

# **UN Special Procedures and the rights of older persons**

**Reunión de seguimiento  
de la Declaración de Brasilia  
(Río de Janeiro, 16-17 de septiembre de 2008)**

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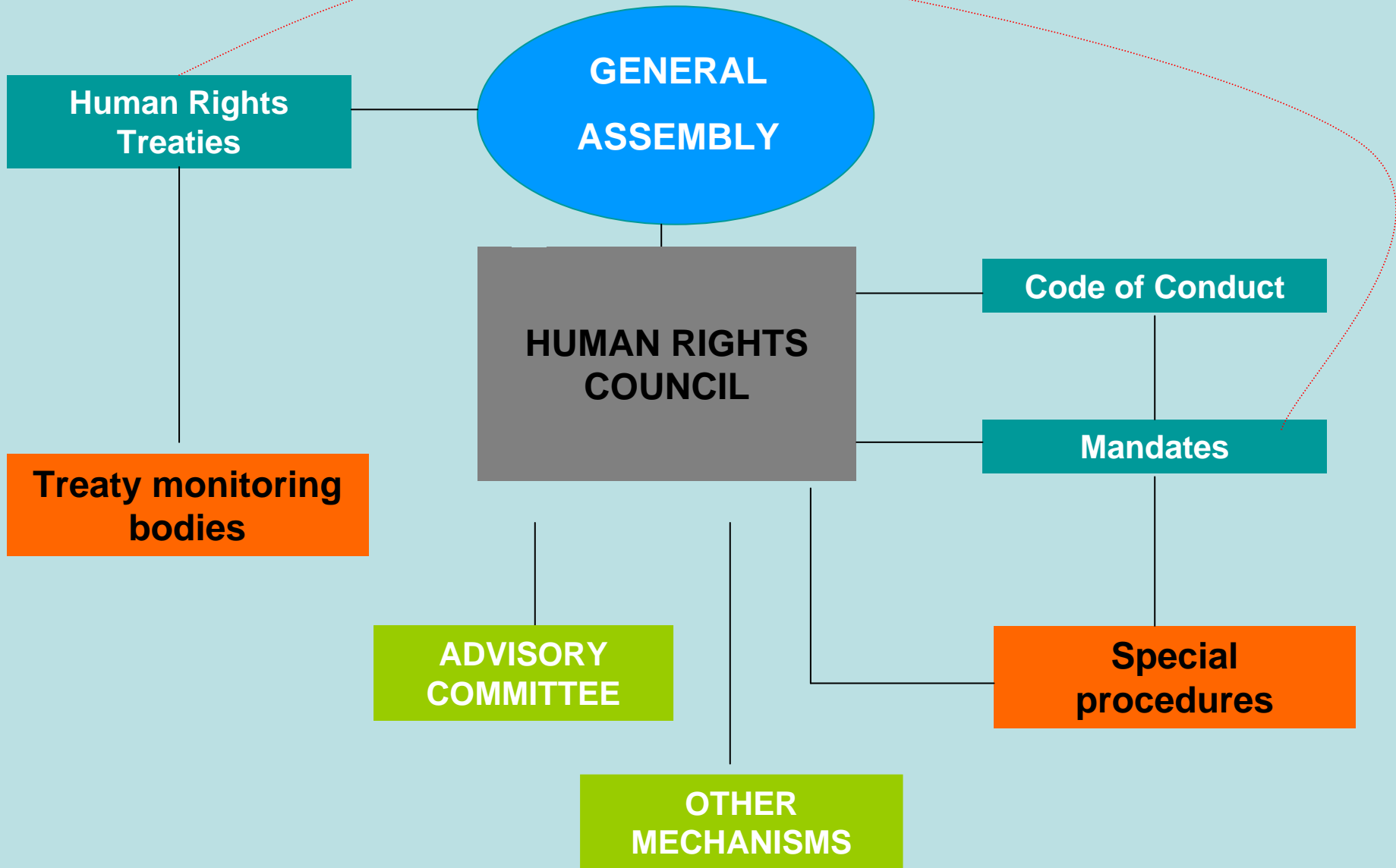
# Second Regional Conference on Aging in Latin America and the Caribbean: Declaration of Brasilia (2007)

*Agreement to request the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council to evaluate the possibility of designating a Special Rapporteur responsible for the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons.*

# Outline

1. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
2. The activities of special procedures in relation to older persons.
3. Potential benefits of a Special Rapporteur on the rights of older people.

# UN Special procedures



# UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES MAIN DIVISIONS

- Thematic v. country-specific
- Unipersonal v. Working Groups
  - ↳ Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, Representatives of the Secretary-General, Special Representatives of the Secretary General

## UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES: COMMON ELEMENTS

- Independent experts, nominated by the Human Rights Council.
- Mandates established by a resolution of the Council: international human rights standards and principles
- Universal coverage.

# UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES: MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Annual report to the Council.
2. Country visits.
3. Communications to Governments.
4. Other promotional activities.

# UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES

## THEMATIC MANDATES

- Housing
- African descent
- Arbitrary detention
- Sale of Children
- Education
- Enforced disappearances
- Summary executions
- Extreme poverty
- Food
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of religion
- Human Rights Defenders
- Independence of Judges
- Indigenous Peoples
- Internally displaced persons
- Mercenaries
- Migrants
- Minorities
- Health
- Racism
- Slavery
- International solidarity
- External debt
- Counter-terrorism
- Torture
- Toxic Waste
- Trafficking
- Transnational corporations
- Violence against Women



# UN Special Procedures and the rights of older persons

1. None of existing mandates mentions older persons as particularly vulnerable groups or subject to discrimination.
1. There is no specific focus in existing thematic procedures in relation to older persons, including those mandates more relevant to the issue.
2. There is a protection and thematic gap.

# Towards a Special Rapporteur on the rights of older persons

## **Criteria for the establishment of new mandates**

1. Improve the level of protection
2. Thematic gap
3. Non duplication

# Towards a Special Rapporteur on the rights of older persons

## **Potential Benefits:**

1. Universal coverage
2. Fill-in the existing gap of protection in the absence of a specific international instrument.
3. Promote the adoption of international standards on the issue.

# Towards a Special Rapporteur on the rights of older persons

## **Potential Benefits:**

4. Exchange of experiences and good practices.
5. Mobilization of international attention and technical assistance.
6. Facilitate dialogue with Governments, international agencies and civil society.