduct with more systematic monitoring and advocacy in relation to organisations that use or espouse violence for political ends. The project complements two earlier reports by the Council, on how human rights organisations can influence armed groups (*Ends and Means*, 2001) and the impact of September 11 on human rights work (*Human Rights after September 11*, 2002).

The research builds on a workshop held in May 2005 in Lahore, during the 2005 Annual Meeting of the International Council. In addition to Members of the Council, the workshop was attended by authors of papers (see below) and guests from Pakistan and the region. An initial draft was prepared in November 2005. After further editing and review, the draft will be circulated for comment in the second quarter of 2006.

Research director:	Monette Zard.
Start:	October 2004.
Papers commissioned:	November-April 2004.
Review meeting:	20-21 May 2005 (8th Council meeting).
Draft report:	November 2005.
Consultation:	Second quarter 2006.
Working title:	*Talking Truth to Political Violence*. In English. *Summary* in Spanish, French and English.
Publication:	September 2006.
Research team:	Rapporteur: Patricia Gossman. Papers: Martin Scheinin (legal issues); Sidney Jones (Indonesia); Wilder Tayler (responses of human rights organisations); Neil Hicks (state policies).
Advisers:	Charlotte Bunch, Stefanie Grant, Asma Jahangir, Imrana Jalal, Walter Kälin, Dimitrina Petrova, Chaiwat Satha-Anand, Wilder Tayler.

At a Board meeting held at the beginning of October 2005, the Council's Executive Board selected four projects for development in the course of 2006. The themes of these projects, which will be designed following the Council's usual process of consultation, are:

Traditional authorities and human rights (109)

This project expects to distinguish between types of traditional authorities, and, through the study of particular cases, assess their legitimacy in their own terms and in relation to human rights. Its eventual purpose is to draw out some pragmatic approaches that would help clarify when the decisions of traditional authorities tend to be consistent with human rights, and when they do not. Given their strengths and weaknesses, how can human rights advocates engage more effectively with traditional authorities?

Research director:	Monette Zard.
Status:	Pre-design.

Administrative detention (126)

This project will examine the different uses of administrative detention, especially in the period after September 2001, identify the human rights issues that are associated with it, and recommend ways to respond to this particular form of deprivation of liberty.

Research director:	To be determined.
Status:	Pre-design. Feasibility: Martin Scheinin (January–April 2005).

Corruption and human rights (131)

The Council will initially undertake a short survey, that names key issues, clarifies where human rights are relevant to anti-corruption work, and identifies opportunities for action and policy development. Corruption takes many forms, and the Council will need to decide whether it prioritises work on judicial corruption, macro-corruption at the highest levels of government, or petty corruption which often blights the lives of ordinary citizens. The preliminary survey may be followed by a second piece of research that would explore one aspect of corruption more deeply.

Research director:	Monette Zard.
Status:	Pre-design.

Information-gathering technologies and human rights (132)

The Council will bring together human rights experts with a group of individuals with specialist knowledge of information-gathering technologies, to identify policy areas that need more exploration. The Council may focus on a single issue, or develop an overview of the main areas where human rights are relevant. The project's length and methodology will be determined by these decisions.

Research director:	To be determined.
Status:	Pre-design.

PROJECTS CLOSED

The Secretariat closed two projects at the end of 2005:

- *Duties sans Frontières – Human Rights and Global Social Justice* (108)

- *Enhancing Access to Human Rights* (123)

TRANSLATIONS

The Council continues to encourage translations of its work. Its report *Human Rights after September 11* (project 118) was published in Thai in 2006.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Council continued in 2005 to support *Realizing Rights – the Ethical Globalization Initiative* (EGI), alongside the Aspen institute and the Earth Institute at Columbia University. The current agreement is due for renewal at the end of 2006. The Council's Executive Director and a Board Member sit on EGI's Board, and Council staff provide policy support to some of EGI's programme, notably its work on migration. Scott Jerbi, EGI's co-ordinator, works out of the Council's offices in Versoix. EGI continues to focus on three policy areas: trade policies with a focus on poverty and multilateral institutions; health policy, with a focus on HIV-Aids in sub-Saharan Africa; and migration, with a focus on development. Mary Robinson has been a Member of the Council since 2004.

In 2005, the Council withdrew from the *Global Governance Initiative* (GGI). The Council's Director chaired GGI's expert group on human rights which helped prepare the Initiative's first two annual reports, published in April 2004 and January 2005. GGI continues in a slightly different format and has found an able new chair in Nicholas Howen, Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists.

The Council also withdrew from *Human Rights 2020*. In late 2004 and early 2005, consultants Gaby Ore Aguilar and Aubrey McCutcheon prepared a feasibility report on this project, which was initiated by Amnesty International and the Council in 2003. The ambitious objective of *Human Rights 2020* was to look forward and identify key human rights issues that will need attention in coming years, using a participatory and consultative approach. The consultants visited 12 countries (Egypt, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom) to seek advice and presented their report to the project's advisers in February 2005. With some reluctance, however, the Council's Board subsequently decided that the project was simply too ambitious to undertake at this point in the Council's development.

In line with decisions made following the impact evaluation conducted in 2004, the Secretariat has been exploring possible institutional links with organisations that can help to disseminate and communicate its research. This work will continue during 2006 and 2007.

Ninth assembly of the international council

The eighth assembly was reported in last year's annual review. It took place in Lahore and discussed political violence and acts of terror, and how human rights organisations should confront them. For additional information see project 129.

The Council will hold the ninth annual meeting of Council Members in Budapest, in May 2006. Members will review a number of current human rights issues, and meet human rights organisations working in Hungary and the region. For a list of Members of the Council, please refer to the inside back cover.

Wilson's Cat seminars

In February 2006, the Council inaugurated the "New Cat" when Miklos Marshall, Regional Director for Europe of Transparency International (TI), spoke about the role of human rights in anti-corruption strategies. Since 2000, the International Council has organised an informal monthly seminar, known as *Wilson's Cat*, to discuss current human rights issues. Held initially at the Palais Wilson and then at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, it offered a platform to speakers from a range of backgrounds and brought together an audience from the diplomatic, UN, academic and NGO communities in Geneva. The "New Cat" continues this tradition of bringing together people for informal discussion of topical issues and recent research. However, it will now take place over a light lunch, four times a year at Geneva's Hotel Warwick.

In 2005 the speakers were:

- Juan Mendez, President of the International Centre for Transitional Justice and UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, *on his mandate* (*February 2005*).
- Anuradha Mohit, Special Rapporteur for Disability of the National Human Rights Commission of India and Professor at the Indira Ghandi National Open University, *on the Future for the Disability Rights Convention* (*February 2005*).
- Walter Kälin, Professor of Constitutional and International Law at the University of Bern and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons, *on his mandate* (*April 2005*).
- Dzidek Kedzia, Professor of Law and Head of the Research and Right to Development Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights *on the OHCHR Plan of Action: A Strengthened Office in a Reformed UN Human Rights Programme* (*July 2005*).

FINANCE

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The International Council's accounts comply with International Accounting Standards. The Council's commitment to institutional transparency and accountability is reflected in the close consultative relationships it maintains with its donors and its full and timely reporting.

The Council maintains financial controls that ensure the optimum use of its limited resources. Responsibility for financial management rests with the Finance Officer and ultimately with the Board Member who is Treasurer of the Council.

A key goal of the International Council's financial management is to guarantee the long-term sustainability and growth of the organisation.

AUDIT

The Council's 2005 accounts were audited by an independent auditor, Mr Marc Bétemps, in accordance with Swiss requirements, and were approved by the Executive Board in March 2006.

OPERATIONS

The Council's total expenditure in financial year 2005 was CHF 1'758'162. Its total income was CHF 1'925'441. The Council therefore recorded a surplus of CHF 167'279. Added to the 2004 surplus, the Council carried forward into 2006 a balance of CHF 511'001.

INCOME

The major part of the Council's income (CHF 1'818'492) was made of donations. These were as follows:

Ford Foundation	CHF 389'454	USD 360'000
SIDA (Sweden)	CHF 161'350	SEK 1'000'000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway	CHF 122'604	NOK 620'000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands	CHF 309'720	EUR 200'000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland	CHF 77'348	EUR 50'000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Switzerland	CHF 50'000	
Swiss Agency for Develop. & Coop. (SDC)	CHF 120'000	
DFID (UK)	CHF 280'000	GBP 175'000
CAFOD	CHF 8'959	GBP 3'920
King Baudoin Foundation	CHF 255'287	USD 194'000
UNDP – Europe & CIS	CHF 15'520	USD 12'410
Christian Aid	CHF 28'250	GBP 12'500

Other income mainly consisted of gain on foreign exchange operations of CHF 81'445, bank interest of CHF 3'978 and consultancy fees of CHF 20'251.

EXPENDITURE

The Council spent CHF 1'301'637 on projects during the year, against a budget of CHF 1'520'000. Each project has its individual budget which in most cases covers more than one year. The annual expenditure on each budget is calculated from the Project Design, and is stated in the annual budget that is put to the Board for approval.

OUTLOOK

For several reasons, Council expenditure will rise in the coming period. Looking forward, the budget (CHF 2.05 million in 2005) will rise by CHF 250'000 in each of the next two years, to CHF 2'300'000 in 2006 and to 2'550'000 in 2007.

To improve outreach and stabilise the research cycle, up to three new posts will be recruited in 2006-2007, including a third Research Director, a post focusing on communications and outreach, and an additional administrative support person (2007). The Council will undertake more compact policy-focused projects and lengthen the follow-up phase of its projects, both of which will tend to cause some increase of expenditure.

APPENDICES

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

At 1 January 2006

Lydia Alpízar Durán (Costa Rica) Feminist Movements and Organizations Theme Manager, AWID, Mexico.

Akila Belembaogo (Burkina Faso) Lawyer; Head of Human Rights Unit and Senior Programme Adviser of the Policy and Planning Division, UNICEF.

Tapan Kumar Bose (India) Documentary filmmaker; Secretary General, South Asia Forum for Human Rights.

Charlotte Bunch (United States) Director; Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Roberta Clarke (Trinidad & Tobago) Regional Programme Director, Caribbean Regional Office, UN Development Fund for Women.

David Fernándes Dávalos, sj (Mexico) Education Assistant; Jesuit Mexican Education Programme; former President, Insituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (Iteso University).

Eyad Rajab El-Sarraj (Palestine) Psychiatrist; Director, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme; Director, Independent Commission of Human Rights in Palestine.

Lyse Doucet (Canada) Presenter and correspondent for BBC World Television and BBC World Service Radio.

Tiebile Dramé (Mali) Former Foreign Minister of the transitional government of Mali.

Dharam Ghai (Kenya) Development economist; Senior Adviser, International Labour Organisation.

Stefanie Grant (United Kingdom) Lawyer; former Director of the Research Branch, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Asma Jahangir (Pakistan) Lawyer; AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Lahore; UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Imrana Jalal (Fiji) Lawyer; Human Rights Adviser, Regional Rights Resources Team.

Walter Kälin (Switzerland) Professor of International Law, Institute of Public Law, University of Bern; Member of the UN Human Rights Committee; Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons.

Konstantin Korkelia (Georgia) Deputy Director, Institute of State and Law, Georgian Academy of Sciences; Senior Lecturer, Faculty of International Law and International Relations, Tbilisi State University.

Ian Martin (United Kingdom)

Head, OHCHR Field Presence, Nepal; former Vice President, International Centre for Transitional Justice.

Jessica Montell (Israel)

Director, B'tselem, Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

Devendra Raj Panday (Nepal)

Former Finance Secretary and Finance Minister; President, Transparency International Nepal.

Dimitrina Petrova (Bulgaria)

Executive Director, European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest.

Roger Raupp Rios (Brazil)

Federal Judge, District Court of Porto Alegre; Professor of Law, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Mary Robinson (Ireland)

Director, Realizing Rights – The Ethical Globalization Initiative; former president of Ireland (1990-1997); former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002).

Anthony Romero (United States)

Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union.

Chaiwat Satha-Anand (Thailand)

Professor of Political Science, Thammasat University; Director, Thai Peace Information Centre, Foundation for Democracy and Development Studies, Bangkok.

Sylvia Tamale (Uganda)

Lawyer; Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Makerere University.

Wilder Tayler (Uruguay)

Lawyer; Legal and Policy Director, Human Rights Watch.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

At 1 January 2006

Asma Jahangir	Chair
Walter Kälin	Treasurer
Lydia Alpízar Durán	
Charlotte Bunch	
Imrana Jalal	
Stefanie Grant	
Dimitrina Petrova	
Chaiwat Satha-Anand	
Wilder Tayler	

STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT

At 1 January 2006

Robert Archer	Executive Director
Jean-Nicolas Beuze	Research Director
Monette Zard	Research Director
Patrick Cattan	Finance Officer
Fairouz El Tom	Research and Publications Officer
Corinne Baustert	Office Manager
Tatiana Fedotova	Intern
Anna-Karin Heedh	Intern
Scott Jerbi	Co-ordinator, The Ethical Globalization Initiative

Dr Anouchiravan Rousta, who managed the Council's finances from the Council's formation in 1998, left the organisation in December 2005. He was succeeded by Patrick Cattan who acted as interim Finance Officer since January 2006, and who took up the post in March. In April 2006 Jean-Nicolas Beuze, Research Director, left the Council. Two new Research Directors, Magdalena Sepúlveda and Susan McCrory, took up their posts at the beginning of May 2006. In the first half of 2005, the Council was assisted by two interns, Shivani Verma and Helena Tabakovova, who were succeeded in the second half of the year by Tatiana Fedotova and Anna-Karin Heedh.

DIVERSITY CHART 2005

The Council seeks to be truly international and interdisciplinary. In 2005, the regional and professional backgrounds of those who collaborated with the Council are set out below. The list includes all those who conducted research for Council projects, acted as Advisers, attended research meetings or spoke at *Wilson's Cat*.

	Secretariat	%*	Council	%	Consultants	%	Total	%
Western Europe	4	**44**	4	**16**	44	**32**	52	**31**
Eastern Europe	1	**11**	2	**8**	9	**7**	12	**7**
North America	1	**11**	3	**12**	15	**11**	19	**11**
South America	0	**0**	5	**20**	15	**11**	20	**12**
Middle East & North Africa	3	**33**	2	**8**	2	**1**	7	**4**
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	**0**	4	**16**	20	**15**	24	**14**
Asia	0	**0**	4	**16**	23	**17**	27	**16**
Australasia	0	**0**	1	**4**	8	**6**	9	**5**
Total	9	**100**	25	**100**	136	**100**	170	**100**
Women	5	**56**	12	**48**	62	**46**	79	**46**
Men	4	**44**	13	**52**	74	**54**	91	**54**
Total	9	**100**	25	**100**	136	**100**	170	**100**
International organisations	3	**33**	4	**16**	19	**14**	26	**15**
Government	0	**0**	1	**4**	18	**13**	19	**11**
Judiciary / Law	0	**0**	3	**12**	6	**4**	9	**5**
Private business	2	**22**	0	**0**	0	**0**	2	**1**
University	2	**22**	5	**20**	37	**27**	44	**26**
NGO	2	**22**	9	**36**	33	**24**	44	**26**
Journalism	0	**0**	1	**4**	4	**3**	5	**3**
Self-employed consultant	0	**0**	0	**0**	19	**14**	19	**11**
Other	0	**0**	2	**8**	0	**0**	2	**1**
Total	9	**100**	25	**100**	136	**100**	170	**100**

* Percentages are rounded off.

New projects marked for 2006

Administrative detention

Will examine its extension in different contexts
and recommend responses to this form of deprivation of liberty.

Corruption

Will explore the relevance of human rights
to anti-corruption initiatives.

Information-gathering technologies

Will analyse the application of new technologies
for collecting and co-ordinating information, and their
impact on the protection and violation of human rights.

Traditional authorities

Will look at the role and impact of the decisions
that traditional authorities make in a range of societies,
and their compatibility with human rights.

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