HRAP/PR/3 Friday 14 March 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY PANEL

The Human Rights Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel) held its fourth session in Pristine/Pristina from 10 to 14 March, 2008.

Ms. Michele Picard resigned from the Advisory Panel with effect from 3 March, 2008 in order to take up an appointment as a judge ad litem with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague. The procedure for the appointment of a replacement member is well underway and the Advisory Panel avails of this opportunity to wish Ms. Picard every success in her challenging, new assignment.

The Advisory Panel continued with its examination of complaints and requested the provision of further information and documentation from complainants and UNMIK in a number of cases.

The Advisory Panel Secretariat took delivery of a large quantity of information leaflets from the UNMIK Division of Public Information on 10 March, 2008. These leaflets are in the English, Serbian and Albanian languages and are currently being distributed to court houses, municipal buildings, government buildings, non governmental organizations, legal aid offices and court liaison offices etc. as part of the Advisory Panel public information campaign.

The Advisory Panel held a meeting with representatives of non governmental organizations, legal aid offices and minority communities who are actively engaged in the human rights sector in Kosovo in UNMIK HQ Auditorium on 13 March, 2008. The Advisory Panel and the Secretariat made short oral presentations to the participants and these were followed by a question and answer session. Information leaflets and application forms were provided to the participants at the conclusion of the meeting.

For further information, please contact Mr. John J. Ryan, Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, Tel: + 381 (0) 38 504 604 Ext 5847, Email: ryanj@un.org. Interested persons are also referred to the website of the Advisory Panel, at http://www.unmikonline.org/human_rights/index.htm.