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Summary of the PhD dissertation entitled:

**“Special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council”**

The aim of the doctoral dissertation is to examine the origin, function and effectiveness of special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as to determine their legal nature. In addition, an analysis and evaluation of the extension of the special procedures system will be made. The subject of consideration will be the increase in the number of special procedures mandates, as well as the use of their activities in the work of the European Court of Human Rights and UN Treaty Bodies.

The basic research method used in the doctoral dissertation is the dogmatic and legal method, and in the scope of the genesis of special procedures: the historical and legal method. In connection with the need to demonstrate the reasons for the replacement of the Human Rights Commission by a new body appointed to protect human rights, the Human Rights Council, it was necessary to make a comparative legal analysis of their functioning. The sociological method was used to a limited extent.

This dissertation consists of an introduction, seven chapters and a summary.

Chapter one provides the origin and development of procedural protection of the system of special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. It takes into account the role of the UN Human Rights Commission as the first and basic UN support body for the protection and promotion of human rights. This is the starting point for a critical confrontation of expectations in the field of human rights protection and the results of the work of the Commission. The postulates of reforming the system of treaty committees and analyzing the activities of the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN Human Rights Council were also presented, allowing to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of the reform and increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in the field of human rights protection.

The second chapter contains general characteristics of the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. This chapter aims to explain the terminology used in the dissertation. In the remainder of this chapter, individual methods of operation have been identified, which are used in special procedures. The role of cooperation with partners was

also specified, i.e. with the United Nations treaty bodies, OHCHR, as well as United Nations agencies.

The third chapter discusses issues related to the appointment and status of experts of special procedures, including the criteria that must be met by candidates for experts. It was also pointed out that in connection with the duties fulfilled by experts, by virtue of the regulations contained in Article V, § 18 of the Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, they were granted a series of powers ensuring more efficient fulfillment of duties related to their functions.

The fourth chapter describes and evaluates the effectiveness of the activities of Independent Experts and Special Rapporteurs controlling the observance of human rights in specific countries or territories on the basis of subjectively selected examples.

The fifth chapter discusses the mechanisms used to respond to information about human rights violations, such as urgent appeals, letters of objections and press statements. It was indicated that thanks to them, experts have the opportunity to ask the relevant governments to clarify the nature of the infringements attributed to them and to provide information on the status of the investigation, if it was carried out.

The sixth chapter deals with the impact of the operation of special procedures on the application of international human rights law. The cooperation of expert special procedures with other entities is the opportunity to strengthen relations between them and also allows the development of a high degree of mutual trust. In addition, it enables the development of a constructive dialogue.

The last chapter shows, on the basis of selected examples, the influence of special procedures on the protection of human rights in Poland.

Finally, the author provides some conclusions about the special procedures system.

The special procedures system has been analyzed using the following criteria: their effectiveness, i.e. the possibility of making the level of "economic efficiency of special procedures, the ratio of incurred expenditures to the results and results obtained. Expenditures are understood here as financial, human resources and dedicated time. Another criterion is effectiveness, which allows to assess to what extent the goals and actions defined at the programming stage have been achieved. In addition, the impact / impact criterion to assess the relationship between the goal that special procedures were to achieve and how it was implemented. Finally, the assessment of the durability of the effects should be taken into account, i.e. the attempt to answer the question whether the positive effects of the applied procedures can last after their termination, and whether it is possible to maintain their impact

over a longer period due to processes related to development at the sector level , region or country.

The author showed that national visits are the basic means of obtaining information on human rights violations in a given territory. They allow direct observation of the human rights situation. They also facilitate dialogue with all relevant state authorities, including executive, legislative and judiciary authorities. They also allow contact with victims of violations, their relatives, witnesses, national institutions for the protection of human rights, international and local non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society, academia and officials of international agencies present in a given country.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council was undoubtedly an important event for the functioning of the international system of human rights protection. They should be seen in the context of wider efforts to increase the effectiveness of human protection procedures in the United Nations system. The Council formula eliminated those elements which were the subject of the most frequent criticism with regard to the Human Rights Commission.

Based on the analysis of the functioning of national and thematic mandates, it can be concluded that it is necessary to increase the scope of cooperation between Member States and representatives of special procedures and governments 'governments' opinions and recommendations to prevent further infringements. It seems also desirable to actively involve states in the work of special procedures to implement the recommendations. In addition, the States concerned should take appropriate measures and measures to prevent the possibility of violations and, when they occur, take appropriate remedies.

Despite the allegations of special procedures regarding their multiplication and politicization, they constitute an opportunity to conduct a dialogue both between representatives of individual governments, non-governmental organizations, local institutions and victims of violations. The work of experts in special procedures indicates that their activities play an important role in promoting the protection of human rights and preventing further violations.

**Keywords:** special procedures, Human Rights Council, country visits, thematic mandates.