



United Nations

Report of the Human Rights Council

**Fifty-seventh session
(9 September–11 October 2024)**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Seventy-ninth Session
Supplement No. 53A (A/79/53/Add.1)**

* Reissued for technical reasons on 29 January 2025.



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United Nations • New York, 2024

Note

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I. Introduction

1. The present document contains the resolutions, the decisions and the President's statement adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session, held from 9 September to 11 October 2024.
2. The report of the Human Rights Council on the above-mentioned session is contained in document [A/HRC/57/2](#).

II. Resolutions brought to the attention of the General Assembly for its consideration and possible action

57/15. Human rights and Indigenous Peoples

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly, Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights and Indigenous Peoples,

Reaffirming its support for achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recognizing that, since its adoption, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has positively influenced the drafting of several constitutions and statutes at the national and local levels and contributed to the progressive development of international and national legal frameworks, jurisprudence and policies as the Declaration applies to Indigenous Peoples,

Appreciating the current efforts being made to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of Indigenous Peoples, recalling the commitment made at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to consider ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and welcoming Assembly resolution 71/321 of 8 September 2017,

Acknowledging the importance of the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves in the meetings of various United Nations organs and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council and its Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which contributes to the sustainability of discussions and decisions adopted by the United Nations on matters concerning Indigenous Peoples,

Recalling the outcome document of the Dialogue Meeting on Enhanced Indigenous Peoples' Participation at the United Nations organized by Indigenous organizations and institutions and held in Quito from 27 to 30 January 2020,

Recalling also the summary report prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the half-day intersessional interactive dialogue held on 15 July 2019 on ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them,¹ the report of the Office of the High Commissioner of the intersessional round table held on 16 July 2021 on ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of the Council on issues affecting them,² and the report of the Office of the High Commissioner of the four-day expert workshop held from 21 to 24 November 2022 on possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council,³

Acknowledging the importance of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples for supporting the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves in meetings concerning them and the forthcoming fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Fund,

Taking note of the study of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples entitled "Constitutions, laws, legislation, policies, judicial decisions and other mechanisms through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations

¹ [A/HRC/44/35](#).

² [A/HRC/49/69](#).

³ [A/HRC/53/44](#).

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with article 38 of the Declaration”,⁴ and encouraging States to consider implementing the advice therein,

Taking note also of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples entitled “Indigenous persons with disabilities”,⁵ encouraging States to consider the recommendations contained therein, and recognizing the efforts made by the Special Rapporteur to engage Indigenous Peoples in the preparation of annual thematic and country visit reports,

Taking note further of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples held on 27 September 2023, concerning the impact of certain development projects on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the impact on Indigenous women,⁶

Recalling general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as well as general comment No. 26 (2023) on children’s rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change, of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, encouraging States to consider the advice therein, and encouraging States, the treaty bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to continue to make joint efforts to translate them into Indigenous languages, while recognizing that general recommendation No. 39 (2022) has already been translated into six Indigenous languages,

Recalling also that the focus of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples in 2024 was protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, while acknowledging that those Indigenous Peoples face unique, often overlooked, challenges to preserving their way of life,

Noting the adoption on 24 May 2024 by the World Intellectual Property Organization of the Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge,

Stressing the need to pay particular attention to the rights and needs of Indigenous women, children, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations, and to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination in this regard, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in 2014,⁷

Expressing its concern that Indigenous Peoples experience disproportionately high levels of violence and rates of incarceration and disability, driven by multiple factors, including exposure to dangerous working conditions, environmental pollution, systemic poverty, racism and discrimination, as well as lower standards of living, malnutrition and lack of access to or poor quality of available health services, especially in remote areas,

Recognizing the increasing impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution on the enjoyment by Indigenous Peoples of their rights and their ways of life, including Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, and that they are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution owing to their close relationship with and protection of the environment and its resources, while welcoming the role of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge, and particularly the engagement of Indigenous women and girls, who have faced the adverse impacts of climate change with resilience, in achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement and the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the preamble to the Paris Agreement and to decision 1/CP.21 on the adoption of the Paris Agreement⁸ acknowledging that States should, when taking action to

⁴ [A/HRC/57/62](#).

⁵ [A/HRC/57/47](#).

⁶ [A/HRC/56/33](#).

⁷ General Assembly resolution 69/2.

⁸ [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#).

address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, paragraph 135 of decision 1/CP.21 recognizing the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of Indigenous Peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, and paragraph 36 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing that failing to consider the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of the just transition to sustainable energy systems could lead to further injustices, marginalization and discrimination, as well as the loss of their lands or territories and natural resources,

Urging States to recognize, respect and promote Indigenous Peoples' traditional economies, approaches led by Indigenous Peoples to ecosystem management and the right of Indigenous Peoples to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources, including water resources, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, through their full and effective participation,

Mindful that Indigenous Peoples face significant barriers to the enjoyment of their right to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of housing, as set out in article 21 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, owing to different factors, such as historical colonization and dispossession, disproportionately high rates of homelessness, and vulnerability to forced evictions, land-grabbing and the adverse impacts of climate change, and acknowledging the need to ensure that Indigenous Peoples enjoy the right to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of housing, without discrimination,

Condemning all forms of repression and violence against Indigenous Peoples and reaffirming that, as set out in article 7 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group,

Acknowledging that Indigenous Peoples' distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions and their customs, traditions, rules and legal systems include their own approaches to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding,

Emphasizing that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have the responsibility to respect all human rights and should put in place human rights due diligence processes to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their impact on human rights, as well as paying particular attention to their impact on collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, and reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and their duty to protect against human rights abuses within their territory and/or jurisdiction by third parties, including transnational corporations and other business enterprises, by, inter alia, regulating these business enterprises and ensuring access to effective remedies in cases of abuse,

Noting with appreciation the development or establishment of policies, platforms and mechanisms by the United Nations and other entities, as well as of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme by the Office of the High Commissioner, to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples, while recognizing the need to make efforts to provide interpretation services for the representatives of Indigenous Peoples who do not speak any of the official languages of the United Nations,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and recalling that nothing in that framework may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that Indigenous Peoples currently have or may acquire in the future, as established in section C of that framework,

Bearing in mind the importance of supporting initiatives led by Indigenous Peoples and the empowerment and capacity-building of Indigenous women, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons in vulnerable situations and children, in accordance with their age and maturity, including for their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them directly, including policies, programmes and resources, where relevant, that target their well-being, in particular in the areas of universal and equitable access to quality public services, adequate housing, health services, mental health, food security and improved nutrition, including through small-scale and family farming and fishing, education, including intercultural and multilingual education, employment and skills development, and the transmission of languages and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and also the importance of taking measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights,

Recalling resolution WHA76.16 entitled “The health of Indigenous Peoples” adopted on 30 May 2023 by the World Health Assembly at its seventy-sixth session and encouraging States to develop, fund and implement national health plans and strategies that are responsive to Indigenous Peoples’ needs and rights,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,

1. *Acknowledges* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁹ and requests the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in plain language and Easy Read formats, containing information on the relevant developments in human rights bodies and mechanisms and the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at headquarters and in the field that contribute to the promotion of, respect for and full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, highlighting challenges and main achievements, and to follow up on the effectiveness of the Declaration;

2. *Takes note* of the stocktaking report compiling existing procedures on the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, highlighting existing gaps and good practices, prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner,¹⁰ and encourages States to implement the recommendations therein;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and strongly encourages all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, including by giving serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the mandate holder for visits, furnishing all available information requested in his or her communications and reacting promptly to his or her urgent appeals;

4. *Also welcomes* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including its annual report¹¹ and its intersessional activities;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to provide all human, technical and financial assistance necessary for the Expert Mechanism to fulfil its mandate fully and effectively, including webcasting services for its annual meetings, with access to real-time translation, as well as the timely translation into all official languages of the United Nations and distribution of its reports to the Human Rights Council and the pre-session translation of its studies and reports, in accordance with Council resolution 33/25 of 30 September 2016;

6. *Strongly encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including States and Indigenous Peoples, to attend and participate actively in the sessions of the Expert Mechanism, to submit contributions to its studies and reports and to engage in dialogue with it, including during its intersessional activities;

⁹ [A/HRC/57/25](#).

¹⁰ [A/HRC/57/35](#).

¹¹ [A/HRC/57/64](#).

7. *Acknowledges* the efforts of States, Indigenous Peoples, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to engage with the Expert Mechanism under its current mandate, and strongly encourages them to continue to do so, including to facilitate dialogue, when agreeable to all parties, and to provide technical assistance and advice in order to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the implementation by States of accepted recommendations and concluding observations related to Indigenous Peoples arising from the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies, respectively;

8. *Encourages* all parties to consider the Expert Mechanism's initiation of country engagements at the request of States and Indigenous Peoples, to seize the opportunity for dialogue provided by such requests and to facilitate country engagement mission arrangements to enable the Expert Mechanism to implement its mandate comprehensively;

9. *Urges* States and invites other public and/or private potential donors to contribute or to increase their contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples as an important means of promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide and within the United Nations system and to support the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

10. *Recalls* the proclamation of the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous Peoples' languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous Peoples' languages, including sign languages, and to take urgent steps to that end at the national and international levels,¹² including by funding and developing policies for training and certifying interpreters in Indigenous Peoples' languages and by promoting the effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in leading and holding activities to mark the Decade at the national and international levels;

11. *Takes note* of the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and calls upon States and United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to take concrete measures to implement it at the local and national levels, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, including by seeking to ensure the full and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design and subsequent implementation of strategies, initiatives, policies and legislation and by engaging in fruitful and sustained dialogue with other relevant stakeholders;

12. *Recalls* the right of Indigenous Peoples to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-Indigenous media without discrimination, as set out in article 16 (1) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and calls upon States to promote and examine national policies, practices and funding programmes on Indigenous media, including on capacity-building and content production in Indigenous languages by Indigenous content producers and media professionals, especially Indigenous women, to tackle harmful online content and conduct against Indigenous Peoples in non-Indigenous media, including with and by hate speech and misinformation and disinformation, and to foster international cooperation, knowledge-sharing and cooperation among Indigenous media and other partners, including mainstream media and Governments;

13. *Recognizes* the efforts made to translate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into more than 42 Indigenous languages to date and encourages States to continue to translate and interpret it into and disseminate it in Indigenous languages, including Indigenous sign languages, as appropriate, and to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism to translate their reports and make them accessible to Indigenous Peoples, including by producing them in plain language and Easy Read formats;

¹² See General Assembly resolution 74/135.

14. *Decides* that the theme of the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, to be held during the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council, will be the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of a just transition to sustainable energy systems, including in relation to critical minerals, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to encourage and facilitate the participation of Indigenous women and youth in the panel, to make the discussion fully accessible to and inclusive for persons with disabilities, and to prepare a summary report of the discussion for submission to the Council prior to its sixty-second session;

15. *Also decides* to continue to discuss and develop further steps and measures necessary to enable and to facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves in the work of the Human Rights Council, and in this regard notes with appreciation the participation of States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international organizations, Indigenous Peoples from the seven Indigenous sociocultural regions, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations in the first two-day intersessional meeting of the Council on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council, held on 18 and 19 July 2024, and looks forward to the second two-day intersessional meeting, to be held on 17 and 18 October 2024, as well as the report of the discussions and outcomes of the meetings to be presented to the Council at its fifty-ninth session;

16. *Invites* again the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, within the Fund's rules and established procedures, to facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves in the above-mentioned intersessional meeting, promoting balanced gender and intergenerational representation, as well as equitable representation of all seven sociocultural Indigenous regions and their subregions, including by making efforts to provide interpretation services for representatives of Indigenous Peoples who do not speak any of the official languages of the United Nations;

17. *Encourages* the Expert Mechanism to continue its discussions on the issue of enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves in the relevant meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them;

18. *Notes* that some States continue to strengthen their legal and constitutional frameworks, both at the national and local levels, for the full recognition of Indigenous Peoples as subjects of law;

19. *Calls upon* States to give due consideration to the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to all forms of violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, faced by Indigenous Peoples, in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the formulation of relevant international and regional programmes, as well as national action plans, strategies and programmes, applying the principle of leaving no one behind;

20. *Urges* States to take appropriate measures to protect Indigenous children, in particular girls and young persons, from all forms of violence, and to ensure that all human rights violations and abuses against them are investigated, that perpetrators are held accountable, that appropriate preventive measures are put in place and that there is access to effective remedies and reparations;

21. *Also urges* States to take appropriate measures to ensure the continued improvement of the economic and social conditions of Indigenous persons with disabilities and to ensure and promote the full realization of their human rights, on an equal basis with others and without discrimination of any kind, in collaboration with Indigenous persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

22. *Further urges* States to duly recognize, observe and enforce existing treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded between States and Indigenous Peoples in order to advance and achieve the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and encourages new ones as a method for implementing the rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

23. *Calls upon* States to engage Indigenous Peoples meaningfully in transitional justice processes and in peace agreement negotiations, peacebuilding initiatives, constructive arrangement processes and conflict resolution mechanisms in matters that may affect them, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in coordination with States, to provide capacity-building and training for Indigenous Peoples to enable their effective participation in those processes, negotiations and mechanisms;

24. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to improve complementarity and to avoid duplication among their reports, encourages them to strengthen their ongoing cooperation and coordination and ongoing efforts to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in treaties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and invites them to continue to work in close cooperation with all Human Rights Council mechanisms and the human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates;

25. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to organize the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions duly established by themselves from the seven Indigenous sociocultural regions, in consultation with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner, for the interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as of the sixtieth session of the Council, acknowledging that this participation does not prejudice the outcome of the ongoing discussions on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council, and emphasizing the unique character of this participation, based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

26. *Encourages* the development of a process and a mechanism to facilitate the international repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' cultural objects and human remains, in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples and through the continued engagement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in particular, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, States and all other relevant parties in accordance with their mandates;

27. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations treaty bodies are important mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, notes the increasingly frequent references to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their work and encourages States to give serious consideration to their recommendations, including those regarding Indigenous Peoples, in the application of the treaties;

28. *Welcomes* the contribution of the universal periodic review to the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, encourages effective follow-up to accepted review recommendations concerning Indigenous Peoples, and invites States to include, as appropriate, information on the situation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including measures taken to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, during their reviews;

29. *Calls upon* States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by, inter alia, engaging in good faith and sustained dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and with civil society, academia, local governments, United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders, as well as by adopting and implementing measures, including national action plans, legislation or other frameworks, as required, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, taking into account the use of their languages, and welcomes the fact that several States have developed or are in the process of developing national and subnational action plans, policies and legislation for the implementation of the Declaration with the full and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as mechanisms for monitoring and funding measures for their implementation;

30. *Encourages* active consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including at the local, regional and global levels, and invites the General Assembly to consider holding a high-level plenary meeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, during its eighty-second session, and to evaluate the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples;

31. *Calls upon* States in all regions that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so, taking into account its contribution to the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples;

32. *Calls upon* States to apply capitalization to the term “Indigenous Peoples” in official documents and in the official languages of the United Nations, as applicable;

33. *Welcomes* the role of national human rights institutions established in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) in advancing Indigenous issues, and recognizes the importance of such institutions developing and strengthening their capacities, as appropriate, to fulfil that role effectively;

34. *Encourages* States, according to their relevant national context and characteristics, to collect and securely disseminate data disaggregated by ethnicity, income, gender, age, race, migratory status, disability, geographical location or other factors, as appropriate, in order to develop, monitor, assess and improve the impact of laws, policies, strategies, programmes and services aimed at improving the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and individuals, to combat and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, against them, to support work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda and to work with Indigenous Peoples to strengthen technologies, practices and efforts related to addressing and responding to climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution;

35. *Reaffirms* the importance of promoting the political, social and economic empowerment of Indigenous women and girls, including Indigenous women and girls with disabilities, by, inter alia, ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education, including intercultural and multilingual education, and through meaningful participation in the economy, of addressing the barriers and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that they face, as well as all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and of promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in relevant decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, noting the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous women and girls, and encourages States to give serious consideration to the above-mentioned recommendations, as appropriate;

36. *Condemns* the increase in cases of intimidation, harassment and reprisals against Indigenous human rights defenders and Indigenous leaders, including Indigenous women, as well as Indigenous Peoples’ representatives attending United Nations meetings or interacting with the United Nations at the country level, and special procedure mandate holders working on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and urges States to take measures to put a stop to such acts, investigate all allegations, provide effective remedies and prevent their recurrence, while expressing its concern at the practice of some countries, including those hosting meetings on Indigenous issues, of intentionally or in a discriminatory manner delaying or denying entry visas to special procedure mandate holders or Indigenous Peoples’ representatives, or applying additional travel restrictions to them that interfere, inter alia, with their ability to participate in or return from such meetings;

37. *Urges* States, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, to take all measures necessary and emergency responses, with a gender perspective, to ensure the rights, protection and safety of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous human rights defenders and leaders, including Indigenous women human rights defenders, and to ensure that all human rights violations and abuses against them are investigated, that the perpetrators are held

accountable, that appropriate preventive measures are put in place, and that there is access to effective remedies and reparation, including guarantees of non-recurrence;

38. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

47th meeting
10 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/25. From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Emphasizing the relevance of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as an important international instrument to combat the scourge of racism, and in this regard noting with concern that the commitment made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to achieve universal ratification of this primary instrument by 2005 was regrettably not fulfilled, and recalling the recommendation contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to prepare complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects,¹³

Acknowledging the importance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as a milestone in the common fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as it addresses the deep historical roots of contemporary racism, acknowledges that slavery and the slave trade are – and should always have been – crimes against humanity, takes into account the legacy of some of the most appalling chapters of human history, and constitutes a holistic call to action that encompasses measures to deliver remedies to victims-survivors of racism, to strengthen education and awareness-raising, to fight poverty and marginalization and to secure inclusive sustainable development,

Recalling all previous General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Noting with concern that the lack of public knowledge about the content of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action has constituted a serious obstacle in generating political will for its full and effective implementation,

Recognizing that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance have a deep negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and therefore require a united and comprehensive response from States,

Recalling that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are manifested on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, and that victims-survivors can suffer from multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as sex, language, religion, disability, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth or other status, and in this regard recalling also that it is essential

¹³ [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), p. 71, para. 199.

that integrated, intersecting and holistic approaches be adopted to ensure the effectiveness of policies and other measures against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recognizing the importance of the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and emphasizing the need to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of existing follow-up mechanisms, and to increase public awareness of and support for it,

Noting the efforts made at the international, regional and national levels, welcoming the progress made since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the implementation of its provisions, and welcoming also all the positive steps and successful initiatives taken by States towards its effective and full implementation, including constitutional and legislative reforms, the adoption of national action plans and other national policies and measures, participation in and support for its follow-up mechanisms, the mainstreaming of racial equality in international forums and the promotion of regional, international and multi-stakeholder initiatives in matters relating to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Acknowledging with deep concern that, many years later, notwithstanding the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the concerted efforts of the international community, many people around the world, including Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, migrants, refugees, Indigenous Peoples and persons belonging to other racial, ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities, continue to be confronted by racism, racial discrimination, hate speech, targeted violence, xenophobia and other related intolerance,

Recognizing that the design and use of emerging digital technologies, while offering new opportunities in the global campaign against all forms of racism and racial discrimination, can exacerbate and compound existing inequalities, many of which exist on racial, ethnic and national origin grounds, and that the prevalence of emerging digital technologies in determining everyday outcomes in employment, education, healthcare and criminal justice, which introduces the risk of systemized discrimination on an unprecedented scale, is a major concern,

Expressing its concern that unequal access to digital technologies and the Internet, commonly referred to as the “digital divide”, further amplifies these disparities, and calling upon States to take proactive measures to ensure that the development, deployment and governance of and access to digital technologies mitigate their potential discriminatory impact,

Recognizing that economic inequalities exacerbate racial discrimination, contrary to the principles enshrined in articles 2 and 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 2 and 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and urging States to take concrete measures to address persistent economic disparities that fall along racial lines, including by implementing policies to ensure equal opportunities in employment, entrepreneurship and access to financial services, and encouraging States to collect and analyse disaggregated data on economic indicators to better understand and address racial economic inequalities, while ensuring that such data collection respects the right to privacy,

Emphasizing the critical role of education in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in accordance with article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, calling upon States to review and reform educational curricula and textbooks to eliminate any elements that might deny or suppress historic racial inequality, promote racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance or reinforce negative stereotypes, and to include material that refutes such stereotypes, and urging States to promote inclusive education systems that foster understanding and tolerance, as well as understanding and awareness of the history and causes of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the history of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade in enslaved Africans, and to ensure equal access to equitable quality education for all, regardless of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin,

Reiterating that the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism were grave violations of international law that require States to make reparations proportionate to the harms committed and to ensure that structures in society that are perpetuating the injustices of the past are transformed, including law enforcement and the administration of justice,

Noting that some States have taken the initiative to apologize and have paid reparations, where appropriate, for grave and massive violations committed as a result of slavery, the slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies, emphasizing that those that have not yet expressed remorse or presented an apology should find some way to contribute to the restoration of the dignity of victims, and calling upon all the relevant States that have not already done so to dispense reparatory justice, including finding ways to remedy historical racial injustices contributing to the development and recognition of the dignity of the affected States and their people,

Underlining the importance of removing legal obstacles and eliminating discriminatory practices that hamper individuals, including Africans and people of African descent, from participating fully in the public and political life of the countries in which they live, including the lack of the exercise of their full citizenship rights,

Deploing the recurrent incidents of excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers against peaceful demonstrators defending the rights of Africans and of people of African descent, recalling Human Rights Council resolution 43/1 of 19 June 2020, in which the Council strongly condemned the continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices perpetrated by law enforcement agencies against Africans and people of African descent, and recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted to the Council pursuant to that resolution,¹⁴

Noting the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and also those made by the other Durban follow-up mechanisms, namely the Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination at its fourteenth session,¹⁵ the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions¹⁶ and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions,¹⁷

Stressing that law enforcement officials, in the performance of their duties, shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons, and emphasizing that the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, the integrity of the judicial system and an independent legal profession are essential prerequisites for the protection of human rights, the rule of law, good governance and democracy,

Acknowledging the multiple and aggravated forms of racial discrimination, which exacerbate individuals' experiences of racial injustice and inequality in law enforcement, including in the form of police violence and increased vulnerability,

Acknowledging also that the denial by States of continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices by law enforcement agencies perpetuates impunity, emphasizing that States should guarantee reparations to victims and ensure independent, prompt and effective investigations into State violence, and emphasizing also the need for all States to end the use of military jurisdictions for investigations of violations by law enforcement against civilians,

¹⁴ [A/HRC/47/53](#).

¹⁵ See [A/HRC/57/69](#).

¹⁶ See [A/78/385](#) and [A/HRC/57/72](#).

¹⁷ See [A/HRC/57/70](#).

Taking note of the reports of the High Commissioner on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against the excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality,¹⁸ encouraging States to consider implementing the recommendations contained therein, and requesting the High Commissioner to pay further attention to this matter in upcoming reports by addressing the continued excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers against Africans and people of African descent in different parts of the world,

Recalling that the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 47/21 of 13 July 2021, requested the High Commissioner to enhance and broaden monitoring by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to continue to report on systemic racism, violations of international human rights law against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies, to contribute to accountability and redress, and to take further action globally towards transformative change for racial justice and equality, including by providing support for and strengthening assistance to States and other stakeholders, particularly people of African descent and their organizations, and by giving further visibility to this work,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 76/226 of 24 December 2021, in which the Assembly requested the Human Rights Council to consider the question of developing a multi-year programme of activities to provide for the renewed and strengthened outreach activities needed to inform and mobilize the global public in support of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to strengthen awareness of the contribution that they have made in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling further that the General Assembly, also in its resolution 76/226, requested the Intergovernmental Working Group to devote at least half of its annual session to the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent, and invited the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, in accordance with their respective mandates, to contribute to the elaboration of such a draft declaration,

Concerned about the impact of the liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations on the Office of the High Commissioner at a time when adequate and predictable financial and human resources are indispensable to the overall implementation of mandates and advocacy for the fight against racism,

Noting with appreciation the annual observance in Geneva of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and recalling the support expressed at its commemoration in 2017 for the establishment at the United Nations Office at Geneva of a memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

1. *Underscores* the importance of political will and commitment to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

2. *Underlines* the imperative need for the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as the instructive outcome document of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance for combating the scourge of racism, including its contemporary and resurgent forms, some of which have regrettably taken violent forms, as well as of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent for promoting equality and non-discrimination around the world;

¹⁸ [A/HRC/51/53](#), [A/HRC/54/66](#) and [A/HRC/57/67](#).

3. *Continues* to be alarmed at the resurgent violent manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance precipitated by scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous ideologies, such as white supremacy, as well as by extremist nationalist and populist ideologies, and underlines in this respect that human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person;

4. *Stresses* in this respect the need to also address stereotypes, stigmatization and identity-assignment based on race as essential in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. *Encourages* States to make the requisite declaration in accordance with article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within their jurisdiction under its complaint procedure;

6. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider withdrawing their reservations to article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to articles 18, 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in line with paragraph 75 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

7. *Welcomes* the renewal of the mandate of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement, and encourages States to continue to fully cooperate with the Expert Mechanism and to continue to implement the comprehensive set of measures to end systemic racism and address racial discrimination and human rights violations, notably by law enforcement, contained in the agenda of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights towards transformative change for racial justice and equality and follow-up reports, and the reports of the Expert Mechanism, and also the recommendations made by United Nations experts in this regard;

8. *Calls upon* States to comply with their obligations under international law to protect those standing up against racism, including human rights defenders, from being discredited, harassed, intimidated or subjected to increased surveillance, both within and outside the context of assemblies;

9. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which, at its fourteenth session, continued its discussions on the elaboration of a draft additional protocol to the Convention;¹⁹

10. *Decides* that the Chair-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee may request that the annual session of the Ad Hoc Committee be split into two one-week segments;

11. *Requests* the High Commissioner, in the further fulfilment of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, to engage with the group of six legal experts, representing different regions and legal systems, and to task them to continue to provide the Chair-Rapporteur with more developed inputs and precise legal advice, to allow for the preparation of the Chair-Rapporteur's document, in accordance with the Committee's mandate;

12. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to facilitate the interactive participation of these legal experts in one of the two one-week segments of the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, to be held in 2025 and 2026 respectively, and to task them with providing advice with a view to contributing to discussions on the elaboration of a draft additional protocol criminalizing acts of a racist and xenophobic nature, in order to implement the Committee's mandate;

¹⁹ See [A/HRC/57/69](#).

13. *Requests* the Chair-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee to present in person a progress report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, and to participate in the interactive dialogue and carry out consultations with New York-based delegations and stakeholders in order to continue progress in the elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, filling procedural and substantive gaps as a matter of urgency, necessity and priority;

14. *Notes* the ongoing work on the draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at its twenty-first²⁰ and twenty-second sessions;

15. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide the Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group, in the fulfilment of its mandate to devote at least half of its session to the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent, with legal expertise to allow for the preparation of the Chair-Rapporteur's document to facilitate the discussions of the Working Group at its annual sessions until the finalization of the draft declaration;

16. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group to continue to invite the chairs of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to all its sessions devoted to discussions on the draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent;

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent,²¹ and recalls the important work that it has carried out in the 20 years since its establishment, including its conclusions and recommendations on how to address more efficiently the human rights concerns of people of African descent;

18. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions;²²

19. *Reiterates* its decision to request the Group of Independent Eminent Experts to report annually on its session and activities to the Human Rights Council, and that its report will be also transmitted and presented to the General Assembly, and in this regard requests the Chair of the Group to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance";

20. *Also reiterates* its request to the five regional groups to nominate a candidate for appointment to the Group of Independent Eminent Experts in a timely fashion, thereby ensuring that the Group can fulfil its mandate;

21. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its awareness-raising campaigns to increase the visibility of the message of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, its follow-up mechanisms and the work of the United Nations in the fight against racism;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the financial and human resources necessary for the Group of Independent Eminent Experts to fulfil its mandate effectively;

23. *Proposes* that particular attention be given by all relevant actors to enhancing the contribution of the treaty bodies monitoring the implementation of the core human rights conventions to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including through a systemic approach leading to more intensive cooperation among them;

²⁰ See [A/HRC/55/75](#).

²¹ [A/HRC/57/70](#).

²² See [A/78/385](#) and [A/HRC/57/72](#).

24. *Deplores* the ongoing use of social media platforms to incite hatred and violence against, inter alia, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, while reaffirming the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and calls upon States to prohibit by law, as appropriate, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including that propagated in information and communications technology;

25. *Strongly condemns* the allegations of discriminatory treatment, unlawful deportations, excessive use of force against and deaths of African migrants and migrants of African descent, including refugees and asylum-seekers, at the hands of law enforcement officials engaged in migration and border governance in different countries;

26. *Calls upon* States to ensure proper accountability measures and reparations for human rights violations at their borders and to adopt a racial justice approach, including by adopting policies to address structural racism in the management of international migration flows;

27. *Welcomes* the convening of regional meetings organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to effectively implement the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and notes the contribution of the International Decade to increasing awareness of the vulnerable situation of people of African descent;

28. *Encourages* States and other stakeholders to adopt action-orientated recommendations at these regional meetings, calls upon States, regional organizations and other stakeholders to facilitate the participation of civil society from their respective countries and regions at the meetings, and recognizes the contributing role that national human rights institutions and civil society organizations can play in supporting States' measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of racial discrimination;

29. *Acknowledges* the progress made during the first International Decade for People of African Descent, while regretting that the programme of activities for the International Decade was not fully implemented in relation to recognition, justice and development;

30. *Encourages* the General Assembly to proclaim, as a result of the above-mentioned gaps in implementation, a second International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing in 2025, based on the full reaffirmation and implementation of the programme of activities of the first International Decade, and focusing on consolidating past gains, expanding the reach and scope of contemporary opportunities for development, inclusion and peace, and anticipating emerging risks and threats;

31. *Welcomes* the convening of the third session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent²³ and the large participation of civil society and people of African descent from around the world during the session;

32. *Takes note* of decision 884 (XXXVII) of 18 February 2024 of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in which the Assembly adopted the theme "Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations" for 2025, and of the 10-point plan for reparatory justice of the Caribbean Community, which delves into the reparations due to Africans, on the continent and in the diaspora, and addresses the harm caused by the transatlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism;

33. *Reiterates* its request that the Office of the High Commissioner extend the two-year comprehensive communications strategy requested by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 17 of its resolution 48/18 of 11 October 2021 until the end of 2025, to continue to raise awareness about and mobilize global public support for racial justice and equality and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the strategy should include the effective promotion of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Decade for People of African Descent and other relevant instruments, and publicize the work and activities of the different United Nations anti-racism

²³ See [A/HRC/57/68](#).

mechanisms, including the dissemination of the annual thematic reports of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and its 20-year review report, in accessible formats to all constituents and the general public; the strategy should also include engagement, at different levels, with United Nations information centres and the field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner, civil society organizations, universities, schools and other educational entities, media outlets and professionals, and the general public, in particular young people; the strategy should be deployed on diverse platforms, including social media and web-based platforms, and encompass a variety of formats, such as digital and printed products, including easily accessible and youth-friendly materials, in all official languages of the United Nations; and requests the Secretary-General to provide the resources necessary for the communication strategy;

34. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group to commence preparations for the high-level event, to be held in 2026, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including public outreach for the commemoration, and to submit a comprehensive report and a road map for the implementation of the holding of the commemorative event to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session and the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

35. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to implement fully, as a matter of priority, the request made by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 51/32 of 7 October 2022 to publish the programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent in an easily accessible brochure format in all official languages of the United Nations, for wide dissemination, and invites States to publish translations thereof;

36. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to implement fully, as a matter of priority, the request made by the Human Rights Council, also in its resolution 51/32, to publish an updated version of *United against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, containing also the political declaration made by the General Assembly on the occasion of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and to issue it in all official languages of the United Nations, for wide dissemination;

37. *Further requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report, to be made available in accessible formats, on the implementation of the request reiterated by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 33 above pursuant to its resolution 48/18 and in paragraph 37 of its resolution 54/27 of 12 October 2023, and of the outreach programme of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, its follow-up mechanisms and the work of the United Nations in the fight against racism, and to present the report to the Council at its sixtieth session;

38. *Requests* that the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, on 25 March, and the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, on 23 August, be included in the communications strategy and outreach programme;

39. *Encourages* all special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies to include consideration of the impact of systemic, structural and institutional racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance on their mandates in their reports;

40. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, States and other stakeholders to include in their annual updates to the Intergovernmental Working Group information on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including on the activities conducted in the context of the outreach programme, and also requests the Office to include information on the implementation of the communications strategy in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on global efforts in the fight against racism;

41. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide the resources necessary for the effective functioning of Durban follow-up mechanisms, and to give high priority to the issue of preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner;

42. *Decides* to remain seized of this important issue.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 30 to 5, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, France, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Finland, Georgia, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Paraguay, Romania]

III. Fifty-seventh session

A. Resolutions

57/1. Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties,

Recalling previous Human Rights Council resolutions on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, the most recent of which being resolution 51/1 of 6 October 2022,

1. *Welcomes* the report of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Sri Lanka,²⁴ presented to the Human Rights Council at its present session;

2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and all work requested of it by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 51/1, and requests the Office to present an oral update to the Council at its fifty-eighth session and a comprehensive report on progress in reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka at its sixtieth session, to be discussed in an interactive dialogue.

*46th meeting
9 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/2. Responding to the human rights and humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing armed conflict in the Sudan

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the Sudan, and its solidarity with the Sudanese people,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for ensuring respect for and for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recalling that the Sudan has the responsibility to act in accordance with international humanitarian law, as well as to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Recalling the obligations of all parties to the conflict under international humanitarian law and the obligations of the Sudan under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other treaties to which it is a State party, and recalling also the commitment of the Sudan, reflected in the

²⁴ [A/HRC/57/19](#).

Constitutional Declaration of 2019 and the Juba Peace Agreement of 2020, to elevate the value of human rights, and that all parties must continue to comply with their respective obligations, including as applicable during the ongoing armed conflict,

Recalling also the commitments made on 11 May 2023 by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces under the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, including with regard to allowing and facilitating principled humanitarian relief, and the affirmation by the parties of their responsibility to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions S-32/1 of 5 November 2021 and S-36/1 of 11 May 2023, and the mandates given therein to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Expert on human rights in the Sudan,

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolution 54/2 of 11 October 2023 and the mandate given therein to the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan, while noting with concern the impact of the worsening situation in the Sudan and of the liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations on the timely establishment of the fact-finding mission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, and that States Members of the United Nations are required to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1564 (2004) of 18 September 2004, 1593 (2005) of 31 March 2005, 2724 (2024) of 8 March 2024 and 2736 (2024) of 13 June 2024,

Recalling further all other relevant resolutions adopted and statements made by the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council on the Sudan, and relevant statements on the Sudan by the Secretary-General, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, the High Commissioner, the Expert on human rights in the Sudan, the fact-finding mission and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide,

Noting with appreciation all relevant communiqués and resolutions of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the League of Arab States issued since the start of the armed conflict on 15 April 2023,

Welcoming the report of the fact-finding mission²⁵ and expressing deep concern at the mission's findings that there are reasonable grounds to believe that both the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces committed war crimes, and that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Rapid Support Forces also committed crimes against humanity,

Expressing grave concern at cases, documented by the fact-finding mission in its report, of sexual violence, acts of killing and maiming of children, arbitrary arrest and detention of civilians, at the failure, attributed to both parties, to minimize the impact of air strikes or artillery shelling on civilians, and at the mission's findings that the Rapid Support Forces and its allied militias committed coordinated and large-scale attacks on the civilian population, often on the basis of civilians' ethnicity, including killings, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, including sexual slavery, and the destruction of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population,

Expressing deep concern at the statement by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide on 10 September 2024 that all the risks and indicators of the crime of genocide are present in the Sudan, and that serious allegations have been made that this crime has already been committed,

Noting the conclusions of the fact-finding mission that fighting will stop once the arms flow stops and that all States and entities must comply with the existing arms embargo in

²⁵ [A/HRC/57/23](#).

Darfur pursuant to Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) of 30 July 2004 and subsequent resolutions,

Recalling the common and sustained call, since the start of the conflict, for all parties to the conflict to immediately cease hostilities and to agree and adhere to a nationwide ceasefire, and for the establishment of an inclusive Sudanese, civilian and democratic political process, made by all relevant actors of the international community and international forums, including the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the League of Arab States,

Recalling also the common and sustained call, made by the same actors, for all parties to immediately allow for full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access into and throughout the Sudan and to adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Recognizing that impunity for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law encourages their recurrence and is a fundamental obstacle to sustainable peace in the Sudan and that a comprehensive transitional justice process should address impunity and justice gaps, provide remedies and reparations to victims and promote truth-seeking, healing and reconciliation,

Welcoming the stated commitment by the Sudanese authorities to investigate the atrocities and prosecute those responsible, as appropriate, through independent national accountability efforts and to investigate crimes and violations of national law and international humanitarian law, and urging the full implementation of such commitments, in line with international law,

Noting the ongoing investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court into alleged international crimes committed in Darfur, including in the context of the current armed conflict, and noting also the statement of the Prosecutor to the Security Council on the situation in Darfur, pursuant to its resolution 1593 (2005), on 5 August 2024,²⁶

Welcoming civilian-led efforts to end fighting, including the founding conference of the Coordination Body of the Civil and Democratic Forces (Taqaaddum), held in Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 May 2024, which called for the lifting of arrest warrants for leaders of the civil and democratic forces, and the conference of Sudanese civil and political groups, held in Cairo on 6 and 7 July 2024,

Welcoming also the leadership role of the African Union in responding to the situation in the Sudan, including the establishment of the African Union High-level Panel on the Sudan, in January 2024, and the convening of the inaugural and second Preparatory Meetings for the Inter-Sudanese Political Dialogue, from 10 to 15 July and from 10 to 12 August 2024 respectively,

Noting resolution 578 (LXXVII) 2023 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, adopted on 9 November 2023, in which the Commission welcomed the decision of the Human Rights Council to establish the fact-finding mission in October 2023,

Noting with appreciation the international humanitarian conference for the Sudan and neighbouring States, held in Paris on 15 April 2024 to mark one year of conflict, and noting the commitments made to maintain pressure on the warring parties to reach a permanent ceasefire and to fulfil their humanitarian pledges for the people in the Sudan and those who have sought refuge in neighbouring States, while expressing grave concern over the continuing gap in financial support provided for United Nations response plans in the Sudan and neighbouring States,

Welcoming the visit to Port Sudan by the Expert on human rights in the Sudan, from 7 to 10 July 2024, at the invitation of the Sudanese authorities, the first visit by the Expert since the outbreak of the conflict, and welcoming also the engagement of the Sudanese authorities with the High Commissioner and the Expert,

²⁶ See [S/PV.9697](#).

Welcoming also the convening, by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, of proximity talks between the parties to the conflict, in Geneva in July 2024, and the subsequent consultative forum and mediation retreat, in Djibouti, bringing together key regional actors, and encouraging coordinated engagement between the Personal Envoy and the African Union, the League of Arab States and other key regional actors to help to advance peace and an inclusive and comprehensive Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led political process, with the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women and youth, that reflects the aspirations of the Sudanese people,

Underlining the importance of ensuring close coordination between all mediation and peace initiatives, including those undertaken by other regional and international partners, and noting with appreciation the ongoing Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan talks aiming to convene peace talks between the parties to the conflict in August 2024, building from the earlier Jeddah process, and encourages coordinated engagement with all actors to reach a nationwide cessation of violence, enabling humanitarian access to all those in need, and to develop a robust monitoring and verification mechanism to ensure the implementation of any agreement,

1. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of the continuing armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces and their associated and allied forces and all reported violations of international humanitarian law and all violations and abuses of human rights committed in this context, and echoes the similar condemnations expressed by the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, other relevant regional and subregional bodies, individual States and civil society organizations;

2. *Expresses its grave concern* at the ongoing dire humanitarian and human rights crisis in the Sudan, including famine conditions at Zamzam camp and immediate risk of famine across the country, with 25.6 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, at phase 3 or higher according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, including 755,000 people facing famine and 8.5 million people at emergency levels, as conditions have continued to deteriorate since the start of the current armed conflict on 15 April 2023, which has displaced more than 10 million people, including more than 2 million people into neighbouring States;

3. *Reiterates* its call for an immediate and complete ceasefire by all parties, without preconditions, the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism of the ceasefire, the rehabilitation of critical basic infrastructure, a negotiated and peaceful resolution to the conflict on the basis of inclusive, Sudan-owned and Sudan-led dialogue, with the active participation of Sudanese civilian actors, including women, and the recommitment of all parties with the people of the Sudan to return to its transition towards civilian government;

4. *Calls* for the full implementation of the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, requests the parties to authorize and ensure immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, including cross-border and cross-line access, and condemns the deprivation by all parties to the conflict of essential humanitarian assistance, across several areas of the Sudan, and the attacks on and looting of humanitarian convoys, warehouses and aid agencies, including by the Rapid Support Forces and other affiliated militias;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Sudanese authorities to reauthorize humanitarian access through the Adré border crossing from Chad and calls for these measures to be sustained permanently to ensure that personnel, goods and supplies reach those in need, removing any bureaucratic impediments and operational conditions that unduly obstruct the movement of humanitarian personnel, goods and supplies;

6. *Condemns* the violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights reported in the Darfur region of the Sudan, including shelling across civilian neighbourhoods, resulting in civilian deaths, injuries and the destruction of towns and critical infrastructure by both sides, and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, ethnically motivated attacks on civilians and looting by members of the Rapid Support Forces

and allied militia, and expresses its deep concern at the clear parallels between these developments and previous violations and abuses in Darfur;

7. *Expresses its grave concern* at reported acts of sexual and gender-based violence, the indiscriminate use of force against civilians by both parties to the conflict, indiscriminate aerial bombardments by the Sudanese Armed Forces and artillery shelling by both parties resulting in civilian deaths and the destruction of civilian homes and critical infrastructure, the illegal recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and sexual violence against children, principally by the Rapid Support Forces, and mistreatment, torture and life-threatening conditions faced by detainees held by both parties;

8. *Condemns* the renewal of attacks by the Rapid Support Forces in El Fasher and the shelling of Abu Shawk and Salaam camps and calls upon the Rapid Support Forces to immediately withdraw its forces from El Fasher and upon all parties to immediately de-escalate tensions, comply with applicable international humanitarian law in the conduct of evacuation and ensure the protection of civilians and civilian objects;

9. *Strongly deplores* the reported killings, attacks, arbitrary detention and acts of intimidation and retaliation targeting humanitarian and health workers, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, community leaders, public servants and local government workers, journalists and other media workers, students, lawyers and civil society actors, and targeting members of international organizations and the diplomatic community in the Sudan, which has a direct impact on the capacity of the international community to respond to the human rights and humanitarian crisis in the Sudan;

10. *Urges* all parties to the conflict in the Sudan to respect and protect civilians, including those who are humanitarian workers and health workers, and civilian infrastructure, and to allow civilians to move freely to gain access to the basic services and humanitarian assistance that they need;

11. *Strongly urges* all parties to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent further acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, sexual slavery and sexual exploitation and abuse, by members of their respective forces or allied groups, and to ensure access to timely and quality services for survivors, and stresses the importance of providing survivor-centred responses to acts of sexual and gender-based violence and ensuring accountability for those who commit such acts;

12. *Urges* the United Nations, together with the African Union, to accelerate consideration of practical options for enhancing the protection of civilians in the Sudan, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders and in full recognition of the obligation of the Sudan to act in accordance with international humanitarian law and to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

13. *Commends* Sudanese and regional relief and aid workers and local responders operating in the Sudan and along its borders for their bravery and work in challenging and dangerous circumstances to provide life-saving support to communities and calls for their protection, and also commends neighbouring countries that have hosted and provided assistance to refugees fleeing ongoing violence and recalls the importance under international law of respect by all States for the principle of non-refoulement;

14. *Stresses*, once again, that ensuring accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights is central to any solution to the ongoing crisis in the Sudan, as well as to efforts to address the root causes of the armed conflict and prevent further instability in the Sudan, and underscores the urgency of initiating prompt, full, independent, impartial, transparent and credible investigations into all alleged abuses and violations by all parties to the conflict, to end impunity and hold accountable those responsible through robust and credible criminal justice processes, while noting the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard;

15. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan for a period of one year;

16. *Encourages* the fact-finding mission to give due regard to ensuring the complementarity of its efforts with those of other actors, including independent national accountability efforts and regional investigations;

17. *Requests* the fact-finding mission to provide the Human Rights Council with an oral update on its work at its fifty-ninth session and a comprehensive report at its sixtieth session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue, and to present the report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

18. *Requests* the High Commissioner, with the assistance of the Expert on human rights in the Sudan, to submit to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-first session a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in the Sudan and on violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict, to be followed by an interactive dialogue with the participation of the High Commissioner and the Expert;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the resources and expertise necessary to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to provide such administrative, technical and logistical support as is required to implement the provisions of the present resolution;

20. *Calls upon* the parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the fact-finding mission in the performance of its work, and calls upon the international community to support fully the implementation of its mandate;

21. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 23 to 12, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Romania, South Africa, United States of America

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Indonesia, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives]

57/3. Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties,

Reaffirming also that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Afghanistan, and that the people of Afghanistan are entitled to freely determine their political status and to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Deeply deploring the suffering of the people of Afghanistan, reaffirming its profound solidarity with them and stressing the importance of providing them with proper support and assistance,

Expressing deep concern at the lack of accountability and deeply entrenched impunity for the widespread violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed in Afghanistan,

Stressing the urgent and imperative need to ensure accountability, by bringing perpetrators of crimes involving violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law to justice through a comprehensive, multidimensional, survivor- and victim-centred, gender-responsive approach to accountability efforts, applying a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, and to prevent and redress human rights violations and abuses in a manner consistent with the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law,

Recalling its thirty-first special session on the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan, its resolutions S-31/1 of 24 August 2021, 48/1 of 7 October 2021, in which the Council appointed a special rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 50/14 of 8 July 2022, 51/20 of 7 October 2022 and 54/1 of 11 October 2023 and all relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan, on children and armed conflict and on women and peace and security,

Recalling also the statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, those by several special procedures of the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies on reports of human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan, including those committed by the Taliban, and the independent assessment on Afghanistan undertaken by the Special Coordinator, in which a performance-based road map for engagement with the Taliban is outlined, including human rights benchmarks,²⁷

Recalling further the stocktaking of accountability options and processes for human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan included in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, presented to the Human Rights Council at the fifty-seventh session, and the general principles outlined therein for continuing accountability efforts,²⁸

Deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in particular the continued violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those systematically targeting women and girls and those involving summary or extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, forced displacement, collective punishment, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees, sexual and gender-based violence, violence against peaceful protesters, reprisals, raids on offices of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups and violations and abuses, committed by the Taliban and other actors, of the human rights of all women, children, older persons, journalists and media workers, human rights defenders and members of their families, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, prisoners, internally displaced persons, former government officials and former armed forces members, cultural workers, artists and musicians, members of ethnic and religious minorities, persons belonging to other vulnerable or marginalized groups and persons in situations of vulnerability,

Expressing alarm at the findings of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in its human rights monitoring and reporting,

²⁷ S/2023/856, annex.

²⁸ A/HRC/57/22.

Expressing serious concern about the grave, worsening, widespread and systematic oppression of all women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, which, as documented by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,²⁹ has put in place an institutionalized system of discrimination, segregation, disrespect for human dignity and the exclusion of women and girls through, inter alia, so-called laws such as the recent so-called “Law on propagation of virtue and prevention of vice”, edicts, policies and practices targeting women and girls, the undermining of legal protections and accountability mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence and the ongoing denial of human rights, which may amount to persecution on the grounds of gender,

Deeply concerned about the continuing, systematic, systemic and all-encompassing erosion of respect for the human rights of all women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including the imposition of restrictions that limit the enjoyment of the rights to education, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, work, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, freedom of opinion and freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and of women’s full, equal meaningful and safe participation in public life, and emphasizing that these restrictions are inconsistent with the obligations of Afghanistan under international human rights law and the commitment made by the Taliban to the people of Afghanistan,

Expressing deep concern at the continued prevalence of violence and discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan, in all their different forms and manifestations, which may amount to the crime against humanity of persecution on the grounds of gender, including sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms, child, early and forced marriage, and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls, emphasizing that discrimination and violence against women and girls violate, abuse and impair their enjoyment of human rights, and stressing that perpetrators of crimes involving human rights violations and abuses must be brought to justice and the critical need for victims and survivors to be provided with effective redress, support and remedies,

Underlining the vital role of women in the delivery of life-saving assistance and basic services, and expressing grave concern at the Taliban-imposed ban on women from Afghanistan working for the United Nations in Afghanistan and for international and national non-governmental organizations, which has a severe impact on the effective delivery of life-saving assistance and basic services, putting at risk the lives of millions of Afghans, especially those in women-headed households,

Expressing deep concern at the economic, climate, mental health, humanitarian and food security crises in Afghanistan, including the increasing level of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, and the deprivation of women’s ability to make a living that have undermined the enjoyment of a full range of economic, social and cultural rights of the people of Afghanistan, including of women and children, and emphasizing the need to address the critical funding gap in the humanitarian response and address long-term economic instability across Afghanistan,

Recalling with grave concern the assessment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan regarding the historical persecution of Hazaras and persons belonging to marginalized groups and other ethnic and religious minorities, as well as the Special Rapporteur’s assessment that attacks, frequently claimed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan, appeared to be systematic in nature and reflected elements of an organizational policy, thus bearing the hallmarks of international crimes, including crimes against humanity,³⁰ and recalling the assessment of the High Commissioner, and noting that of the Secretary-General,³¹ that the situation of human rights is continuing to worsen,

Expressing deep concern about the situation of children, who continue to be affected by hardship following decades of conflict, insecurity, conflict-related violence, recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups in hostilities in violation of applicable international law, sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms, killing and maiming of

²⁹ See [A/HRC/56/25](#).

³⁰ [A/HRC/51/6](#), para. 67.

³¹ See [A/78/914-S/2024/469](#).

children, exploitation and abduction of children and other violations of international law, including human rights violations or abuses, unlawful attacks on students, teachers, schools and universities, the unlawful military use of educational facilities and the denial of humanitarian access, and who, in addition to restrictions on the right to education, suffer from the effects of the humanitarian crisis, which drives harmful, discriminatory, oppressive and violent practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, abuse and economic and sexual exploitation, the sale of children and organs, forced and child labour, trafficking in persons and unsafe migration,³²

Recognizing that the effective exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is an important indicator of the level of protection of other human rights and freedoms, and underlining the important role played by local journalists and media workers in continuing to carry out essential work, including documenting and reporting, in challenging circumstances,

Reaffirming that the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation, inclusion and empowerment of all women and girls in all spheres of life, including in planning and decision-making with regard to governance, mediation, confidence-building and conflict prevention and resolution, as well as their involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, are essential for sustainable peace and full and complete economic and social development, as well as the realization and enjoyment of all human rights by all persons in Afghanistan,

Expressing deep concern that the Taliban have introduced judicially sanctioned corporal punishments and death penalties, noting that sentences such as stoning people to death or burying them under a wall constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and expressing deep concern also at reports of non-judicially sanctioned corporal punishments,

Recalling the importance of protecting cultural heritage from deliberate damage and looting,

Recalling also the obligations of Afghanistan under international human rights law and international humanitarian law as expressed in, inter alia, the treaties and conventions to which it is a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Slavery Convention,

Recalling further that Afghanistan has been a State party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court since 1 May 2003, and noting the ongoing investigation by the Court into the situation in Afghanistan,

Expressing deep concern at the displacement in Afghanistan, acknowledging the efforts of numerous States to evacuate and relocate people forced to flee Afghanistan, emphasizing the need to support neighbouring countries that are generously sheltering large numbers of refugees and other people from Afghanistan in need of international protection, while reiterating the importance of protecting their rights, protecting them against refoulement and treating them in a dignified manner, and recalling the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Acknowledging the efforts of neighbouring and other countries to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, in collaboration with the United Nations and other international agencies and partners, and encouraging the continuation of these efforts,

Emphasizing that sustainable peace in Afghanistan can only be achieved through an inclusive, just, durable and realistic political settlement that reflects the choice of the people of Afghanistan and upholds the enjoyment of human rights of all persons, including for all

³² [A/HRC/51/6](#), para. 71.

women and girls, children and persons belonging to marginalized groups and minorities, and resulting in an Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbours, fully reintegrated into the international community and meeting its international obligations,

Noting the efforts by religious actors from neighbouring and other countries to promote the human right of women and children to have access to quality education in Afghanistan, emphasizing the need to support efforts aimed at the realization of the right to education without discrimination of any kind, and recalling the importance of secular curricula in that regard,

Noting also that many human rights have been under concerted attack in Afghanistan in the past three years, after 20 years of political, economic and social achievements of the people of Afghanistan,

Reiterating its support for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan in fulfilling their mandates under Security Council resolutions 2626 (2022) of 17 March 2022 and 2678 (2023) of 16 March 2023, including their human rights monitoring and reporting and engagement with all relevant political actors in Afghanistan and stakeholders, including relevant authorities as needed,

Recognizing the imperative of international action to oppose and combat the institutionalized gender-based oppression that the Taliban has established and is seeking to maintain,

Recognizing also the need to help to address the substantial challenges facing the economy of Afghanistan, including through efforts to restore the banking and financial systems and efforts to enable the use of assets belonging to the Central Bank of Afghanistan for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan, including all women and girls,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and security of United Nations personnel, including those working on human rights, of diplomatic and consular personnel of States Members of the United Nations and of national and international humanitarian personnel, including women workers,

Welcoming the report of the Office of the High Commissioner, the reports of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the ongoing work and the reports of the Special Rapporteur, as well as his report with the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls,³³

1. *Continues to condemn in the strongest possible terms* all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed in Afghanistan, in particular those involving summary or extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, enforced disappearance, violence against peaceful protestors, human rights defenders, journalists and media representatives, in particular women journalists and media representatives, as well as former judges, prosecutors and other magistrates, civil servants and law enforcement and military personnel, reprisals, raids on offices of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups, including women's rights organizations, violations and abuses of the human rights of all women, girls, children, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities and other marginalized groups and persons in situations of vulnerability, and the targeting of those who have worked for the Government of Afghanistan and of former military personnel;

2. *Deplores* the Taliban's institutionalization of its system of discrimination, segregation, disrespect for human dignity and exclusion of women and girls, and the harms that it has entrenched, which should shock the conscience of humanity and requires concerted action by the international community;

3. *Strongly condemns* the Taliban-imposed ban on the women of Afghanistan working for the United Nations in Afghanistan and national and international non-governmental organizations and all other forms of interference in non-governmental

³³ [A/HRC/53/21](#).

assistance activities, including aid delivery, which undermine the enjoyment of human rights and are inconsistent with humanitarian principles;

4. *Continues to condemn in the strongest possible terms* all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, and reminds all parties that all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including violence against women and girls, *bacha bazi* (sexual slavery of boys) and child, early and forced marriage, constitute violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Calls for* an immediate end to all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, for strict respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy, the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, housing, safe drinking water and sanitation, the rights to education, work and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, of religion or belief, of opinion and expression and the right to liberty of movement and freedom to leave the country, for opportunities for and access to inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels for women and girls, for the immediate and unconditional reopening of schools for girls of all ages, for equal and quality education for children at all levels and for the protection of civilians and critical civilian infrastructure, in particular medical and educational facilities in the country;

6. *Urges* the Taliban to reverse its policies and practices that restrict the enjoyment of human rights by people in Afghanistan, including by repealing the recent so-called “Law on propagation of virtue and prevention of vice”, which institutionalizes a system of discrimination and oppression against women and girls, that may amount to crimes against humanity, including persecution on the grounds of gender, to render them consistent with the international human rights obligations of Afghanistan, in particular as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including policies and practices that restrict the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, including equality and non-discrimination, freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and association and opinion and expression, the rights to education, work, public participation and to vote and be elected in genuine and periodic elections and those that are discriminatory against persons belonging to marginalized groups or ethnic or religious minority groups, including Hazaras, and to prohibit and prevent discrimination and violence against them and ensure their representation in all decision-making;

7. *Reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and all children in Afghanistan, including the rights to freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and association and opinion and expression, the right to education, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right to work, the right to access to justice on an equal basis with others and the right to public participation, and the importance of protecting women, girls and all children from violations or abuses, and in this regard notes that, according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is anyone under 18 years of age;

8. *Calls for* respect for and the promotion and protection of the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, including the ability to have access to and to enjoy cultural heritage, and for the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage consistent with article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two optional protocols thereto, and urges all parties to refrain from any unlawful military use and the targeting of cultural property;

9. *Recognizes* that delivering justice and redress to victims, and accountability to perpetrators, of gross human rights violations and abuses and serious violations of international humanitarian law through all available processes is an essential pillar needed for long-term sustainable peace, development and reconciliation in Afghanistan and is necessary for re-establishing the rule of law, strengthening the institutional protection of

human rights and preventing the continued recurrence of grave violations and abuses, as well as rebuilding trust among the full range of members of Afghan society;

10. *Reiterates* the urgency of a prompt, independent and impartial review of or investigation into all alleged violations or abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law to end impunity, ensure accountability through processes that are comprehensive, multidimensional, gender-responsive and victim-centred, apply a comprehensive approach to transitional justice and bring perpetrators to justice, guided by the principles elaborated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its report;³⁴

11. *Also reiterates* its call for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process for the establishment of a participative, inclusive and representative government, including with regard to gender and all ethnic and religious minorities, ensuring the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women and the inclusive and meaningful participation of young people in decision-making positions and processes;

12. *Urges* the international community to adjust further its engagement with any stakeholders in Afghanistan with regard to respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans, including women, girls, children, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious minorities, and respect for the rule of law, freedom of expression, including for journalists and media workers, with specific attention to human rights defenders, and respect for the obligations of Afghanistan under international human rights law;

13. *Reiterates* the need to address the profound challenges facing Afghanistan, including through efforts to provide assistance in the fulfilment of human rights obligations arising from international treaties that Afghanistan has ratified, and to offer support and advice to civil society;

14. *Encourages* the international community to provide financial and political support for Afghan women's rights organizations and for the creation of new platforms of exchange for Afghan women, while strengthening existing ones, in order to enable them to formulate their own vision for the future of Afghanistan in a safe environment;

15. *Underscores* the need for, and calls for further improvement in, the living conditions of the people of Afghanistan, and emphasizes the need to provide basic social services at the national, provincial and local levels, in particular education, clean water, sanitation, digital connectivity, adequate housing and public health services, with special attention given to the needs of all women, girls and disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including persons belonging to minority groups and persons with disabilities;

16. *Calls upon* the international community to offer greater support, including in the context of the food security crisis and the ongoing protection crisis, and to enhance efforts to bridge the funding gap, and urges all parties to allow immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, including across conflict lines, to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches all those in need, in particular internally displaced persons and those in situations of vulnerability, and to respect the independence of humanitarian agencies and guarantee the protection of humanitarian personnel, including women workers;

17. *Encourages* all stakeholders in Afghanistan to continue their engagement and cooperation with the United Nations, including with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant United Nations entities;

18. *Reiterates* its call for the reopening of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and of an independent national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), to protect and promote all human rights, receive complaints from the public, monitor places of detention and bring issues to the attention of the relevant authorities;

³⁴ [A/HRC/57/22](#).

19. *Calls for* the provision of an enabling environment for civil society actors, especially women's rights and women-led organizations and leaders whose work is impacted by restrictions targeting women, and the media to carry out their activities without hindrance or fear of reprisal, the investigation of cases of intimidation and attacks against members of civil society, including women's rights organizations, cultural workers and journalists and media workers, bringing perpetrators to justice, and measures to promote respect for freedom of opinion and expression and access to information and support, both offline and online;

20. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the recent decision of the Taliban to no longer grant access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and calls upon it to reverse its decision and to cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms;

21. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen existing mechanisms and to give consideration to ensuring the capacity for collecting, preserving and analysing evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law in a way that could be used to facilitate future accountability and transitional justice processes;

22. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, for a period of one year, and requests the Special Rapporteur to present a report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-eighth session, including a separate study on the so-called "Law on propagation of virtue and prevention of vice", to provide an oral update to the Council at its sixtieth session and to present a report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, in accordance with their respective programmes of work;

23. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, with the support of other relevant special procedure mandate holders and treaty bodies and with temporary, specific and relevant expertise to be provided by the Office of the High Commissioner, to prepare a report on access to justice and protection for women and girls and the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination thereon, and to present it to the Council at its fifty-ninth session, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue;

24. *Decides* that, in order to provide the necessary support to the mandate holder, the mandate holder shall benefit from additional dedicated and specific resources and expertise to be provided by the Office of the High Commissioner, as defined by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/1, with further additional resources and expertise to strengthen documentation and preservation of the information collected, including a specific capacity for analysis and reporting;

25. *Calls upon* all relevant actors in Afghanistan to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and other international bodies seized of the situation in Afghanistan, to grant them unhindered access to the country without delay, to provide them with all information and support necessary to allow for the proper fulfilment of their mandates and to ensure that civil society organizations, human rights defenders, victims, survivors, their families and other individuals have unhindered access to the above-mentioned bodies and mechanisms without fear of reprisal, intimidation or attack;

26. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the Special Rapporteur with the assistance and resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate;

27. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to present, during an enhanced interactive dialogue also including the Special Rapporteur's oral update requested in paragraph 22 above, a comprehensive report, including a mapping of policies and practices, edicts and so-called laws by the Taliban that impair the enjoyment of human rights, also reflecting victims' and survivors' perspectives on the ground on justice and redress, building on the stocktaking of accountability options and processes for human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan;

28. *Urges* all relevant special procedure mandate holders, and invites the treaty bodies, to closely monitor and reflect on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan within the scope of their respective mandates;

29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/4. Marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995, taking note of the outcome documents of its review conferences, and reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the obligation of all States to promote and protect the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls,

Noting that 2025 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which have contributed greatly to the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Welcoming the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls while stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

1. *Decides* to convene, during the high-level segment at its fifty-eighth session, a high-level panel discussion to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, with a particular focus on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its review conferences, as well as on achievements, best practices and challenges in this regard;

2. *Invites* the President of the Human Rights Council to consider the theme “Thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action” for the annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming, to be held at the fifty-eighth session of the Council;

3. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, treaty bodies, special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion, and to make it fully accessible for persons with disabilities;

4. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/5. The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as a common standard of achievement of all peoples and all nations, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which it is affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in which the General Assembly affirmed important principles that further strengthen good governance and also affirmed the importance of the right to self-determination,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 7/11 of 27 March 2008, 19/20 of 23 March 2012, 25/8 of 27 March 2014, 31/14 of 23 March 2016, 37/6 of 22 March 2018, 45/9 of 6 October 2020 and 51/5 of 6 October 2022, all other resolutions relevant to the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the resolve of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and noting with interest the provisions of the Convention that have led to the development of a mechanism among States parties to review their progress in combating corruption,

Noting with interest the outcomes of the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, including the recognition therein of the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions,

Welcoming the commitments made by all States in the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”³⁵ to promote, while safeguarding personal data protection and privacy rights, the use of technological innovations to prevent, detect and combat corruption and facilitate digital government in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of a conducive environment, at both the national and the international levels, for the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the mutually reinforcing relationship between good governance and human rights,

Recognizing also that transparent, responsible, accountable, open and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, including women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and those in vulnerable and marginalized situations, is the foundation on which good governance rests and that such a foundation is one of the indispensable conditions for the full realization of human rights, including the right to development, especially in times of crisis,

Recognizing further the crucial importance of the active involvement of civil society, at the national, regional and international levels, in processes of governance and in promoting good governance, including through transparency and accountability, at all levels, which are indispensable for building peaceful, prosperous and democratic societies,

³⁵ General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex.

Stressing the importance of developing and implementing national legislation on the promotion of access to diverse and reliable information, of establishing active, free and meaningful participation and of strengthening the administration of justice, transparency, accountability and good governance at all levels,

Reaffirming the right of every citizen to have access, in general terms of equality, to public service in their country, as enshrined in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 25 (c) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recognizing that a professional, accountable and transparent public service upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity is one of the essential components of good governance,

Recognizing also that the knowledge, training and awareness of public servants, human rights education and the promotion of a human rights culture within the public service play a vital role in promoting respect for and the realization of human rights in society,

Welcoming the contribution of the United Nations Public Service Award programme, which recognizes excellence in public service to the promotion of the role, professionalism and visibility of public service, and noting its review to align it with the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making, as well as that of girls, free from violence and discrimination, is essential for good governance,

Welcoming the commitments made by all States in the 2005 World Summit Outcome³⁶ to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels,

Mindful that the fight against corruption at all levels plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the process of creating sustainable, effective, accountable and transparent institutions for the achievement of the full enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing the increasing awareness in the international community of the detrimental impact of widespread corruption on human rights, by weakening institutions, by eroding public trust in government and by impairing the ability of Governments to fulfil all their human rights obligations,

Recognizing also that effective anti-corruption measures and the protection of human rights, including by strengthening transparency and accountability in government, are mutually reinforcing,

Recalling Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption resolution 10/1 of 15 December 2023, in which the Conference called upon States parties to make efforts so that the conditions were present for the effective contribution of individuals and groups outside the public sector, including civil society, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, the private sector, academia and the media, to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the ability to operate independently and without fear of reprisal because of their efforts in preventing and combating corruption in that regard, in accordance with domestic law and the respective applicable international obligations, and to promote the engagement of youth in the prevention of and fight against corruption through awareness-raising and other involvement in anti-corruption initiatives,

Recalling also Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption resolution 10/8 of 15 December 2023, in which States parties were encouraged, in accordance with their domestic law, to establish and strengthen confidential complaint systems and protected internal reporting systems that are accessible, diversified and inclusive to facilitate timely reporting of corruption and to ensure the confidentiality of the reporting persons' identities and personal information, including, where appropriate, allowing for anonymous reporting, and utilize innovative and digital technology in those efforts, with due regard for data protection and privacy rights,

³⁶ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Recognizing the opportunities provided by open data and digital technologies to strengthen transparency and accountability and to prevent, detect and investigate corruption,

Recognizing also that good governance and the fight against corruption have a central role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the elimination of obstacles to development,

Stressing that good governance at the local, national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and in this context reaffirming the 2030 Agenda,

Noting the ongoing work of several important initiatives towards the deepening of good governance practices at the national, regional and international levels, and taking into account the ongoing work of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations relating to the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of States, as the main duty bearers, to promote and protect human rights online and offline,

Recognizing also that good governance, including technical and legal safeguards, plays a pivotal role in mitigating the impact of digital divides on human rights, within and among States, and that human rights due diligence is important when integrating new technologies into the public sector,

Noting that, used in compliance with international human rights law, information and communications technology can be an effective tool to foster greater participation and contribute to promoting human rights principles and good governance, while being mindful of the impact, opportunities and challenges of rapid technological change with regard to the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing that information and communications technology can hold great potential for strengthening democratic institutions and the resilience of civil society, empowering civic engagement and enabling the work of human rights defenders, public participation and the open and free exchange of ideas,

Stressing that the use of information and communications technology, including the digitalization of public service, can strengthen the efficiency, professionalism, accountability, transparency and accessibility of public institutions,

Recognizing the risks that misuse of information and communications technology may have for the protection, promotion and enjoyment of human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance,

Expressing concern that misuse of information and communications technology can undermine equal access to public services, and stressing the importance of ensuring the safety and security of critical infrastructure and critical information infrastructure in this regard,

Recognizing that disinformation is a threat to democracy that can undermine political engagement, including by engendering or deepening distrust towards democratic institutions and processes, including electoral processes, and hinder the realization of informed participation in political and public affairs,

Recognizing also that artificial intelligence systems, when used responsibly, with adequate safeguards and due diligence and consistent with human rights law, can play a significant role in enhancing good governance, including by facilitating access to information and participation in public life, strengthening democratic institutions and the resilience of civil society and being used to combat corruption, and thereby contribute to promoting and protecting human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and provide opportunities for effective responses to disinformation and misinformation,

Recognizing further that good governance, including the principles of transparency, participation, inclusivity and accountability, can contribute significantly to regulatory and governance frameworks for artificial intelligence systems that respect, protect and fulfil human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the convening, on 4 September 2023, of a panel discussion on the most efficient ways of upholding good governance to address the human rights impacts of the various digital divides;
2. *Recognizes* that international human rights law provides a set of standards to guide governing processes and to assess performance outcomes, and in this regard stresses that good governance is necessary for establishing and maintaining an environment conducive to the promotion and protection of human rights;
3. *Reaffirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online;
4. *Notes with concern* that many forms of the digital divide remain between and within countries, and between men and women, boys and girls, older and younger persons and persons with disabilities, and recognizes the need to close them;
5. *Encourages* States to foster collaboration between the public and private sectors and with civil society in addressing digital divides, within and among States, and to engage with the private sector, the technical community, academia and regulators to promote respect for human rights related to digital technology, with a focus on accessible and affordable technology solutions;
6. *Also encourages* States to take a comprehensive approach to bridging digital divides, focusing not only on the availability or access to digital technologies and infrastructure but also on facilitating the meaningful engagement of individuals with them, including by taking measures to improve digital, media and information literacy and data literacy;
7. *Acknowledges* that many countries all over the world need support in terms of expanding infrastructure, technological cooperation and capacity-building, including human and institutional capacity-building, to ensure the accessibility, affordability and availability of the Internet in order to bridge digital divides, to offer a digital dividend to all people and to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;
8. *Urges* States to ensure the right of every person to have access, on equal terms, to public services in his or her country by using new communications technology and global interconnectedness, technological innovation and organizational solutions to respond in the best possible way to the needs of people confronted with the risks of crises;
9. *Also urges* States to progressively take steps to expand Internet access in order to provide public services accessible to all, especially the poor and those at most risk of social exclusion, thereby rectifying imbalances in access to the information and communications technology currently available and ensuring their participation in public life;
10. *Further urges* States to maintain and enhance efforts to promote access to diverse and reliable information on the Internet as one means of facilitating affordable and inclusive education, health, justice and other public services globally, underlining the need to address digital literacy and digital divides;
11. *Urges* States, civil society, the private sector, international organizations, the media and other stakeholders to recognize the compounding risks that disinformation could introduce to electoral and other democratic processes, and to work in a cross-sectoral manner to develop practical strategies, including through media and information literacy, to mitigate risks while promoting the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
12. *Encourages* States and, where applicable, other stakeholders to promote, following a risk-based approach, the safe, secure and trustworthy design, development, deployment and decommissioning of artificial intelligence systems in an inclusive and equitable manner, and for the benefit of all, and foster an enabling environment for such systems to protect the exercise of and mitigate the potential adverse impacts on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
13. *Encourages* States to address any weaknesses in the way public services are being delivered, including in the areas of health, education and justice, and to increase accessibility to them, including through new information and communications technology;

14. *Also encourages* States to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment based on respect for international law, including the obligations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments, and to address the risks that misuse of information and communications technology may have for the protection, promotion and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

15. *Further encourages* States to consider developing transparency practices, such as e-procurement, open contracting and spending dashboards, to detect and deter corruption risks in government contracts and purchases;

16. *Welcomes* the commitments made by all States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, including by using strengthened means of technology and embracing their implementation;

17. *Underlines* that the primary responsibility lies with States at the national level, including through their constitutional provisions and other enabling legislation, consistent with their international obligations, to ensure that professional public services uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and are predicated on good governance principles, including impartiality, the rule of law, transparency, accountability, participation, inclusivity and combating corruption, and stresses the importance of human rights training and education in this regard;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure the upholding of the integrity of the United Nations system in its service to humanity, and improved coordination among United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, with a view to ensuring that the United Nations system continues to improve the quality of its work at all levels, including in support of objectives and priorities at the national level;

19. *Encourages* the relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to continue to consider, within their respective mandates, the issue of the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights;

20. *Encourages* States to consider developing and implementing appropriate tools or mechanisms to review, measure and assess progress in good governance, including but not limited to the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the impact of artificial intelligence systems on good governance, indicating in particular the areas in which artificial intelligence systems can contribute to promoting and protecting human rights through good governance and those in which such systems pose a challenge to good governance and human rights, highlighting good practices around the globe on the ways to develop, deploy, use and govern artificial intelligence systems, following a risk-based approach, to promote and protect human rights through good governance and identifying necessary safeguards, and to present the study to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-second session;

22. *Also requests* the Advisory Committee to seek the views of and inputs from and to take into account relevant work already done by stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, entities, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, relevant treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, multi-stakeholder initiatives and other relevant stakeholders, where applicable, when preparing the above-mentioned study;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/6. Countering cyberbullying

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and all other relevant human rights treaties and instruments,

Reaffirming also that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation, survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

Recalling the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, individual autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities, gender equality and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities,

Recalling also the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on protecting children from bullying, as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly and the Human Rights Council,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 51/10 of 6 October 2022, and welcoming the holding of the panel discussion on cyberbullying against children at the fifty-fourth session of the Council,

Welcoming the relevant work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular on awareness-raising and respect for diversity, and taking note of the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, in which it stressed the importance of implementing awareness-raising initiatives to address stigma and discrimination, in particular bullying in educational settings,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education and resolution 88 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, in which it noted the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Action Framework,

Recalling also the proclamation of the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School, including Cyberbullying, by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fortieth session, which is to be observed on the first Thursday of November every year,

Acknowledging international, regional and local relevant initiatives taken and efforts made to prevent and address cyberbullying, and welcoming the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on the issue of countering cyberbullying,

Recognizing the need to foster a policy of zero tolerance of all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, in the digital environment, in a manner consistent with States' obligations under international human rights law,

Recognizing also that bullying, including cyberbullying, can take both direct and indirect forms, from acts of physical, verbal, sexual and relational violence or aggression to social exclusion, including from peer to peer, which can inflict physical, psychological and social harm, and that, although rates differ from country to country, bullying, online or in person, has a negative impact on the fulfilment of human rights, including the rights of the child, and is among children's main concerns, affecting a high percentage of children and

compromising their health, emotional well-being and academic work, and acknowledging the need to prevent and eliminate bullying among and of children,

Recognizing further that cyberbullying may be understood as an intentional act carried out by an individual or a group using electronic forms of contact against victims, which is typically carried out repeatedly and over time and is often characterized by a power differential,

Acknowledging that, while cyberbullying finds parallels with bullying offline, countering it requires new approaches, since it presents novel challenges, such as occurrence across a range of mediums and platforms, the potential for more rapid dissemination, a wider audience reach and dynamics of abuse that would not be possible in person,

Recognizing that cyberbullying can cause profound harm to victims, who may experience anxiety, fear, distress, confusion, anger, insecurity, lowered self-esteem, a strong sense of shame and even suicidal thoughts and that cyberbullying can be perpetrated at a greater magnitude, speed and pervasiveness than bullying offline,

Recognizing also that persons with disabilities may be subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, including discrimination related to race, age, gender, disability, health status, descent, national or ethnic origin, migration status, religion, economic and social background or other status,

Noting with concern that persons with disabilities who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations, who face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion, are disproportionately affected by bullying, both in person and online,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are significantly more likely to experience cyberbullying than those without disabilities and that they face a disproportionate risk of hate speech, violence and abuse in digital environments, contributing to their exclusion and mistreatment,

Recognizing also that cyberbullying often includes a gender dimension and is associated with sexual and gender-based violence and stereotyping that negatively affects persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities,

Reaffirming the human right to privacy, according to which no one is to be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, and recognizing that the exercise of the right to privacy is important for the realization of other human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and is one of the foundations of a democratic society,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the right to privacy are important for the prevention of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and sexual harassment, in particular against women, children and persons with disabilities, as well as any form of discrimination, which can occur online and includes cyberbullying and cyberstalking,

Recognizing also that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, may be particularly exposed to online risks, including cyberbullying, and that there is a need to take steps to ensure that the digital environment, including safety information, protective strategies and services and forums relating to it, are accessible and safe, bearing in mind the importance of countering prejudice that might lead to overprotection or exclusion,

Recognizing further that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance have a deep negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and therefore require a comprehensive response, both online and offline, which can contribute to the prevention and elimination of all forms of exploitation, violence, abuse and harassment, including in digital contexts, such as cyberbullying,

Stressing that countering cyberbullying should be based upon existing international legal obligations, including international human rights law, as well as relevant commitments, and should not encourage undue interference with an individual's human rights,

Mindful of the current lack of awareness of cyberbullying through the lens of disability and the importance of having relevant information in accessible formats, and reaffirming that efforts to counter cyberbullying against persons with disabilities must be focused on thoughtful, inclusive design and development and centred in the autonomy, choice and agency of persons with disabilities, including by implementing tailored, accessible resources and support services for them,

Recognizing that persons with certain forms of disability, in particular those with psychosocial or cognitive disabilities, may face further challenges in understanding appropriate online behaviour and interpreting the nuances of online communication and that, coupled with social stigma and taboos, this may reinforce broader trends of underreporting of cyberbullying among persons with and without disabilities,

Recognizing also the State's responsibility to protect persons with disabilities from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including the gender-based aspects thereof, and cyberbullying, and, to this end, to take all appropriate legislative administrative, social, educational and other measures,

Recalling that all business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, both online and offline, including by implementing human rights due diligence, and that the obligation and the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with the State,

Acknowledging the distinct and important roles that family members, legal guardians, caregivers, support staff, schools, civil society, sports associations, communities, State institutions and traditional and non-traditional media can play in contributing to securing the protection of persons with disabilities from the risks associated with bullying, including cyberbullying, by promoting the online safety of persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the need to empower children, including children with disabilities, with knowledge and skills in the digital environment through the development of their digital literacy and skills, as well as those of their parents or legal guardians, including by empowering children to report and seek help in responding to online threats in adequate ways, as well as raising their awareness of the risks of the misuse of information and communications technology,

Underlining the need for digital, media and information literacy, as well as the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge digital divides, including through partnerships, international cooperation and education, while striving to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to connect to and access the Internet in a safe, secure and meaningful way so as to enable their full cultural, economic, political and social participation in an inclusive information society,

Acknowledging that persons with disabilities are uniquely placed to offer effective solutions and responses to cyberbullying, and underlining that their participation and contributions, including their views and recommendations, therefore need to be at the centre of efforts to prevent and address cyberbullying and that their full, equal and meaningful participation is critical to a clear understanding of cyberbullying and its impact in order to address it effectively,

Recognizing the importance of prevention in ensuring safe online and information and communications technology environments for persons with disabilities, while protecting them against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their rights to privacy and freedom to seek, receive or impart information, their right to education, their right to take part in the conduct of public affairs and the freedoms of expression and of association, and recognizing also that prevention measures and approaches should include information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of cyberbullying, taking into account the nuances of online communication, in forms that are responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities,

Recognizing also that preventive measures should involve key actors, including Governments, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, families, civil society, industry, especially technology enterprises and those related to social media, schools,

academia, the competent authorities, including national independent monitoring mechanisms, relevant actors, community-based organizations and the general public,

Recognizing further that persons with disabilities exercising their right to education, including through the use of digital technologies, should not have their safety affected and should be protected from any violation or abuse of their right to privacy, and in this regard emphasizing that efforts to expand connectivity and digital learning and bridge the digital divides should give special regard to inclusion, the promotion of disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities, as well as the facilitation of peer support and mentoring and the provision of reasonable accommodation,

1. *Affirms* that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be protected, online and offline, with special regard for the rights of persons with disabilities;

2. *Acknowledges* the importance of ensuring appropriate safeguards and human oversight in the application of new and emerging digital technologies and of respecting and promoting human rights, including those of persons with disabilities, to guide relevant regulatory frameworks and legislation, and safeguards on the conception, design, use, development, further deployment and impact assessments of new and emerging digital technologies, while ensuring the meaningful participation of all stakeholders, including States, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and families, the private sector, in particular digital technology companies, academia and civil society organizations;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on countering cyberbullying against persons with disabilities,³⁷ and invites all stakeholders to consider the findings and recommendations contained in the report and their implementation;

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To continue to take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect persons with disabilities from all forms of discrimination, exploitation, violence and abuse, including in digital contexts, in particular cyberbullying, by promptly responding to it in a manner that complies with international human rights law, including the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and to provide appropriate support to victims affected by and involved in cyberbullying;

(b) To establish well-trained and well-resourced bodies in charge of preventing, countering and addressing the adverse effects of cyberbullying, or strengthen such units if they already exist, and to provide them with adequate financial support and capacity-building and specialist training opportunities;

(c) To promote inclusive, comprehensive and quality education and education opportunities for persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities, without discrimination of any kind, to foster, inter alia, digital literacy and the technical skills required to protect their privacy effectively;

(d) To continue to promote and invest in education and training, including human rights education, as a long-term and lifelong process through which everyone learns equality, non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance, inclusion and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring such respect in all societies, including in digital contexts;

(e) To expand, as appropriate, comprehensive training across social sectors on countering cyberbullying against persons with disabilities, including in workplaces, healthcare and law enforcement, as well as in schools and in care settings for children with disabilities;

(f) To generate and analyse statistical information and data disaggregated, where available at the national level, by gender, age, disability, race, socioeconomic status, national or ethnic origin and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, with regard to the

³⁷ [A/HRC/56/31](#).

problem of cyberbullying, as a basis upon which to elaborate and promote effective evidence-based public policies;

(g) To encourage and incentivize research on the impact of cyberbullying on persons with disabilities, the efficacy of interventions aimed at countering cyberbullying, the risks and impacts of cyberbullying faced by persons with disabilities and the intersectional risks and impacts;

(h) To integrate online protection into national policies to combat exploitation, violence and abuse and to adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, clear and comprehensive measures, including where relevant legislation, that are aimed at preventing and protecting persons with disabilities from cyberbullying;

(i) To support the provision of safe, child-, gender- and disability-sensitive counselling and reporting procedures and safeguards for the rights of affected persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, by considering, among other actions, the empowerment of a public authority to receive complaints regarding cases of cyberbullying and, where appropriate, to intercede with content hosts to request that the relevant material be promptly removed;

(j) To take specific actions to encourage and expand reporting of cyberbullying, including through effective education and training, and to ensure that reporting platforms and channels are accessible to all persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities;

(k) To encourage a clear and predictable legal and regulatory environment, which requires information and communications technology and other relevant industries to respect human rights, including those of persons with disabilities, by, among other actions, strengthening regulatory agencies' responsibility for the development of standards for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and, in partnership with relevant civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, providing guidance, as appropriate, to digital technology companies on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including the specific challenges that they face in mitigating and as a result of cyberbullying;

(l) To involve and provide persons with disabilities with the opportunity to inclusively and meaningfully participate in the development of initiatives to prevent and address cyberbullying, including available support services and safe, accessible, age- and child-sensitive, confidential and independent counselling and reporting mechanisms;

(m) To assist persons with disabilities in promoting inclusive and responsible digital behaviour and to inform them of available mental and physical health-care services and procedures in place to support them, where they exist, while encouraging the making of such support services available and accessible, including by providing reasonable accommodation, as appropriate;

(n) To adopt and implement sustained, inclusive and accessible non-formal and formal education programmes, including by expanding inclusive digital literacy initiatives to support the responsible use of digital spaces and self-protection of personal data, to raise public awareness of strategies to prevent and respond to cyberbullying against persons with disabilities and to expand awareness of the tools and resources available to support those who experience or witness cyberbullying;

(o) To continue to share national experiences and best practices for preventing and tackling cyberbullying and addressing its adverse effects;

5. *Recognizes* that the responsibility to respect the rights of persons with disabilities also applies to private actors and business enterprises, in particular private actors in the Internet sector that provide or operate services across domestic jurisdictions, and encourages them:

(a) To adhere to the highest available international standards for safety-, privacy- and security-by-design;

(b) To promote accessibility and inclusivity, in particular for persons with disabilities;

(c) To put in place mechanisms and channels available for the reporting of cyberbullying that are accessible to all persons with disabilities, as well as appropriate operational grievance mechanisms;

(d) To meaningfully engage with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including in the conduct of human rights due diligence, to understand their concerns around cyberbullying and the related barriers to their safe participation in digital spaces;

(e) To continue to take part in international multi-stakeholder efforts to raise awareness of and empower all persons with disabilities with regard to online risks, and to prevent and counter cyberbullying;

6. *Decides* to include the topic of countering cyberbullying against persons with disabilities in the context of its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, to be held at its fifty-eighth session;

7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report, and make it available in an accessible and Easy Read format, on countering cyberbullying against older persons, identifying recent trends and challenges, as well as applicable human rights principles, safeguards and best practices, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-second session;

8. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, when preparing the above-mentioned report, to closely cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, including States, international and regional organizations, relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations offices, agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, in particular older persons and their representative organizations, the private sector and academia;

9. *Requests* that the contributions to the report be submitted in an accessible format and that such stakeholder contributions and the report itself and an Easy Read of them be made available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner, in an accessible format, prior to the presentation to the Human Rights Council;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/7. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and the protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and of international law and with, inter alia, full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

Reaffirming the determination to work for the dignity and worth of the human person and for the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming also that everyone is entitled to a social, political, economic and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Reaffirming further the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good neighbourliness and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues and threats to international peace and security must be shared among States and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations as the most universal and representative international organization,

Concerned about the continued and systematic abuse by some States of the extraterritorial application of their national legislation in a manner that affects the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the full enjoyment of human rights,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and, in particular, respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as well as peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Reaffirming that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming also that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Affirming that the right of every State to take part in the conduct of international affairs is essential to the realization of a democratic and equitable international order,

Stressing the need for adequate financing and capacity-building for and technology transfer to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including to support their efforts to adapt to climate change and other challenges to development,

Reiterating the importance of a democratic and equitable international order for effectively and promptly addressing the current global challenges and crises, aggravated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order that fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

2. *Reiterates* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and reaffirms the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels;

3. *Reaffirms* that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, and the right to choose representatives freely through periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures;

4. *Calls upon* States and the United Nations system to minimize the adverse impact of multiple interrelated global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation, increased equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth, sustainable development, global communications, increased intercultural exchange and the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity;

5. *Reaffirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and pursue freely their economic, social and cultural development, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions;

(b) The right of peoples and States to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(c) The right of every human being and all peoples to development;

(d) The right of all peoples to peace;

(e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(f) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;

(g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principle of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(h) The right to the equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;

(i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the digital gap and inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(k) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

(l) The right of every human being and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responds effectively to the needs for assistance of national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promotes the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;

(m) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in international economic, commercial and financial relations;

(n) The enjoyment by human beings of ownership of the common heritage of humankind in connection to the public right of access to culture;

(o) The shared responsibility of States for managing worldwide economic and social development and addressing threats to international peace and security, which should be exercised multilaterally;

(p) The transformation of the international financial architecture and a comprehensive solution to the problem of foreign debt and the debt burden;

(q) The fulfilment of development financing commitments, including with regard to official development assistance, climate finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to contribute to national development efforts and to address the gaps and inequities between developed and developing countries;

6. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, and of respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

7. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity and mutual understanding, and the promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as on hate speech and supremacist ideologies;

8. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, and to that end should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control and to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries;

9. *Underlines* that attempts to overthrow legitimate Governments by force or other illegal means disrupt the democratic and constitutional order, the legitimate exercise of power and the full enjoyment of human rights;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, in order to correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, to make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between developed and developing countries and to ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;³⁸

12. *Reiterates* that renewed multilateralism, with a more effective and more inclusive approach, is essential in order to respond to current global challenges and crises, with people and respect for all human rights at the centre of this process, and stresses that such an endeavour necessitates the global leadership and the coordination of a robust and adequately funded United Nations, and the full commitment and sustained engagement of States, international financial institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society;

13. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in the discharge of his mandate, and to provide him with all the necessary information requested by him in order to enable him to fulfil his duties effectively;

14. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate by the Independent Expert;

15. *Invites* the Independent Expert, in accordance with his mandate, to study and present concrete measures that can be adopted by States and international institutions to contribute to the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and the transformation of the international financial architecture, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, academia, think tanks and research institutes, particularly the South Centre, and other relevant stakeholders from all regions;

³⁸ [A/HRC/57/49](#).

16. *Requests* the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions to its implementation;

17. *Requests* the Independent Expert to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with their programmes of work;

18. *Decides* to continue consideration of this matter under the same agenda item, in accordance with its programme of work.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 27 to 15, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, United States of America

Abstaining:

Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Paraguay]

57/8. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Human Rights on the subject, including Assembly resolution 64/151 of 18 December 2009 and Council resolutions 10/11 of 26 March 2009, 15/12 of 30 September 2010, 15/26 of 1 October 2010, 18/4 of 29 September 2011, 24/13 of 26 September 2013, 27/10 of 25 September 2014, 30/6 of 1 October 2015, 33/4 of 29 September 2016, 36/3 of 28 September 2017, 39/5 of 27 September 2018, 42/9 of 26 September 2019, 48/5 of 7 October 2021, 51/13 of 6 October 2022 and 54/3 of 11 October 2023,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, any State that permits or tolerates the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements is condemned, and recalling further relevant resolutions and international instruments adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the African Union and the Organization of African Unity, inter alia, the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

Reaffirming also that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, all peoples have the right to determine freely their political status and to pursue freely their economic, social

and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Extremely alarmed and concerned about the threat posed by the activities of mercenaries to peace and security in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and about the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the countries affected,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the policies and economies of affected countries resulting from international criminal mercenary activities, and their impact on the protection and enjoyment of all human rights,

Concerned about the threat of the misuse of new and emerging technologies, including digital technologies and financial instruments, as well as the use of social media and online crowdfunding platforms to organize, support and finance mercenaries and mercenary-related activities,

Reaffirming the need to refrain from undertaking any activities that threaten peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and constitute obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights,

Acknowledging that the increasing involvement of private military and security companies in humanitarian action poses concerns with regard to security, both as a public good and as a State function,

1. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries, and their recruitment, financing, arming, protection, transit and training, is a cause for grave concern to all States and violates the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Recognizes* that armed conflicts, terrorism, arms trafficking and covert operations by third Powers encourage, inter alia, the demand for mercenaries and for private military and security companies on the global market;

3. *Urges once again* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the threat posed by the activities of mercenaries, and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, and their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, arming, training, protection and transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right to self-determination, to overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or to impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the right of peoples to self-determination;

4. *Requests* all States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries;

5. *Also requests* all States to exercise the utmost vigilance in banning the use of private companies offering international military consultancy and security services when intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes;

6. *Calls upon* States to ensure that private military and security companies in their territory are required to operate under contractual obligations, monitoring and controls that comply with national laws and relevant international humanitarian and human rights obligations;

7. *Encourages* States that import the consultancy and security services provided by private companies, including in the extractive industries, to establish national regulatory mechanisms for the registering and licensing of those companies, for accountability of the companies and their personnel and for remedies for violations resulting from their activities in order to ensure that imported services provided by those private companies neither impede the enjoyment of human rights nor violate human rights in the recipient country;

8. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet become a party to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries to consider taking the necessary action to do so;

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that were visited by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, and the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

10. *Condemns* mercenary activities in any country, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of those countries, to the enjoyment of human rights and to the exercise of the right to self-determination of their peoples, and stresses the importance for the Working Group of looking into sources and root causes, and into the political motivations of mercenaries and for mercenary-related activities;

11. *Calls upon* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary and mercenary-related involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur, and to bring to trial those found responsible or to consider their extradition, if so requested, in accordance with national law and applicable bilateral or international treaties;

12. *Recognizes* that mercenary activity is a complex crime in which criminal responsibility falls upon those who have recruited, employed, trained, armed and financed the mercenary or mercenaries, and upon those who have planned and ordered their criminal activity;

13. *Condemns* any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing, arming and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without distinction, to justice;

14. *Calls upon* the international community and all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate with and assist the judicial prosecution of those accused of mercenary activities in transparent, open and fair trials;

15. *Notes* the work and contributions of the Working Group, and takes note of its most recent report;³⁹

16. *Encourages*, in that context, continued cooperation and dialogue in the interaction among the Working Group, Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including with regard to the use of sources of information, the verification of facts on the ground and the issuance of communications, among other aspects;

17. *Acknowledges* that the active involvement of private military and security companies in the humanitarian space may create additional risks, when safeguards and checks are not in place to prevent their excessive use of force, of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and undermines humanitarian principles;

18. *Requests* the Working Group and other experts to broaden their active participation, including by submitting contributions, in other subsidiary bodies of the Human Rights Council considering issues related to the use of mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations, including private military and security companies;

19. *Requests* the Working Group to continue the work already carried out by previous mandate holders on the strengthening of international law and the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing, arming and training of mercenaries, taking into account the proposal for a new legal definition of the term “mercenary” drafted by the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination in his report submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session,⁴⁰ and also

³⁹ [A/HRC/57/45](#).

⁴⁰ [E/CN.4/2004/15](#).

the evolving phenomenon of mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations;

20. *Also requests* in this regard the Working Group to continue to monitor mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations, both offline and online, in all parts of the world, including instances of protection and financing provided by Governments to individuals involved in mercenary activities, and to continue to update the database of individuals convicted of mercenary activities;

21. *Further requests* the Working Group to continue to study and identify new sources and causes, emerging issues, manifestations and trends with regard to mercenaries and mercenary-related activities, offline and online, and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination, and to consult in this regard with Member States and regional and international organizations, academia and civil society, as well as with other relevant stakeholders;

22. *Urges* all States and other stakeholders to cooperate fully with the Working Group in the fulfilment of its mandate;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Working Group with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, both professional and financial, including by promoting cooperation between the Working Group and other components of the United Nations system that deal with countering mercenary-related activities, in order to meet the demands of its current and future activities;

24. *Requests* the Working Group to consult States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant civil society actors in the implementation of the present resolution, and to continue to report its findings on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work;

25. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item at its sixtieth session.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 14, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Paraguay]

57/9. Social reintegration of persons released from detention and persons subjected to non-custodial measures

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Underscoring the fact that article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights emphasizes that the essential aim of a penitentiary system's treatment of prisoners is the reformation and social rehabilitation of persons released from detention,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, particularly Council resolution 53/27 of 14 July 2023 on the elimination of violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in criminal justice detention,

Highlighting the importance of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty (the Havana Rules), the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (the Méndez Principles), the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment and the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,

Noting with appreciation the important work in the field of the administration of justice carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and recognizing the need to create relevant synergies in their respective work to enhance the multiple human rights dimensions of the social reintegration of persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures,

Stressing that social reintegration refers to the successful re-entry into society of a person who was subjected to a sanction involving deprivation of liberty or to non-custodial measures, so that the person can lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life with dignity, access to opportunities and enjoyment of human rights, without discrimination of any kind,

Emphasizing that the primary goal of the administration of justice with respect to incarceration and non-custodial measures should be the eventual social reintegration of persons subjected to these measures, and recognizing the relevance of social reintegration for the full realization of their human rights, as well as for the rule of law, sustainable development and public health and security,

Concerned that persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures often face significant barriers to social reintegration and the enjoyment of their human rights, including in housing, food, health, education, work and social security and political participation, as well as barriers in their access to government assistance, and that these barriers to reintegration can be compounded for women, children and adolescents, persons belonging to racial, national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, persons of African descent and those in vulnerable or marginalized situations,

Deeply concerned that women and girls do not receive adequate or any gender- and age-responsive and trauma-informed rehabilitation programmes in criminal justice detention or pre- and post-release reintegration programmes, such as mental health and drug treatment, quality education or vocational training, and that low social and economic status in society and stigmatization from their community and families may hinder reintegration and lead to recidivism,

Recognizing the need for specific guidance to States and all relevant stakeholders on the social reintegration of persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures, and recognizing also that the social reintegration of these persons requires the design and implementation of effective programmes that take into account human rights and individual assessments of their unique needs and risks,

Welcoming the efforts made by States to promote the social reintegration of persons released from detention and persons subjected to non-custodial measures, and emphasizing that successful reintegration requires collaboration efforts between Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, families and survivors of crime, while expressing concern that the responsibility for assisting these persons often falls disproportionately on non-governmental organizations and families,

Noting with appreciation that the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted at the fourteenth United National Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, highlights the importance of promoting a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate social reintegration, and that social reintegration can contribute to a reduction in recidivism,

1. *Highlights* the challenges that persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures face in their social reintegration and the need to address those relating to the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination, including the rights to life, to freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to freedom from slavery and forced labour, to equality before the law and equal protection of the law, to equal pay for equal work, to an adequate standard of living, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to education, and unlawful restrictions to the rights to participate in political and public life, to privacy and to work;

2. *Appreciates* the need to engage with all stakeholders, alongside persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures, to prevent and eliminate unlawful forms of discrimination, as well as violence and harassment against them, and to address the negative social norms, stereotypes, stigma, economic and social inequities and systemic racism and discrimination that limit the full enjoyment of their human rights, perpetuate societal exclusion and hinder their social reintegration;

3. *Encourages* States to review and, as appropriate, modify legislation, policies and programmes, and to establish clear policies and regulations, on the conduct of criminal justice and community-based programming personnel, to protect persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures from stigmatization, discrimination and all forms of violence, to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights and to facilitate and promote their successful social reintegration and ability to participate meaningfully in and contribute to society;

4. *Invites* States to facilitate proactively the social reintegration of persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures in accordance with their human rights obligations and commitments by considering, inter alia:

(a) Initiating support for social reintegration throughout all stages of the administration of justice, including during the administration of non-custodial measures and post-release;

(b) Promoting the design and implementation of effective social reintegration programmes based on an assessment of the needs and risks of persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures, understanding that individuals may require re-evaluation throughout the course of their reintegration;

(c) Designing and implementing comprehensive pre- and post-release social reintegration programmes, including gender-, age- and disability-specific programmes that take into account the specific needs of persons in vulnerable situations, aimed at ensuring a fully supported transition from custodial to community-based services and streamlined access to basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, medical care and mental health services, as well as substance misuse treatment, and ensuring that information on such reintegration programmes is easily accessible;

(d) Developing programmes that provide persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures with ongoing access to community-based vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them in developing the necessary skills for long-term social reintegration, and provide necessary support in securing safe, dignified and gainful work;

(e) Promoting a restorative and rehabilitative approach to social reintegration, such as by educating the public through de-stigmatization campaigns and, when appropriate, victim-offender mediation and family counselling, and promoting community involvement, with due regard to the protection of society and individuals;

(f) Facilitating, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, restorative justice processes at relevant stages of the criminal justice system and in the community to assist victims and to reintegrate persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures, and to uphold human rights and prevent crime and recidivism;

(g) Introducing, where possible, appropriate alternatives to traditional incarceration, including small-scale detention centres, while prioritizing non-custodial measures and utilizing options such as conditional release, home leave and community-based programmes and services to ease the transition to liberty, reduce stigma and discrimination and restore relations between those released from detention and their families and communities;

(h) Encouraging the active participation of the private sector in promoting social reintegration and respecting the human rights of persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures by providing opportunities for sustainable employment, as well as social inclusion programmes and employability schemes, including in jobs in support of sustainable development;

(i) Ensuring appropriate education, including trauma-informed education and training for officials on social reintegration, such as for law enforcement personnel, prison authorities, parole and probation officers, social workers and healthcare providers;

(j) Promoting and supporting multi-stakeholder partnerships by fostering coordination among relevant government authorities at all levels, and public-private partnerships between those authorities and the communities;

(k) Sharing best practices and exchanging information on relevant social reintegration policies and programmes and relevant public-private partnerships;

5. *Emphasizes* the benefits of social reintegration in the full enjoyment of human rights for all, the improvement of public health and security, sustainable development, crime prevention and the rule of law;

6. *Welcomes* existing and emerging programmes and best practices by States with regard to social reintegration, particularly those with a human rights-based approach, and expresses its appreciation for the requests made by interested States for further guidance on the issue;

7. *Urges* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to greater government efforts and international cooperation in the design and implementation of regulations, policies and programmes of social reintegration of persons released from detention or subjected to non-custodial measures and to the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant data, including data disaggregated by ethnicity, income, sex, age, race, disability, geographical location or other factors, on the extent, nature and consequences of social reintegration of these persons and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating discrimination, and their ability to enjoy their human rights;

8. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a comprehensive study, with practical recommendations, on human rights and the social reintegration of persons released from detention and persons subjected to non-custodial measures, with a view to assessing the benefits of further developing guiding principles, based on wide consultations with key stakeholders, including States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Office

on Drugs and Crime, the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, national human rights institutions, human rights defenders, civil society organizations, academia, criminal justice organizations, persons released from detention with lived experience, and survivors of crime, and to present the study, accessible to persons with disabilities, including in an accessible and easy-to-read format, to the Council at its sixtieth session;

9. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including the special procedures, the treaty bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to establish or strengthen their work relating to the promotion, protection and respect of human rights in the context of social reintegration of persons released from detention and those subjected to non-custodial measures;

10. *Requests* that all necessary financial, technical and logistic support required for the implementation of the present resolution be provided;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/10. World Programme for Human Rights Education: the plan of action for the fifth phase

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as stipulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in other international human rights instruments, States are duty-bound to ensure that education is aimed at strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/113 A of 10 December 2004, in which the Assembly proclaimed the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly decided, inter alia, that the Human Rights Council should promote human rights education and learning, as well as advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of Member States concerned,

Reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/137 of 19 December 2011, in which the Assembly declared that human rights education and training should embrace and enrich, as well as draw inspiration from, the diversity of civilizations, religions, cultures and traditions of different countries, as it is reflected in the universality of human rights,

Recalling its resolutions on the World Programme for Human Rights Education,

Recalling also that the World Programme is an ongoing initiative, structured in consecutive phases, to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes, and that States should continue the implementation of previous phases while taking the measures necessary to implement the current phase,

Recognizing that the World Programme focused in its first phase on the integration of human rights education into the primary and secondary school systems, in its second phase on human rights education in higher education and human rights training for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel, in its third phase on furthering the implementation of the first two phases and on promoting human rights training for media professionals and journalists, and in its fourth phase, on youth, aligning that phase with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically with target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, while strengthening all previous phases of the World Programme,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 54/7 of 11 October 2023, in which the Council decided that the fifth phase of the World Programme would continue to focus on youth, while expanding to include children as priority sectors, with special emphasis on human rights and digital technologies, the environment and climate change, and gender equality, and to align the fifth phase with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically with target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the synergies between the different concepts and educational methods mentioned therein, and requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a plan of action for the fifth phase,

1. *Acknowledges* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in preparing the plan of action for the fifth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2025–2029), in consultation with States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society and youth;

2. *Reaffirms* the continuation of the World Programme on Human Rights Education and launches its fifth phase, for the period 2025–2029, taking into account the plans of action as guidance documents for States and other relevant stakeholders in crafting human rights education strategies and programmes;

3. *Encourages* States and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement human rights education initiatives, within their capabilities and in line with national needs and priorities, during the fifth phase;

4. *Encourages* States to submit on a voluntary basis a midterm progress report and a final national evaluation report on the implementation of the fifth phase to the Office of the High Commissioner, as specified in the plan of action;

5. *Encourages* States and relevant stakeholders, during the fifth phase of the World Programme, to continue and further strengthen efforts to advance also the implementation of the four previous phases;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, to promote the national implementation of the plan of action, to provide technical assistance when requested and to coordinate related international efforts;

7. *Appeals* to relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, and to all other international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, within their respective mandates, to promote and provide technical assistance when requested for the national implementation of the plan of action;

8. *Encourages* all national human rights institutions to assist in the implementation of human rights education programmes, in accordance with the plan of action;

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to disseminate the plan of action widely among States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society;

10. *Reminds* States of the need to prepare and submit on a voluntary basis their national evaluation reports on the fourth phase of the World Programme to the Office of the High Commissioner by April 2025;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to submit a final report on the implementation of the fourth phase of the World Programme, based on national evaluation reports, to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session;

12. *Decides* to follow up on the implementation of the fifth phase of the World Programme in 2027, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare, from within existing resources, a midterm progress report, in easy-to-read accessible format, on the implementation of the fifth phase of the World Programme and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-sixth session;

13. *Also decides* to convene at its sixty-third session a high-level panel discussion to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training on the theme “The fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward”, further decides that the discussion will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report of the discussion and to submit it to the Human Rights Council by its sixty-fourth session.

46th meeting
9 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/11. Terrorism and human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning human rights and terrorism, the most recent being Assembly resolutions 72/129 of 8 December 2017, 72/165 of 19 December 2017, 72/180 of 19 December 2017, 72/246 of 24 December 2017, 73/174 of 17 December 2018, 73/305 of 28 June 2019, 74/147 of 18 December 2019, 76/169 of 16 December 2021 and 78/210 of 19 December 2023, and reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions 34/8 of 23 March 2017, 35/34 of 24 June 2017, 37/27 of 23 March 2018, 40/16 of 22 March 2019, 42/18 of 26 September 2019, 45/11 of 6 October 2020, 49/10 of 31 March 2022 and 51/24 of 7 October 2022,

Emphasizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism complies with international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming also the obligation of States to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the fundamental importance of respecting the rule of law,

Reaffirming further its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, and of the financial, material or political support of terrorism as unjustifiable in accordance with applicable international law,

Recognizing that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism have a detrimental effect on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, impede the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, destroy lives, family ties and the fabric of communities, sow fear in individuals and communities and demolish livelihoods and whole economies, and pose a threat to the territorial integrity and security of States, the stability of Governments, the rule of law and democracy and, ultimately, to the functioning of societies and international peace and security,

Recognizing also that an approach that fully respects human rights and the rule of law is the only effective way to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism,

Emphasizing that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and that tolerance, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among people, including at the national, regional and global levels, while combating the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in the promotion of cooperation and success in preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to that end,

Reaffirming that the promotion and the protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming also its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, in which the Assembly reaffirmed, inter alia, respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as being the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, and recalling the eighth biennial review of the Strategy as adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 77/298 of 22 June 2023,

Deploing attacks on religious places and shrines and cultural sites in violation of international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, including all deliberate destruction of relics, monuments or religious sites,

Expressing concern at the impact that terrorist attacks against vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and public places (“soft targets”), such as health, education and religious facilities, has on the effective enjoyment of all human rights,

Deeply deploring the suffering caused by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism to the victims and their families while stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism, thereby advancing an approach that fully respects their human rights, in particular those of women and children who are victims of terrorism, reaffirming its profound solidarity with them and stressing the importance of providing them with proper support, assistance and effective remedies and reparations while respecting, inter alia, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, accountability, truth and justice, in accordance with international law,

Strongly condemning all violations committed while countering terrorism and abuses committed by terrorist groups against women and girls, including killing, maiming, abduction, trafficking, forced marriage, harassment and rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and stressing the importance of holding the perpetrators of such violations accountable,

Strongly condemning also all violations committed while countering terrorism and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children, and strongly condemning further the recruitment and use of children to perpetrate terrorist attacks, and all violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children, including trafficking, killing, maiming, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and noting that such violations and abuses may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity,

Expressing its grave concern at the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and at the threat it poses to all States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, and encouraging all States to address this threat by enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures to tackle this phenomenon, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Recognizing that countering terrorism requires a comprehensive approach and a multidimensional strategy to tackle the factors underlying and conditions conducive to terrorism,

Conscious that there are a number of drivers underlying and conditions conducive to radicalization to terrorism, and that development based on the principles of social justice, inclusion and equal opportunities can contribute to the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to the promotion of inclusive, open and resilient societies, notably through education, and affirming the determination of States to work towards conflict resolution, to confront oppression, to eradicate poverty, to promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and the rule of law, to improve intercultural understanding and to promote respect for all,

Renewing the unwavering commitment of States to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism in addressing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims of terrorism and alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

1. *Strongly condemns* all terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable, and expresses grave concern at their detrimental effects on the enjoyment of all human rights;

2. *Stresses* the responsibility of States to protect persons in their territory against terrorist acts, in full compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

3. *Urges* States to establish or strengthen national, regional and international partnerships with stakeholders, both public and private, as appropriate, to share information and experience in order to prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, in accordance with international law;

4. *Calls upon* States to ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism complies with international law, in particular human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

5. *Also calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, including through investigation, information exchange, in accordance with international law, and cooperation, and emphasizes the need to develop a comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon to guide counter-terrorism efforts in a way that ensures respect for and the promotion and protection of human rights for all while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

6. *Further calls upon* States to ensure that no transfer or return of suspects of terrorist activities or other national security offences is carried out to countries where there are substantial grounds for believing that those suspects would be in danger of being subjected to torture;

7. *Stresses* that all measures used in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including the profiling of individuals and the use of diplomatic assurances, memorandums of understanding and other transfer agreements or arrangements, must be in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

8. *Condemns* the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of international refugee law and international humanitarian law in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

9. *Reaffirms* its profound solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families, and the work done by civil society organizations for victims of terrorism, acknowledges the importance of protecting the human rights of victims and of providing

them with legally based and sufficiently resourced support, assistance and rehabilitation, and recognizes the role that victims of terrorism can play, while taking into account, when appropriate, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, justice, truth and reparations in such a way that promotes accountability and ends impunity, and encourages the enhancement of international cooperation and the exchange of expertise in that respect, in accordance with international law;

10. *Encourages* all States to develop comprehensive assistance plans for victims of terrorism and their families, consistent with domestic law and national capacities and capabilities, to address the immediate, short-term and long-term needs of victims of terrorism and their families, with regard to their relief and rehabilitation;

11. *Recognizes* the work done and efforts made by the relevant United Nations bodies and entities and other international, regional and subregional organizations aimed at supporting, recognizing and protecting the rights of victims, as well as their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims;

12. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, and encourages Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, within their respective mandates, to continue to raise awareness about victims of terrorism and the promotion and protection of their rights, including in the criminal justice process, to further strengthen the capacity of States to assist victims of terrorism and to strengthen their engagement with relevant civil society and private sector organizations, which can play a valuable role in assisting and supporting victims of terrorism;

13. *Notes with concern* the measures that undermine human rights and the rule of law, such as the detention of persons suspected of acts of terrorism in the absence of a legal basis for detention and due process guarantees, the use of torture and the unlawful deprivation of the right to life and other human rights and fundamental freedoms, and urges States to review the grounds of detention and to respect the rights to equality and non-discrimination in the administration of justice and to a fair trial, as provided for by international law, including international human rights law, and, as applicable, international humanitarian law and international refugee law;

14. *Emphasizes* that States should ensure that domestic laws and practices related to counter-terrorism measures respect the principle of non-discrimination, including by repealing the proscription and listing of organizations and individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or political opinion, by reviewing laws on the deprivation of nationality, including the foreseeable grounds for deprivation and adequate procedural safeguards, in accordance with international law, and by ensuring that terrorism and related offences are narrowly defined and meet the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality;

15. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to respect certain rights as non-derogable under any circumstances, recalls, with regard to all other Covenant rights, that any measures derogating from the provisions of the Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, underlines the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations, and in this regard calls upon States to raise awareness about the importance of these obligations among national authorities involved in combating terrorism;

16. *Urges* all States to respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication, calls upon States, while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, to review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law, and urges them to take measures to ensure that any interference with the right to privacy is regulated by law, which must be publicly accessible, clear, precise, comprehensive and non-discriminatory, and that such interference is consistent with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and to comply with their obligations under international law;

17. *Emphasizes* the key importance of the full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression in efforts to fight terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and also in countering the propaganda of terrorist and extremist groups, in line with the provisions set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

18. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring access to justice and accountability, and calls upon States to ensure that any person who alleges that their human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated by measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism has access to justice, due process and an effective remedy, and that victims of human rights violations and abuses receive adequate, effective and prompt remedy and reparations, which should include, as appropriate, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

19. *Also stresses* the importance of developing and maintaining effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in a manner that fully respects the rights to equality and non-discrimination in the administration of justice, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, to access to independent and adequate legal representation, to a review of detention and to the presumption of innocence and other fundamental judicial guarantees, in accordance with relevant obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law;

20. *Urges* States to ensure that measures taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are not discriminatory, and not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on ethnic, racial or religious grounds or any other grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and requests States to consider the impact of counter-terrorism strategies on women's and children's enjoyment of human rights and to seek consultations with their representative organizations when developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

22. *Urges* States to take measures to ensure that counter-terrorism laws and implementing measures are consistent with, and are applied in a manner that fully respects the rights enshrined in, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under international human rights law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to ensuring respect for the principles of legal certainty and legality;

23. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including through technical cooperation, capacity-building and the exchange of information and intelligence on countering terrorism, and in that regard calls upon States and relevant regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars;

24. *Urges* States to ensure that gender equality and non-discrimination are taken into account when shaping, reviewing and implementing all counter-terrorism measures, to highlight the important role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to promote their full and effective participation, and to consider ways in which women, youth and children experience the impact of counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism in law and practice, in active societal and inclusive consultations;

25. *Strongly condemns* terrorist acts and all acts of violence committed by terrorist groups, including trafficking in persons, kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions, and the continued systematic and widespread abuses of human rights perpetrated by such groups, and calls upon all States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payment and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, while noting the initiatives in this

regard, including the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists;

26. *Urges* States to do all they can, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prevent any political, material or financial support from reaching terrorist groups, to deny terrorists safe haven, freedom of operation, movement and recruitment, to criminalize the wilful provision or collection by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, by terrorist groups for any purpose, and to bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates, or attempts to participate, in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;

27. *Also urges* States to prohibit and criminalize the recruitment and use of children, including by terrorist groups, to investigate cases of exploitation of children and to bring perpetrators to justice;

28. *Further urges* States to ensure that children associated, or allegedly associated, with armed groups or terrorist groups are treated primarily as victims, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to consider non-judicial measures as alternatives to prosecution and alternatives to detention for those accused of crimes, as stipulated in relevant General Assembly resolutions relating to juvenile justice, and to take measures that are focused on rehabilitation and reintegration in an environment that fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child, in accordance with relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

29. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 of 24 March 2011 and its follow-up resolutions, the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief, and calls for their effective implementation by the international community in order to contribute to an environment more conducive to countering the messages of extremist groups attempting to justify violence, including through ethnic or religious stigmatization and discrimination;

30. *Requests* States to refrain from providing support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including support in establishing propaganda platforms advocating hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including through the Internet and other media, reiterates that information and communications technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including by promoting human rights, peace, tolerance, pluralism and dialogue among peoples, and emphasizes in this regard the key importance of the full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

31. *Urges* States to adopt rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters in accordance with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and good practices, such as those set out in the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and to adopt a comprehensive approach that includes, inter alia, the development of national centres for counsel and the prevention of radicalization to violence, which can play an important role together with criminal justice responses;

32. *Strongly encourages* relevant United Nations agencies, including those involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, to take into account in their technical assistance with regard to counter-terrorism efforts, whenever appropriate, the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law, and to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, due process and the rule of law while countering terrorism;

33. *Urges* States and the international community and encourages civil society to take measures, as appropriate, including through education, awareness-raising, the media and human rights education and training, to promote peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures, and to effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and that make individuals and groups more vulnerable to the effects of terrorism and to recruitment by terrorists;

34. *Emphasizes* that mutual respect, tolerance, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding, and combating intolerance, discrimination and hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on the basis of religion or belief, or any other basis, including at the national, regional or global levels, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the various initiatives to that end;

35. *Recognizes* the important role of media, civil society, religious leaders and institutions, the private sector, local communities and community leaders in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

36. *Acknowledges* that the active participation of civil society can strengthen ongoing governmental efforts to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and to assess the impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, and calls upon States to ensure that measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to preserve national security do not hinder their work and safety and are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

37. *Invites* all treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, international and regional human rights mechanisms and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, to pay due attention to the negative impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and on alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to report regularly to the Human Rights Council;

38. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to pay attention to the negative effect of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to make recommendations in this regard;

39. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

47th meeting
10 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/12. Local government and human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 24/2 of 26 September 2013, 27/4 of 25 September 2014, 33/8 of 29 September 2016, 39/7 of 27 September 2018, 45/7 of 6 October 2020 and 51/12 of 6 October 2022 on local government and human rights, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 70/1 of 25 September 2015, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and States' commitments to working tirelessly

for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 at all levels, 71/256 of 23 December 2016, on the New Urban Agenda, and 78/1 of 29 September 2023, on the Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, in which States committed to, inter alia, enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development and to further localize the Sustainable Development Goals and advance integrated planning and implementation at the local level,

Noting the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Cairo from 4 to 8 November 2024, under the theme “It all starts at home: local action for sustainable cities and communities”,

Underscoring the significant contribution that local governments make to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, including with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, as key actors in localizing the commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda, including through self-assessments, regional and international networks and local strategies,

Bearing in mind that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible, balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and are aimed at realizing the human rights of all and at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Bearing in mind also that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments,

Recognizing the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, without any prejudice to the primary responsibility of the national Government in this regard,

Recognizing also that local government has different forms and functions in every State, in accordance with the constitutional and legal system of the State concerned,

Recognizing further that, given its proximity to people, its knowledge of the local needs and priorities and being at the grass-roots level, one of the important functions of local government is to provide public services that address local needs and priorities related to the realization of human rights at the local level, and recognizing the benefits of enhanced dialogue and cooperation towards this end between States, local governments, civil society and other local stakeholders, including in promoting knowledge of human rights and serving as a catalyst for human rights progress at the local level,

Acknowledging the role of local government in preventing and reducing inequalities and protecting persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations from discrimination by developing and implementing, in a manner that is consistent with the constitutional frameworks of States, local laws, policies and programmes, such as action plans, human rights impact assessments and mechanisms for monitoring human rights strategies that are based on States’ obligations under international human rights law,

Bearing in mind that State authorities at all levels should be guided by the following non-exhaustive principles to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights at the local level: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; equality and non-discrimination; participation and inclusion; and accountability and the rule of law,

Noting with concern that local governments may face a variety of challenges in fulfilling their role for the promotion and realization of human rights, owing to, among other things, a lack of resources and cooperation between national and local government, awareness and a framework for their work on human rights,

Acknowledging that taking a whole-of-government approach and a whole-of-society approach is conducive to ensuring respect for and protection and fulfilment of human rights at all levels, and in this regard emphasizing the need for greater clarity in the distribution of responsibilities and strengthened institutional cooperation and coordination between national

and local governments to implement international human rights obligations effectively at all levels of the State,

Underlining that the promotion of a human rights culture within public services and public servants' knowledge, training and awareness play a vital role in promoting respect for and the realization of human rights in society, and stressing the importance in this regard of human rights education and training for public servants at the local government level,

Underlining also that enhanced efforts are needed to build the capacity of local government officials and local actors with respect to the promotion of human rights and their understanding of the work of regional and international human rights mechanisms, including on ways to incorporate human rights protection into all levels of governance through targeted programmes, which may include training, awareness-raising and the provision of guidance tools,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 51/12,⁴¹ and welcoming the fact that, in the report, the Office highlighted the ongoing need for enhanced capacity-building and guidance to support local governments in implementing human rights in their operations and strengthening engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and bodies,

Underlining the importance of the collection and exchange of ideas and good practices, between and among national and local governments, to enrich the understanding of local needs and realities, identify and raise awareness of best practices and improve dialogue and coordination between different levels of government,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among different United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, in assisting and providing guidance to local governments in incorporating human rights into all their work, in a manner that is consistent with the constitutional frameworks of States,

Recognizing the benefits of the potential support that national human rights institutions and national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, where they exist, as well as academic institutions and civil society, can provide to local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights at the local level, including by providing training and recommendations to support policymaking,

Underscoring the importance of data collection and disaggregation for a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced in promoting and protecting human rights at the local level,

Emphasizing that protecting civic space and providing an enabling environment for civil society participation are essential to promote and protect human rights and to ensure the effectiveness, transparency, accountability and sustainability of the work of local governments, while recognizing that States and local governments should take appropriate action to empower, including through capacity-building, civil society representatives to exercise the right to participate in public affairs effectively and to engage meaningfully with local governments on human rights issues, while respecting the local and national legal frameworks,

Noting relevant international and regional initiatives to promote human rights at the local level and the role of local governments in the implementation of such initiatives,

Noting also that local governments are increasingly connected with the United Nations system and regional organizations, in particular with their human rights mechanisms, including through the universal periodic review, the treaty bodies and the special procedures and forums mandated by the Human Rights Council,

Recognizing the constructive role of local governments in and their contribution to the strengthening of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and encouraging their continued participation in and contribution to these mechanisms,

⁴¹ [A/HRC/56/32](#).

Taking note of the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights, in which he encouraged the full use of international human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review, the treaty bodies and the special procedures, to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, inter alia, with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly at the national and local levels,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda", in which the Secretary-General recognized the role of local governments in a more inclusive multilateralism, which included voluntary local reviews of Sustainable Development Goals implementation providing a model on which to build,

Recalling also the adoption of the Pact for the Future by the General Assembly by its resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, in which States Members of the United Nations requested the Secretary-General to provide recommendations on how engagement with local and regional authorities could advance the 2030 Agenda, particularly the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, by the end of the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, for Member States' consideration,

Noting that voluntary local reviews that take into account, where relevant, the role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights are good opportunities to take stock of progress made and the remaining gaps and challenges,

Recognizing the benefits that the digitalization of cities, when adequate human rights safeguards are in place, brings to the promotion and protection of human rights at the local level, including by strengthening the accessibility, availability and quality of public services, strengthening democratic institutions and empowering civic engagement, while also recognizing the need to address its potential risks to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the serious risks arising from the scale and quality of the collection and processing of data, often relating to personal data, as well as its potential to exacerbate discrimination and digital divides, including the gender digital divide,

Recognizing also the need for local governments, within their respective responsibilities and capacities under domestic legal frameworks, to develop, deploy and use new and emerging digital technologies in the context of the digitalization of cities in a manner that effectively respects, promotes, protects and fulfils the human rights of its inhabitants, with a view to realizing a vision wherein the rights of individuals are at the centre of schemes for such digitalization, and stressing the importance of sharing of best practices and multi-stakeholder cooperation towards this end,

1. *Encourages* States and local governments to enhance coordination and cooperation in developing and implementing laws, policies and guidelines that incorporate human rights promotion and protection into local governance, including those related to awareness-raising and capacity-building, taking into account the local needs and priorities in the delivery of public services and disparities among local governments in their capacity or resources to implement human rights obligations;

2. *Also encourages* States and local governments to collect, disaggregate and analyse data on the local human rights situation, with the aim of adopting evidence-based laws, policies and programmes;

3. *Encourages* States to provide local governments with adequate financial resources and technical capacities to fulfil their human rights responsibilities and strengthen cooperation in the distribution and allocation of such resources;

4. *Also encourages* States to promote the engagement of local governments in the work of regional and international human rights mechanisms and in implementing relevant recommendations, including in the preparation of State submissions for the universal periodic review and in follow-up thereto, in reviews by the treaty bodies of the reports of States parties and in the work of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in particular during country visits;

5. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society representatives and other stakeholders to cooperate with local governments, as well as with each other, to support them, including through capacity-building, in discharging their human rights responsibilities and engaging in the work of regional and international human rights mechanisms;

6. *Encourages* local governments to ensure the participation of local stakeholders in local government activities and in public affairs and an enabling, inclusive, accessible and safe environment for civil society participation and to promote interaction and exchanges of knowledge with local stakeholders, including local civil society, in the formulation and implementation of local government programmes in efforts to promote and protect human rights at the local level;

7. *Also encourages* local governments, in cooperation with their national Governments, to guarantee protection against discrimination and equal access to political participation at the local level, especially for women;

8. *Calls upon* local governments, in the development and operation of schemes for the digitalization of cities, including smart city projects, within their respective responsibilities and capacities under domestic legal frameworks:

(a) To implement adequate human rights safeguards, such as robust data protection and cybersecurity frameworks, and promote technical solutions to secure and protect the confidentiality of digital communications and transactions;

(b) To ensure that data used in the training of algorithms for the delivery of public services, including those related to decision-making, are accurate, relevant and representative, gathered in a manner that respects human rights and audited against encoded bias;

(c) To take effective measures to ensure that everyone has equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to public services provided by local governments, including by assessing the human rights impact of such schemes on public service delivery and appropriately addressing them in their design, development, deployment and use, as well as fostering, as appropriate, the digital literacy and skills of individuals necessary to take full advantage of these digitalized services;

(d) To take measures, as appropriate, to provide relevant technical assistance and capacity-building for local government officials involved in such schemes, including on the relevant obligations of States under international human rights law and the human rights impacts of the development, deployment and use of digital technologies in the context of the digitalization of cities;

9. *Encourages* local governments, within their respective responsibilities and capacities under domestic legal frameworks, to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders in decisions related to the development and operation of schemes for the digitalization of cities, including smart city projects, and to strengthen related international cooperation and the sharing of best practices on the better utilization of new and emerging digital technologies to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the context of the digitalization of cities;

10. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene a one-day panel discussion, in a hybrid format and fully accessible to persons with disabilities, prior to the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council, to exchange and review the best practices of States, local governments and other relevant stakeholders in overcoming the various challenges that local governments face in promoting and protecting human rights, including those related to better coordination and cooperation between national and local governments, human rights education and capacity-building for local government officials and supporting better engagement of local governments in the work of United Nations human rights mechanisms, and invites States, local governments from all regional groups of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme and other

United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and city networks, as well as relevant international organizations, to actively contribute to the panel discussion;

11. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report, including in an accessible and easy-to-read format, in which it compiles and analyses the best practices of States, local governments and other relevant stakeholders in overcoming the various challenges that local governments face in promoting and protecting human rights, including those related to better coordination and cooperation between national and local governments, human rights education and capacity-building for local government officials and supporting better engagement of local governments in the work of United Nations human rights mechanisms, identifying lessons learned and outlining concrete recommendations for States and local governments, taking into account the results of the panel discussion to be convened before the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council, and to present the report to the Council at its sixty-third session;

12. *Further requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, when preparing the above-mentioned panel discussion and report, to seek input from States and local governments from all regional groups of the United Nations, relevant intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, relevant special procedures, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and civil society representatives, including relevant local government networks and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to continue to support local governments, upon request, in discharging their human rights responsibilities, including by providing guidance and capacity-building, and to continue its research on local government and human rights, including on good practices, key challenges and principles to guide local and national governments in the promotion of human rights;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*47th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/13. The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which it is reaffirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, that human rights must be treated globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that it is the duty of States to promote and protect all human rights, and in which the right to development is also reaffirmed,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, resolution 51/19 of 6 October 2022,

Recalling all previous General Assembly resolutions on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, in particular resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010, in which the Assembly recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human

right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and resolution 78/206 of 19 December 2023,

Recalling also that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation that are derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and are inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity,

Recalling further the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome documents of its review conferences, reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasions of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and underlining the need to further strengthen their implementation,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, for the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, ensuring that no one is left behind, while referring in particular to Sustainable Development Goal 6, on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, which reflects the interlinkages between achieving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual health and hygiene, while also striving to improve the quality and safety of water, reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity, implement integrated water resource management at all levels, protect and restore water-related ecosystems and ensure special attention is paid to the needs and rights of all women and girls,

Recalling all Human Rights Council resolutions on climate change and human rights and on human rights and the environment, including Council resolution 48/13 of 8 October 2021, as well as General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022, both entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 56/11 of 11 July 2024 on menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality,

Recalling further that, 14 years after the recognition of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and nine years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrated approaches that support the practical realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, in particular by tackling inequalities and ensuring that special attention is paid to the needs and rights of all women and girls, are more pertinent than ever before,

Welcoming the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, taking note with appreciation of his report entitled “Water and economy nexus: managing water for productive uses from a human rights perspective”,⁴² and encouraging all States to consider the recommendations contained therein,

Concerned about the increase in costs for drinking water and sanitation services, which may affect the full realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, and in this regard affirming that drinking water and water facilities and services should be both physically and economically accessible to everyone, without discrimination,

Welcoming the holding of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, held in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, and taking note with appreciation of the summary of proceedings of the Conference prepared by the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, as requested by the General Assembly in its

⁴² [A/HRC/57/48](#).

resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 and launched in the context of the 2024 session of the high-level political forum for sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and the UN-Water road map for the integration of human rights into water and sanitation, as key for the inclusion of human rights and the voices and needs of rights holders in the United Nations,

Welcoming also the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/334 in order to enhance the coordination and delivery of water priorities across the United Nations system and in this context to place particular emphasis on the water-related needs of developing countries related to the human rights to water and sanitation,

Welcoming further the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Water, aimed at galvanizing partnerships and concerted efforts in support of the achievement of all water-related goals and targets, such as Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Looking forward to the convening of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and the United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in 2028, noting their preparatory processes, and calling for, inter alia, the acceleration of the achievement of the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and relevant obligations under international law,

Stressing the importance of highlighting the human rights dimension at the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, and possible future United Nations Water Conferences, including by reflecting the importance of human rights across all segments and notably in the interactive dialogues, inter alia, through the active participation of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and other relevant special procedure mandate holders and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, such as the Social Forum, and by ensuring broad and inclusive civil society representation, especially all women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, peasants, persons with disabilities and persons in marginalized or vulnerable situations,

Welcoming the work of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund, through the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water, which have established extensive global databases and have been instrumental in developing global norms by which to benchmark progress, while taking into consideration the fact that official figures do not always capture all the dimensions of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Welcoming also the fact that, according to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*, globally, between 2015 and 2022, the proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water increased, from 69 to 73 per cent, the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services rose, from 49 to 57 per cent, and the number of people practising open defecation decreased, from 715 million to 419 million, while bearing in mind that achieving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services by 2030 will require a sixfold increase in the current rates of progress,

Deeply concerned that, according to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*, in 2022, 2.2 billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.5 billion people went without safely managed sanitation, 1.8 billion people had no on-premises drinking water, with women primarily being responsible for water collection in two out of three households, and 2.3 billion people worldwide lacked basic hand-washing facilities at home, and that they are urgently needed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases,

Deeply concerned also that non-existent or inadequate sanitation facilities and serious deficiencies in water management and wastewater treatment can negatively affect water

provision and sustainable access to safe drinking water and that, according to the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2021*, an estimated 80 per cent of the world's wastewater is released into the environment without treatment,

Recognizing that sustained access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services is essential to preventing infectious diseases and that people without or with inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are at a much higher risk of contracting and passing on diseases,

Deeply concerned that global health emergencies, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, can perpetuate and exacerbate existing inequalities and that those disproportionately at risk are all women and girls and persons in marginalized and vulnerable situations, and recognizing the need to expand, as a matter of utmost urgency, access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene, and to ensure continued access to existing services in this regard, including sexual and reproductive healthcare services,

Deeply alarmed that water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases hit children the hardest, noting that diarrhoea remains a leading cause of death in children under 5 years of age, and underscoring that progress on reducing child mortality, morbidity and stunting is linked to children's and women's universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation and that, in humanitarian emergencies and crises, children suffer the most from interruptions in water and sanitation services,

Deeply concerned that persons with disabilities, especially women, children and older persons, often face barriers in their access to water and sanitation facilities that are accessible and appropriate to their needs, which affects their ability to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, including in education and employment, which is particularly concerning in situations of homelessness and humanitarian emergencies and crises,

Recognizing that, while the implications of climate change-related impacts and environmental damage, including worsening water scarcity and water insecurity, for the enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation affect individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in marginalized and vulnerable situations, such as people living in informal settlements, people living in small island States, rural and local communities and people facing desertification, land degradation, drought, flooding and water scarcity, and recognizing also that Indigenous Peoples, because of their specific situation, may be among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, owing to their dependence upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources,

Noting that effective solutions to the risks of climate change require funding and the active involvement of communities in adaptation and mitigation strategies and that progressively realizing the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, especially for those living in situations of marginalization or vulnerability, is strongly linked to the health and sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems on which those populations depend,

Noting also that, in many parts of the world, women and girls shoulder the main burden of collecting household water and the majority of care work responsibilities, including those arising from waterborne diseases, restricting their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or for earning a livelihood,

Deeply concerned that all women and girls are particularly at risk of and exposed to attacks, sexual and gender-based violence, harassment and other threats to their safety while collecting household water, when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or when, in the absence of adequate sanitation facilities, practising open defecation and urination, which limits their ability to move freely and safely in the public sphere,

Deeply concerned also that all women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, often face particular barriers in their enjoyment of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and that the lack of equitable access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene, especially in schools and other educational settings, workplaces, health centres and public facilities and buildings, runs counter to gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and their enjoyment of

human rights, including the rights to an adequate standard of living, including food, education, enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and safe and healthy working conditions, as well as the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs,

Deeply concerned further that widespread silence and stigma surrounding menstrual health and hygiene mean that women and girls often lack basic information thereon and are excluded and stigmatized and thus prevented from realizing their full rights and potential,

Deeply concerned about the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services and its dramatic consequences for the overall health situation in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict and natural disaster, and acknowledging that people living in countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters and in countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, people facing desertification, land degradation, drought, flooding and water scarcity, as well as displaced persons, including in host communities and refugee host countries, are more likely to lack basic access to drinking water and basic sanitation and hygiene services than people living in unaffected countries, while acknowledging the efforts of refugee host countries to improve the situation of people living in refugee camps,

Alarmed about the fact that, according to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, scarcity of water could displace an estimated 700 million people by 2030 and that displaced people, including people living in refugee camps, are more likely to lack access to basic drinking water and to basic sanitation, while acknowledging the efforts of refugee host countries to improve the situation of people living in refugee camps,

Deeply alarmed by indiscriminate attacks and attacks deliberately targeting civilian objects in armed conflict, which may injure personnel and damage civilian infrastructure that is critical to safe drinking water and sanitation, and recalling that all parties to armed conflicts are obligated under international humanitarian law to respect and protect civilian objects, including water and sanitation facilities,

Affirming the importance of national programmes and policies in ensuring the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and affirming also the importance of regional and international cooperation and technical assistance, where appropriate, as a means to promote the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recognizing the important role that civil society plays at the local, national, regional and international levels and the positive, important and legitimate role played by human rights defenders, including environmental human rights defenders, in the promotion and protection of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which underscore the responsibility of all business enterprises to respect human rights, and emphasizing that non-State actors, including business enterprises, both transnational and others, should comply with their responsibility to respect human rights, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including by cooperating with State investigations into allegations of abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and by progressively engaging with States to detect and remedy abuses of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Emphasizing that a lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene underlies severe human costs and major economic losses, and affirming that affordability, accessibility, availability and quality, as human rights criteria for ensuring the realization of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, require, inter alia, that water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services are within the safe physical reach of all sections of the population, without discrimination of any kind, are accessible at a price that is affordable to all and are physically accessible, inclusive and appropriate for persons with disabilities,

Stressing the importance of achieving universal access to safe, affordable and adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030 and of identifying adequate and new sources of funding, including innovative sustainable financing and enhanced investment,

Stressing also the importance of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 6,

1. *Reaffirms* that the human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have sustained access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and that the human right to sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity, and also reaffirms that both rights are components of the right to an adequate standard of living;

2. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To take measures to ensure the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, applying a gender-responsive and inclusive approach that respects, protects and fulfils all human rights of women and girls and responds to the needs of all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions as agents and beneficiaries of change;

(b) To identify patterns of failure to respect, protect or fulfil the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all persons without discrimination and to address their structural causes in policymaking and budgeting, while undertaking comprehensive planning aimed at achieving sustainable universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including in instances where the private sector, donors and non-governmental organizations are involved in service provision;

(c) To take measures towards ensuring affordable water and water facilities and services, including by basing any payment for water services on the principle of equity, ensuring that these services, whether privately or publicly provided, are affordable for all, including for persons in marginalized or vulnerable situations, and that poorer individuals should not be disproportionately burdened with water expenses compared with richer individuals;

(d) To accelerate the cross-sectoral implementation of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 6, on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including by working collaboratively with all stakeholders in a coordinated manner, consistent with their obligations under international law and taking into account the outcomes of the 2023 and 2026 United Nations Water Conferences;

(e) To promote both women's leadership and their full, effective, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making on water and sanitation management and to ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all water and sanitation programmes;

(f) To ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls, including for menstrual health and hygiene, including hygiene facilities and services in public and private spaces, and to address the widespread stigma and shame surrounding menstruation and menstrual health and hygiene by promoting educational and health practices in and out of schools, in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural, and by ensuring access to factual information thereon;

(g) To take measures to empower all women and girls for preparedness in humanitarian emergencies and crises, notably in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, by ensuring universal and equitable access to water and sanitation services and related information in accessible formats and implementing gender-responsive policies, plans and programmes that address, inter alia, effective menstrual health and hygiene and adequate access to and disposal options for menstrual products, without compromising their rights, safety and dignity;

(h) To reduce the time spent by women and girls in collecting household water and to protect all women and girls from being physically threatened and assaulted, including from sexual and gender-based violence, when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation and urination, and to promote safe public spaces and

improve the security and safety of all women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure;

(i) To take steps to ensure that water and sanitation facilities and services are accessible for persons with disabilities and apply the principles of universal design in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities;

(j) To progressively eliminate open defecation by adopting policies to increase access to sanitation, including for individuals in the most vulnerable and marginalized situations;

(k) To raise international awareness of the issue of waterborne diseases, in particular cholera and diarrhoea in children, which can be prevented through safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, and to engage in partnerships with relevant stakeholders to implement projects aimed at scaling up access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries;

(l) To enhance efforts to substantially reduce the share of untreated wastewater released into the environment and to ensure that plans and programmes for improving sanitation services take into account the need for appropriate systems for the treatment of wastewater produced, including that containing antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes, and the disposal of infant faeces, with the aim of reducing the risks to human health, drinking water resources and the environment, acknowledging the potential of wastewater reuse;

(m) To provide for effective accountability and regulations mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers, including private sector providers, to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause or contribute to human rights violations or abuses;

(n) To provide financial resources and support capacity-building and technology transfer in a sector-wide approach to help countries, at their request, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all, and to recognize the need for and implement integrated water resources management to ensure sustainable and equitable use of water and the protection of ecosystems;

(o) To respond effectively to health and humanitarian crises and their consequences by, inter alia, enhancing efforts progressively to realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(p) To develop an adequate and effective framework for integrated water resources management, including of groundwater resources, through enhancing knowledge and data, institutional capacity, laws, regulations and their enforcement, policy and planning, stakeholder participation and appropriate financing, and to ensure that their policies and plans are fully implemented and that the resources remain available for future generations, in order to ensure water supply and management for an adequate standard of living;

3. *Calls upon* non-State actors, including business enterprises, both transnational and others, to comply with their responsibility to respect human rights, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including by cooperating with State investigations into allegations of abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and by progressively engaging with States to detect and remedy abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;

4. *Calls upon* States to ensure, as appropriate, that their development efforts in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene are aligned with their human rights obligations under international law;

5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, with a view to promoting the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation at the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, to actively engage, in collaboration with States and other stakeholders, in the preparatory process to ensure that the human rights dimension is adequately reflected in the agenda and outcome of the Conference and to ensure broad and inclusive civil society representation;

6. *Decides* to convene, at its fifty-ninth session, a panel discussion on the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, with a particular focus on mainstreaming the human rights of safe drinking water and sanitation into the upcoming 2026 United Nations Water Conference, and also decides that the discussion shall be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, including through the provision of hybrid modalities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the resources for the services and facilities necessary for the panel discussion, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-first session;

8. *Encourages* all Governments to continue to respond favourably to requests by the Special Rapporteur for visits and information, to follow up effectively on the recommendations of the mandate holder and to make available information on measures taken in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the resources and assistance necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*47th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/14. Human rights of migrants

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and recalling also the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling also all previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the human rights of migrants, including resolutions 53/24 of 21 July 2023, all General Assembly resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution 78/217 of 19 December 2023, as well as Assembly resolution 78/180 of 19 December 2023,

Recalling further the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, and the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, adopted at the first International Migration Review Forum, held in New York from 17 to 20 May 2022 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 76/266 of 7 June 2022,

Recognizing that migration has been and will continue to be part of the human experience through history, and underscoring that all migrants, regardless of their migration status, are human rights holders, and reaffirming the need to protect their safety and dignity, and to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights and fundamental freedoms, in all situations and during all stages of migration,

Expressing concern at the spread of dehumanizing and harmful narratives, disinformation and misinformation and hate speech about migrants and migration, including online, which provokes xenophobia, racism, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on religion or belief, exclusion, violence, hostility towards migrants and their families, social divisions and discord, and results in disproportionate sanctions for irregular migration, including unjust criminalization, and on the adoption of policies that may impede the access of migrants to basic services, protection and justice, hindering their full enjoyment of human rights,

Expressing concern also at the instrumentalization of migrants for political or other purposes, amplified by some media outlets, scapegoating migrants and seeking to distract and divide,

Emphasizing the role of States in promoting access to diverse and reliable information to counter disinformation and misinformation about migrants and migration, including by increasing their own transparency, and stressing that responses to the spread of disinformation and misinformation must comply with international human rights law,

Recognizing the positive role and contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development, including by enriching societies through human, socioeconomic, technological, cultural and civic capacities, and the importance of disseminating and highlighting those contributions, while emphasizing the need to protect the human rights of migrants, regardless of their migration status, to promote inclusion and leave no one behind,

Expressing serious concern at the particular vulnerable situations and risks faced by migrants, especially women and girls, and unaccompanied and separated migrant children, which can arise from the reasons for leaving their country of origin, circumstances encountered by migrants during all stages of migration, discrimination relating to the specific aspects of a person's identity or circumstances, or a combination of these factors,

Expressing concern at the loss of life, disappearances, exploitation, torture, sexual and gender-based violence and all other forms of violence, including violence based on religion or belief and violence based on race, and other violations and abuses of human rights suffered by migrants undertaking perilous journeys,

Deeply concerned about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including children who are unaccompanied or are separated from their parents or legal caregiver, who have lost their lives, have been injured or have gone missing in their attempt to cross international borders,

Recognizing that States are responsible for promoting, protecting and respecting the human rights of all persons, including all migrants, regardless of their migration status, who are in their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, and reaffirming the commitment to take action to avoid the loss of life of migrants, including by promoting and enhancing search and rescue operations in dangerous border regions, enhancing, establishing, expanding and diversifying the availability and flexibility of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration and preventing violations of human rights resulting from pushback practices, in particular refoulement and collective expulsions,

Acknowledging that lack of adequate documentation, such as passports, national identity cards, education, professional or health documents, create barriers to access to pathways for safe and regular migration, which increase vulnerabilities and can lead to the use of dangerous routes, increasing the risks of exploitation and trafficking,

Reaffirming the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law,

Recognizing the shared and respective responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting, protecting and respecting the human rights of all migrants during all stages of migration, regardless of their migration status, emphasizing the importance of fostering cooperation, information exchange and coordination between countries of origin, transit and destination for this purpose, and urging all States to avoid

approaches that might aggravate vulnerable situations and that may further marginalize migrants, including dehumanizing and harmful narratives that present migrants as a threat or solely in terms of the perceived benefits that they bring,

Affirming that the smuggling of migrants and crimes against migrants, including those involving trafficking in persons, child labour and forced labour, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and a human rights-based response, and strengthened multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication, to prevent, investigate, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants and to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking, and to identify, protect and provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that the return of migrants, whether voluntary or otherwise, must be consistent with States' obligations under international law, including human rights law, the best interests of the child, the principle of non-refoulement and their obligations relating to respect for due process and the prohibition of collective expulsion,

Recognizing also the need to ensure that returned migrants are duly received and readmitted, in accordance with States' obligation not to arbitrarily deprive their nationals of the right to enter their own country and the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals,

Recalling the work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and the work of the International Organization for Migration, and noting the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders, the #StandUp4Migrants campaign and toolbox of the Office of the High Commissioner, its recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders,⁴³ supported by practical guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, and the organization of the intersessional panel discussion on avenues to prevent and address violations and abuses of the human rights of migrants in transit and to ensure access to justice for victims and their family members,⁴⁴

1. *Reaffirms* the duty of all States to effectively promote, protect and respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, without discrimination of any kind, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and their obligations under international law, including international human rights law;

2. *Recommits* to ensuring full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and urges all States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, to prevent the creation and exacerbation of situations of vulnerability and to respond to the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations;

3. *Condemns unequivocally* all violations and abuses of human rights committed against migrants, including those fuelled by negative narratives, misinformation and disinformation, and calls upon all States to ensure accountability and effective remedies in accordance with their obligations under international law;

4. *Calls upon* States to ensure that their migration legislation, policies and practices are consistent with international human rights law and to promote the enjoyment of human rights by all migrants without discrimination of any kind, including by reviewing migration legislation, policies and practices with a view to preventing their possible negative consequences during all stages of migration, inter alia the creation and exacerbation of vulnerabilities, which could result in death, disappearances, exploitation, trafficking in persons, torture, sexual or gender-based violence or any other form of violence, including violence based on religion or belief or violence based on race, or other violations or abuses of human rights;

5. *Also calls upon* States to work with national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, migrants and their family members, and other relevant stakeholders to

⁴³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/recommended-principles-and-guidelines-human-rights-international>.

⁴⁴ See [A/HRC/57/32](#).

understand, prevent, promptly and thoroughly investigate and address violations and abuses of human rights against migrants during all stages of migration caused or exacerbated by the lack or inadequate implementation of preventive measures to protect human rights, or by migration policies and practices lacking a human rights-based approach;

6. *Encourages* States to establish and strengthen comprehensive legal frameworks that safeguard the human rights of migrants, including measures to prevent pushbacks and collective expulsions, and to provide access to fair and efficient asylum procedures and to other forms of regular stay for migrants in vulnerable situations, in line with international law obligations;

7. *Also encourages* States to adopt gender-, disability- and age-responsive approaches for the prevention of or effective responses to human rights violations and abuses against migrants, including migrants in transit, addressing the specific needs of women and girls and persons in situations of vulnerability, especially persons with disabilities, children and older persons, including for their protection from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse;

8. *Urges* States to take decisive action to put an end to all forms of discrimination against migrants, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in helping to prevent violations and abuses of human rights against them, and to actively engage with all relevant stakeholders in national and global efforts to counter growing dehumanizing and harmful narratives about migration and migrants, in line with international human rights law, and to shift to human rights-based and evidence-based narratives;

9. *Calls upon* States to adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes that effectively address inequality, structural and societal dynamics and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that hinder the enjoyment of human rights by migrants, in line with international human rights law obligations, ensuring access to justice and remedies for victims, and to promote human-rights based and evidence-based narratives on migration;

10. *Strongly condemns* acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, to strengthen existing laws when hate crimes, xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, consistent with international human rights obligations, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts, and to provide effective remedy to the victims;

11. *Calls upon* all States to refrain from conducting or sponsoring disinformation or misinformation campaigns, including those online, targeting migrants domestically or transnationally for political or other purposes, and encourages them to condemn such acts;

12. *Urges* States to facilitate an environment supportive of countering disinformation and misinformation against migrants, regardless of their migration status, and engage in public awareness and education campaigns through multidimensional and multi-stakeholder responses that are evidence-based and comply with international human rights law, including through enhanced cooperation with international organizations, civil society, including migrants and migrant-led organizations, local governments, the media, the private sector and other stakeholders;

13. *Calls upon* States to develop comprehensive public policies, including a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, placing the rights of migrants at the centre of migration governance, promoting social cohesion and inclusion and working in collaboration with migrants, migrant-led organizations and migrant communities to collect and disseminate data on their positive contribution to sociocultural, civic and economic development and intercultural dialogue, emphasizing our shared humanity and the obligation to respect and protect human rights;

14. *Recommits* to strengthening efforts to enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, taking into consideration the specific needs of persons in vulnerable situations, as a means of preventing human rights violations and abuses against migrants in transit and decreasing their reliance on dangerous routes;

15. *Urges* States to adopt measures to prevent deaths, disappearances, acts of torture, sexual and gender-based violence and all other forms of violence, including violence based on religion or belief and violence based on race, excessive use of force against migrants, and refoulement, and to ensure that all human rights violations and abuses are subject to independent and transparent investigations and that perpetrators are held accountable;

16. *Also urges* States to adopt effective measures to prevent, investigate and punish any form of arbitrary deprivation of liberty of migrants, including migrant children, within the territory and jurisdiction of the State;

17. *Further urges* States to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention, and encourages States to pursue alternatives to detention, noting the measures that have been successfully implemented by some States, and to work towards ending the detention of migrant children;

18. *Calls upon* States to strengthen measures to protect the human rights of migrant children, especially those unaccompanied, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their legislation, policies and practices, including on integration, return and family reunification;

19. *Also calls upon* States to protect migrants from becoming victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, child labour, contemporary forms of slavery and forced labour, inter alia by combating human trafficking and through the implementation of programmes and policies that prevent victimization and provide effective guarantees and protections, as well as access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, where appropriate;

20. *Encourages* States to develop, strengthen and implement national laws and to monitor their implementation; to prevent violations and abuses of human rights against migrant workers, including cases of forced and child labour; to promote, respect and fulfil internationally recognized labour rights for all migrant workers, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; to cooperate with relevant stakeholders, including employers, to build partnerships that promote conditions for decent work, prevent abuse and exploitation; and to engage actively with the International Labour Organization and relevant international organizations in this regard;

21. *Also encourages* States to provide adequate documentation to enable access to pathways for safe and regular migration as a measure to preserve human dignity, ensure access to basic rights and prevent exploitation and trafficking;

22. *Calls upon* States to ensure the rapid and accurate identification and referral of migrants who may be in a situation of vulnerability at international borders, to provide assistance and relief to migrants in distress, regardless of their migration status, and to create a safe and enabling environment in which humanitarian actors that provide such assistance can operate free from hinderance and insecurity, including to the effect that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application facilitate the work of all actors providing humanitarian assistance to and defending the human rights of migrants in transit, inter alia by avoiding their criminalization and stigmatization, impediments or obstruction to them or restrictions thereon, contrary to international human rights law;

23. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that all border governance measures, including those employing new and emerging digital technologies, comply with obligations under international human rights law and have adequate safeguards to protect the dignity and safety of migrants, to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of human rights and abuses against migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports, at borders and other transit areas for migration, including by strengthening mechanisms to assess individual human rights situations and referring migrants to appropriate services and protection bodies, and encouraging the establishment of monitoring mechanisms, and to adequately train public officials and others who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, and in this regard recalls the publication *Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer's*

Guide, jointly published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Counter-Terrorism;

24. *Encourages* States to strengthen cooperation, information exchange and coordination at all levels, including between countries of origin, transit and destination, and with international humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations, and migrants and their families, in order to prevent and investigate human rights violations and abuses against migrants in transit, to find and identify missing migrants and to ensure accountability for victims;

25. *Welcomes* the work of the International Organization for Migration and the ongoing work of the United Nations Network on Migration on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance in line with the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, inter alia the exchange of good practices, including through cross-border cooperation to support families and communities in preventing and responding to the death of migrants or to migrants going missing;

26. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants,⁴⁵ requests the Special Rapporteur to continue to report on the situation of the human rights of migrants, and encourages States and regional and international organizations to strengthen their collaboration with the Special Rapporteur in advancing the human rights of migrants;

27. *Encourages* States to engage actively in the consultation process led by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in the drafting of a joint general comment/recommendation on the obligations of States parties with regard to public policies for addressing and eradicating xenophobia, and its impact on the rights of migrants, their families and other non-citizens affected by racial discrimination;

28. *Takes note* of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in her report to the General Assembly;⁴⁶

29. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner:

(a) To maintain its active engagement with the United Nations Network on Migration as a member of its Executive Committee, including by involving all relevant human rights bodies and special procedures, to ensure efficiency in mainstreaming human rights in migration governance;

(b) To continue its work on promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, during all stages of migration, including by addressing dehumanizing and harmful narratives about migrants and migration, by providing, inter alia, technical assistance and capacity-building, increasing outreach and awareness-raising, and sharing best practices with States, relevant stakeholders and civil society;

(c) To prepare a study on human rights monitoring in the context of migration, including at international borders, presenting good and promising practices on how to integrate monitoring into migration governance, in consultation with States and other relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions migrants and migrant-led organizations, and to submit the study to the Human Rights Council before its sixtieth session;

(d) To convene a one-day intersessional panel discussion, accessible to persons with disabilities, and with appropriate gender representation, on measures to prevent, counter and address dehumanizing and harmful narratives about migrants and migration, hate speech, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance against migrants, and on avenues to strengthen national, regional and international monitoring and complaint mechanisms to report cases of human rights violations, discrimination and abuse against migrants at international borders, aiming to ensure access to justice, highlighting best practices and challenges in this regard, to ensure the meaningful participation of migrants and their family members, to prepare a

⁴⁵ A/HRC/56/54.

⁴⁶ A/79/123.

summary report on the panel discussion and the recommendations resulting from it, and to submit the report to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-second session and to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session;

30. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

47th meeting
10 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/15. Human rights and Indigenous Peoples

For the text of the resolution, see chapter II.

57/16. Promoting accessibility for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and all other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the obligations of States parties to take appropriate accessibility measures to ensure persons with disabilities access on an equal basis with others, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, taking into account universal design and reasonable accommodation, and recognizing the need to implement such measures for persons with disabilities as a standard, which can benefit all in the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, which calls for the promotion of accessibility for all, without discrimination, including those in vulnerable situations,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its pledge to “leave no one behind”, which includes focuses on providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces and to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems and increasing access to information and communications technology,

Recognizing the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, in which they underscored the rights of persons with disabilities, older persons and other persons in vulnerable situations, and the importance of accessibility in achieving sustainable development and ensuring that everyone, without discrimination, can enjoy all of their human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Recognizing also the work of the task force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and the use of information technology, and acknowledging its adoption of a workplan to guarantee comprehensive and inclusive access to services and information for all,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Steering Committee on Accessibility to improving the accessibility of United Nations premises, conferences and meetings, and information and communications, and the ongoing implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy,

Acknowledging the importance of accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities, older persons and other persons in vulnerable situations, to participate in all

aspects of life and enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully, equally and effectively,

Recognizing that physical, digital, social, economic, legal and policy barriers to accessibility may hinder the enjoyment of all human rights, and emphasizing the need for the removal of such barriers through laws, policies, standards, training, technologies and care and support systems, with a human rights focus on empowering women and girls,

Noting with appreciation the significant progress made by Member States and the United Nations system in taking measures on accessibility, while acknowledging that further efforts are needed to promote accessibility for all to fully enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that new and emerging digital technologies, together with assistive technologies, have the potential to facilitate efforts to improve accessibility and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing also the importance of prioritizing innovation, inclusiveness and sustainability to accommodate the multiple and evolving needs of accessibility for all,

Recognizing also the positive role of civil society organizations in the promotion and implementation of accessibility, and stressing the importance of closely consulting and actively involving users of accessible formats and environments,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting accessibility to fully enjoy all human rights for all, including persons with disabilities, older persons and other persons in vulnerable situations;

2. *Encourages* States to take into account the promotion of accessibility in national laws, development plans and policies, urban and rural planning and public service delivery and to take appropriate measures to raise awareness throughout society to create accessible environments for all;

3. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society organizations, to promote and strengthen international cooperation and coordination, and to facilitate and support capacity-building initiatives aimed at, inter alia, fostering the exchange of technical knowledge, information and programmes at the regional and international levels relating to good practices in the implementation of measures on accessibility for all, particularly in the context of new and emerging digital technologies;

4. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to States upon their request in developing and implementing policies and programmes on accessibility, to continue to share its expertise with the relevant intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and to assist the relevant special procedure mandate holders and treaty bodies, especially those related to persons with disabilities, older persons and other persons in vulnerable situations, to integrate the view of accessibility for all from the perspective of the full enjoyment of all human rights into their work, including ongoing and future research and reports, in close consultation with the relevant stakeholders;

5. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

47th meeting
10 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/17. Equal participation in political and public affairs

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling all relevant international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on equal participation in political and public affairs, in particular resolution 24/8 of 26 September 2013 on equal political participation, and resolutions 27/24 of 26 September 2014, 30/9 of 1 October 2015, 33/22 of 30 September 2016, 39/11 of 28 September 2018 and 48/2 of 7 October 2021,

Recalling further all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, in particular resolution 52/22 of 3 April 2023 on human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization, in particular resolution 76/176 of 16 December 2021,

Reaffirming that all citizens shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and without unreasonable restrictions, to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in their country, and to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, and reaffirming also that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government and that no distinctions are permitted among citizens in the enjoyment of the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability,

Reaffirming also that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming further the critical importance of the full realization of the right to participate in political and public affairs, in accordance with article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to protect and promote democracy, the rule of law, social inclusion, inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making, as well as that of girls, free from violence and discrimination, both online and offline, is essential to the promotion of women's empowerment and to the achievement of gender equality, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, the rule of law, peace and democracy,

Underlining the importance of the active, meaningful and inclusive participation of young persons in decision-making and the important role that youth can play in the promotion of sustainable development and the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, and the importance of removing barriers that prevent the meaningful participation of young persons in political and public affairs,

Stressing the importance of fostering enabling environments in which civil society organizations, human rights defenders, in particular women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations, peacebuilders, and journalists and media workers can operate freely and safely, both online and offline, thereby increasing the ability of individuals to take part in elections and election monitoring,

Recognizing that the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly, to freedom of association and to education, access to information, and inclusive economic empowerment are among the essential conditions for equal participation in political and public affairs and must be promoted and protected, both online and offline,

Recognizing also that the right to education, including access to information and access to inclusive and quality human rights and civic education, has a transformative potential and is a multiplier right that supports the participation of children,

Recognizing further the importance of free, fair, transparent, inclusive, genuine and periodic elections by universal and equal suffrage, including in new democracies and countries in democratic transition, in order to empower citizens to express their will and to promote a successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

Recognizing that States are responsible for ensuring transparent, periodic, free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering with the counting of votes,

Emphasizing the importance of electoral institutions and processes to safeguard the principles underpinning genuine periodic and democratic elections, such as ensuring that all parties and candidates are able to compete on an equal basis before the law,

Recognizing that disinformation is a threat to democracy that can suppress political engagement and hinder the realization of informed participation in political and public affairs, and that it is increasingly being used to deter women and girls from participating in the public sphere,

Recognizing also that the use of hate speech, both online and offline, to provoke stigmatization and violence, and which might constitute an attempt to restrict the full, meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of persons, including women and children and those belonging to groups vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, poses a significant threat by creating a hostile environment that discourages individuals from engaging fully and equally in political and public affairs,

Welcoming the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights containing a summary of the intersessional workshop on the implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery, submitted to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Council resolution 48/2,⁴⁷ and the work of the Office of the High Commissioner, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and other relevant human rights mechanisms on continuing to identify and address obstacles to, and to call for, the full implementation of the right to participate in public affairs,

Noting with interest the work of the Office of the High Commissioner to disseminate and promote the use of the guidelines on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs, including its guidance note entitled “How to effectively implement the right to participate in public affairs: A spotlight on people of African descent”,⁴⁸

Encouraging Governments, local authorities, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society actors to give due consideration to the guidelines, as a set of orientations for States, in the formulation and implementation of their policies and measures concerning equal participation in political and public affairs,

1. *Expresses concern* that, despite progress made towards the full implementation of the right to participate in political and public affairs worldwide, many people continue to face obstacles, such as discrimination, including multiple intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination, in the enjoyment of their right to participate in the political and public affairs of their countries as well as in the enjoyment of other human rights that enable it;

2. *Recognizes* that women and girls, young persons, persons belonging to marginalized groups or national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, people of African descent, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations are among those who are most affected by discrimination in participation in political and public affairs,

⁴⁷ [A/HRC/54/44](#).

⁴⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/how-effectively-implement-right-participate-public-affairs-spotlight>.

including, inter alia, violence, both online and offline, against women participating in political and public affairs;

3. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has an effective right to and opportunity for equal participation in public affairs, including participation in elections on an equal basis;

4. *Urges* all States to ensure that every citizen can participate fully, effectively and meaningfully in political and public affairs, including by, inter alia:

(a) Complying fully with their international human rights obligations and commitments and working to implement all accepted universal periodic review recommendations with regard to equal participation in political and public affairs, including by reflecting them in their national legislative framework;

(b) Considering signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international human rights treaties;

(c) Taking all measures necessary to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, online and offline, on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability;

(d) Taking proactive measures to eliminate all barriers in law and in practice that prevent or hinder citizens, in particular women and girls, young persons, older persons, persons belonging to marginalized groups or national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, people of African descent, persons with disabilities, persons in vulnerable situations and Indigenous Peoples, from participating fully, equally and meaningfully in political and public affairs, including, inter alia, by reviewing and repealing measures that unreasonably restrict the right to participate in political and public affairs, and considering adopting, on the basis of reliable disaggregated data on participation, temporary special measures, including legislative acts, aimed at increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in all aspects of political and public affairs;

(e) Taking steps to promote and protect the voting rights of all those entitled to vote without any discrimination, including facilitation of voter registration and participation and the provision of electoral information and materials in accessible formats and languages, as appropriate;

(f) Exploring new forms of participation and opportunities brought about by new information and communications technology and social media as a means to improve and widen, online and offline, the ability to exercise the right to participate in public affairs, and other rights directly supporting and enabling it, and recognizing and addressing the digital divide, including for women and girls and persons with disabilities, while mitigating the risks, including tackling online harms, and promoting digital, media and information literacy and connectivity;

(g) Supporting the development of fair, safe and professional media coverage, including during elections, as important elements of democracy, including by building the capacity of media professionals and media regulators;

(h) Ensuring the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, including to seek, receive and impart information, the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, education and development, and facilitating equal and effective access to information, independent media and communications technology in order to enable pluralistic debates fostering inclusive and effective participation in political and public affairs;

(i) Creating a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, in particular women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations, journalists, media workers or other civil society actors, online and offline, which together with other actors play a key role in the effective promotion, protection and realization of all human rights;

(j) Providing full and effective access to justice and redress mechanisms to those citizens whose right to participate in political and public affairs has been violated, including, as appropriate, by developing effective, independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

5. *Calls upon* all States to enhance the political participation of all women, to address violence against women participating in political and public affairs, both online and offline, to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and, in all situations, to promote and protect the full and equal enjoyment by all women of all human rights with respect to voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies;

6. *Strongly condemns* any manipulation of election processes, coercion and tampering with vote counts, particularly when done by States, as well as by other actors, and calls upon all States to respect the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including the right of every citizen to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, thereby fostering conditions in which all citizens, regardless of how they voted, whom they supported or whether their candidates prevailed, have the motivation and incentive, as well as the right and opportunity, to continue to participate directly or through elected representatives in the conduct of public affairs and their government;

7. *Calls upon* States to continuously strengthen and develop their electoral institutions and processes, and to ensure that such institutions remain independent to guarantee the fairness, transparency and integrity of elections;

8. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) To continue to disseminate and promote the guidelines on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs;

(b) To provide technical cooperation and capacity-building to States upon their request regarding the use of the guidelines;

(c) To prepare, in consultation with States and all other relevant stakeholders, a follow-up report on good practices and challenges that States face when using the guidelines, with a particular focus on participation in elections, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session;

9. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and other relevant international human rights mechanisms to continue to address, within their respective mandates, the promotion of equal political participation in their work.

*47th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/18. Elimination of domestic violence

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming States' obligations to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also the rights and principles with regard to the equality, security, liberty, integrity and dignity of all human beings,

Recalling in this regard the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences and other relevant international instruments,

Recalling further all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as those of the Human Rights Council, relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women and relevant resolutions of specialized agencies of the United Nations system,

Stressing that domestic violence is one of the most common and least visible forms of violence and can be perpetrated against anyone, regardless of socioeconomic background and level of education, can take many different forms, including physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence, imminent harm to safety, health or well-being, neglect and the threat of actions, occurs within households, in the private or public sphere, and includes violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, most often between current or former spouses or partners and those related through blood or intimacy, and that its consequences are long-lasting and profound and affect many areas in the lives of victims and their communities,

Recognizing that women and girls are disproportionately subjected to domestic violence and, throughout their lives, to intimate partner violence, which is a form of violence and, as a term, can be recognized or addressed differently in different national frameworks, deeply concerned that women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including those living in rural and remote areas, older women, Indigenous women and girls, migrant women and girls, women and girls of African descent, women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and women and girls with disabilities, are at particular risk of domestic violence, and stressing the urgent need to address all forms of violence and discrimination against them,

Recognizing also that gender-based violence, including domestic violence, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women, seriously violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls and constitutes a major impediment to their full, equal and meaningful participation in all spheres of society, the economy and, as appropriate, political decision-making,

Emphasizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, as well as women's marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social and economic policies, political life and the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, including domestic violence, and that this impedes the social and economic and therefore the sustainable development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, for women and girls, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms in order to achieve gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women and girls,

Recognizing also that domestic violence against women and children frequently co-occurs within the same households and that exposure to domestic violence, whether as a direct victim or as a witness, has devastating and long-term mental, psychological and physical health impacts on both women and children and that addressing the intersection of violence against women and children is essential for the effective prevention and elimination

of domestic violence and the promotion of an equally safe and supportive environment for all family members and caregivers,

Concerned that children with disabilities, in particular girls with disabilities, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, including in institutions, of stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion and are frequently subjected to domestic violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation,

Deeply concerned about the particular risk of the marginalization of and discrimination, abuse and violence, including domestic violence, against persons with disabilities of all ages, and that persons with disabilities who face domestic violence are frequently more economically, physically or emotionally dependent on their abusers, who often act as caregivers, a situation that prevents persons with disabilities from leaving abusive relationships and leads to further social isolation,

Noting with concern that domestic violence against older persons remains overlooked and that the limited understanding of the phenomenon has far-reaching consequences for the mental and physical well-being of millions of older persons worldwide, that many older women face discrimination and violence, including domestic violence, throughout their lives and that power and control dynamics in long-lasting domestic violence situations are exacerbated by age-related inequality and care-related dependencies, which affect their enjoyment of human rights,

Stressing the need to fully engage and educate men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as allies in the prevention and elimination of domestic violence, ensuring that, at their core, such engagement and education are focused on tackling unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and negative social norms such as perceptions of masculinity, sexism and misogyny, while recognizing that men and boys can also be victims of domestic violence,

Underscoring the fact that shame, stigma, fear of reprisals, fear of separation from children, psychological and emotional dependence and negative economic consequences, such as loss of livelihood or reduced household income, as well as social constraints and expectations, including those by administrative and legal authorities in charge of investigating domestic violence, prevent victims of domestic violence from leaving abusive relationships, seeking healthcare and social support services, reporting or acting as witnesses in cases of domestic violence and seeking redress and justice for these crimes,

Recalling that States have the obligation, at all levels, to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and should take all possible measures to prevent domestic violence and investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of domestic violence, eliminate impunity and provide for effective access to appropriate remedies for victims, and should work to ensure their protection, including through adequate enforcement of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and the provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, healthcare services, including, among others, sexual and reproductive healthcare services, and other types of support services such as legal redress, in order to avoid revictimization and to promote an empowering environment, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by any person subjected to domestic violence,

1. *Stresses* that domestic violence is a human rights issue, a societal problem and a public concern and that it is critical for States to fulfil their obligations to respect, protect and promote human rights and freedoms for all and to take serious action to prevent and eliminate domestic violence and protect those subjected to this form of violence, and reaffirms that States should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid the implementation of their obligations under international human rights law;

2. *Strongly condemns and calls for* the elimination of domestic violence, while recognizing that it is an impediment to the full realization of human rights and freedoms for all and to the achievement of gender equality and while expressing concern that domestic violence is the most prevalent and least visible form of violence and that its consequences are long-lasting and profound and affect many areas in the lives of those subjected to it;

3. *Encourages* all States to take effective action:

(a) To prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women and girls, as they are disproportionately affected by such violence, paying particular attention to abolishing practices and laws that discriminate against women and girls, including, where applicable, provisions in civil, criminal and personal status laws governing marriage and family relations, eliminating harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, countering prejudices, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, providing human rights education and raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, at all levels and throughout their life cycle;

(b) To empower women and strengthen their economic independence, including through equal remuneration for equal work and increased job opportunities, as well as equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, credit, microcredit and traditional saving schemes such as women's banks and cooperatives, and by ensuring women's equal rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality, property rights and the right to inheritance, with a view to reducing women's vulnerability to all forms of violence, including domestic violence;

(c) To prevent and protect children from domestic violence, including children with disabilities, migrant children, Indigenous children, children of African descent and children in vulnerable situations, whether they are victims through witnessing or experiencing domestic violence, as is necessary for their well-being, taking into account the rights, responsibilities and duties of parents, legal guardians or other individuals legally responsible for children to protect them, and to this end to take all appropriate and legislative and administrative measures, taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration;

(d) To take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities;

(e) To adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies, national strategies, action plans, legislation and regulations, including in response to domestic violence, abuse and neglect, and to ensure the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons related to, *inter alia*, employment, social protection, housing, education and training, access to technologies and the provision of financial, social, healthcare, long-term support and palliative care services;

(f) To establish measures to ensure accountability with regard to domestic violence without any discrimination, including in relation to those living in rural and remote areas, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, persons of African descent, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and persons with disabilities;

(g) To engage meaningfully in the 30-year review and appraisal of progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

4. *Calls upon States* to take effective action to prevent and eliminate domestic violence without delay and to support and protect all victims and, where applicable, survivors, by:

(a) Adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits domestic violence involving physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence and threats thereof, including violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, and providing adequate legal protection against all forms of violence in the public and private spheres, including victim and witness protection from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence;

(b) Establishing appropriate mechanisms to detect situations of violence against victims of domestic violence by other family members and third parties, including appropriate mechanisms for reporting cases of domestic violence;

(c) Adopting and/or strengthening policies and legislation, including, as appropriate, legislative or other measures throughout the criminal and civil justice system, in order to strengthen preventive measures and protect the rights of persons subjected to domestic violence, ensuring proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and adopting policies with regard to the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

(d) Providing relevant, comprehensive and victim- and survivor-centred legal aid and other essential and free or affordable services to support and assist victims of domestic violence, including by providing remedies and reparations where available, within the framework of their national legal systems, as well as victim- and survivor-centred education and training for front-line service providers, legal and justice system staff and other service providers;

(e) Taking measures to ensure that all officials and relevant professionals dealing with victims or perpetrators of domestic violence or responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing and detecting domestic violence, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing, adequate and gender- and culturally sensitive training to be aware of gender-, age- and disability-specific needs, as well as on the enjoyment of human rights by victims, how to prevent secondary victimization and the underlying causes and short- and long-term impact of domestic violence;

(f) Working to establish comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all victims and survivors of domestic violence that respect the privacy and confidentiality of the victim and survivor, are adequately resourced, are survivor-centred and trauma-informed, include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, such as the police and the justice sector, as well as providers of legal aid services, healthcare services, including, among others, sexual and reproductive healthcare services, medical and psychological assistance, counselling services, protection and childcare services, and, in cases of child victims, ensuring that such services, programmes and responses take into account the best interests of the child, as applicable;

(g) Developing measures and, where they exist, expanding such measures, in order to ensure the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality, for victims and survivors and their children, of services, programmes and opportunities to support them to cope and recover, as well as full access to justice, and ensuring the provision of adequate and timely information on available support services and legal measures, when possible in a language that they understand and in which they can communicate;

(h) Developing and implementing educational programmes, including those based on scientific evidence and teaching materials in accessible, affordable and alternative formats of communication, including easy-to-read and understand formats, that raise educators' and learners' awareness of what constitutes domestic violence and how to identify abusive behaviour, and ensuring that teaching materials are aimed at promoting zero tolerance for domestic violence and at removing the stigma of being a victim and survivor, thus creating an enabling and accessible environment where those subjected to domestic violence can easily report cases of domestic violence;

5. *Welcomes* major contributions made by civil society, including women's rights and community-based organizations, national human rights institutions and the media, in efforts to eliminate domestic violence, notes that these efforts are complementary to those of Governments, and in this regard urges States to support, where possible, initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and at preventing, responding to and protecting those subjected to domestic violence and to encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

6. *Encourages* States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by relevant parameters, including, where appropriate, administrative data from

the police, the health sector and the judiciary, to monitor domestic violence, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, age and, when applicable, disabilities of the victims, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to effectively review and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of those subjected to domestic violence;

7. *Invites* the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to provide technical assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate domestic violence, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

8. *Decides* to convene an intersessional panel discussion on the intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic violence, before its sixty-first session, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize the panel discussion, inviting States, civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, representatives of academia and other relevant stakeholders to address the implementation of the obligations of States under relevant provisions of international human rights law and to discuss challenges and best practices in this regard, and to make the panel discussion fully accessible;

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive report, in an accessible and easy-to-read format, with specific recommendations on how to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors to prevent domestic violence, in consultation with States and all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, regional organizations and human rights bodies and civil society, including women's rights organizations, and to present the report to the Council at its sixty-second session;

10. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, when preparing the above-mentioned comprehensive report, to consider the outcome of the panel discussion.

*47th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/19. The right to development

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations and the core human rights instruments,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Reiterating the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirms the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions 4/4 of 30 March 2007 and 9/3 of 17 September 2008, recalling all Commission on Human Rights resolutions on the right to development, including resolutions 1998/72 of 22 April 1998 and 2004/7 of 13 April 2004 in support of the implementation of the right to development, and recalling also all General Assembly and Council resolutions on the right to development, the most recent being Assembly resolution 78/203 of 19 December 2023 and Council resolution 54/18 of 12 October 2023,

Recalling the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 49/8 of 31 March 2022 on the commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling also the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,⁴⁹

Welcoming the final outcome document adopted at the Nineteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kampala on 19 and 20 January 2024, in which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the right to development by the relevant machinery, taking into account the recommendations of relevant initiatives,

Welcoming also the final outcome document adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kampala on 17 and 18 January 2024, in which the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries strongly encouraged the continuation of support in forwarding the draft legally binding instrument to the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

Stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to North-South cooperation, and should therefore not result in the reduction of North-South cooperation or hamper progress in fulfilling existing official development assistance commitments,

Emphasizing that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Emphasizing also that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, can only be enjoyed in an inclusive and collaborative framework at the international, regional and national levels, and in this regard underlining the importance of engaging the United Nations system, including United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, relevant international organizations, including financial and trade organizations, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, development practitioners, human rights experts and the public at all levels, in discussions on the right to development,

Noting the commitment declared by a number of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all, and in this regard urging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development alongside all other human rights into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, and into development and development-related processes,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of all human rights and the importance of integrating a right to development perspective in a more systemic way into all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues and threats to international peace and security must be shared among the States Members of the United Nations and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations as the most universal and representative international organization in the world,

Stressing also the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its means of implementation, and emphasizing that the 2030 Agenda is informed by the Declaration on the Right to Development and that the right to development is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda and should be central to its implementation,

⁴⁹ General Assembly resolution 73/291.

Recognizing that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, requires effective policy coherence and coordination,

Recognizing also that hunger and extreme poverty, in all their forms and dimensions, are the greatest global challenges and require the collective commitment of the international community for their eradication, and therefore calling upon the international community to contribute to the achievement of that goal, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing further that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the critical elements of the promotion and realization of the right to development and is one of the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, which requires a multifaceted and integrated approach, and reiterating the need to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Recognizing that inequality is a major obstacle to the realization of the right to development within and across countries,

Expressing concern about the increasing number of cases of human rights violations and abuses by transnational corporations and other business enterprises, underlining the need to ensure that appropriate protection, justice and remedies are provided to victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from the activities of those entities, and underscoring the fact that they must contribute to the means of implementation for the realization of the right to development,

Noting the ongoing negotiation process on the draft legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises,

Underlining that the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will require the strengthening of a new, more equitable social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized, as envisioned in article 28 thereof,

Stressing the primary responsibility of States for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating lasting obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular global partnerships for development, for the realization of the right to development, and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires, inter alia, effective development policies at the national level, equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Urging all States to engage constructively in discussions for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development within the Working Group on the Right to Development in order that it may fulfil, in a timely manner, its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4,

Stressing that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly decided that the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights shall be, among others, to promote and protect the realization of the right to development, and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for that purpose, and in its annual resolution on the right to development, the Assembly reaffirms its request to the High Commissioner, in mainstreaming the right to development, to effectively undertake activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and international development, financial and trade institutions,

Recognizing the need for independent perspectives and expert advice to strengthen the work of the Working Group and to support the efforts of Member States to realize fully the

right to development, including in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development,⁵⁰ submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-fifth session pursuant to Council resolution 39/9 of 27 September 2018,

Welcoming the discussions held by the Working Group at its previous sessions on how a legally binding instrument would contribute to making the right to development a reality for all by creating conducive national and international conditions for its realization and by halting all measures that might have a negative impact on the right to development, in accordance with the Charter, the Declaration on the Right to Development and other relevant international instruments and documents,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 54/18, by which it submitted to the General Assembly a draft international covenant on the right to development for its consideration, negotiation and subsequent adoption,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that mandate holders shall discharge the duties of their mandates in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to effectively integrate the right to development into its work and that of its mechanisms in a systematic and transparent manner;

2. *Acknowledges* the urgent need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and the realization of the right to development at the international level while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Also acknowledges* the contribution of civil society actors and other stakeholders to the implementation of the right to development, especially at the grass-roots level;

4. *Encourages* States and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate the right to development into the design, financing and implementation of cooperation processes;

5. *Recalls* the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development;⁵¹

6. *Recognizes* that the full-day high-level meeting on the promotion and protection of the right to development, as a celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development held at the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council, presented a significant opportunity for the international community to demonstrate and reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the right to development, recognizing the high profile it deserves and redoubling its efforts to implement this right;

7. *Recalls* the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the high-level meeting commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development;⁵²

8. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, including on inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system that has direct relevance to the realization of the right to development, and to provide an analysis, taking into account existing challenges to the realization of the right to development, and to make recommendations on how to overcome them and concrete proposals for supporting the Working Group on the Right to Development in fulfilling its mandate;

⁵⁰ [A/HRC/45/40](#).

⁵¹ [A/HRC/54/38](#).

⁵² [A/HRC/54/45](#).

9. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to take concrete measures in the fulfilment of his mandated responsibility, including through advocacy, research, regional technical support, capacity-building at the regional level and strengthening partnerships, and to enhance support for the promotion and protection of the right to development, taking as reference the Declaration on the Right to Development, all resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to development and agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group;

10. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner, in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, to ensure balanced, efficient and visible allocation of both financial and human resources to the existing mechanisms within the Office, including the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, for the realization of the right to development, also to ensure the visibility of the right to development by identifying and implementing tangible projects dedicated to the right to development, in collaboration with the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur, and to provide regular updates to the Human Rights Council in this regard;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its work for the promotion of the right to development at the regional level, and requests the Secretary-General to enhance the Office's dedicated capacity at the regional level;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner to facilitate the participation of relevant experts, including representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner, in the meetings of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, in order for representatives of relevant international organizations, as well as relevant mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, to contribute to the discussions held at its meetings, as appropriate;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions adopted by the Working Group at its third session,⁵³ which are congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

14. *Stresses* the importance of the realization of the mandate of the Working Group, and recognizes the need for renewed efforts within the Working Group so that it may fulfil, in a timely manner, its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolutions 4/4 and 39/9;

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on its twenty-fifth session,⁵⁴ and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to consider implementing the recommendations concerning the Office made by the Working Group in its report;

16. *Stresses* that the Working Group will take into account all resolutions on the right to development, in particular Human Rights Council resolutions 9/3 and 42/23 of 27 September 2019;

17. *Requests* the High Commissioner to engage experts for their continued provision of necessary advice, input and expertise to the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group in the fulfilment of his mandate, to facilitate the participation of the experts in future sessions of the Working Group and to provide advice with a view to contributing to discussions as part of the implementation and realization of the right to development;

18. *Recalls* the annual report of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development⁵⁵ and of its thematic studies,⁵⁶ and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen secretariat support for the Expert Mechanism;

⁵³ E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1, sect. VIII.A.

⁵⁴ A/HRC/57/39.

⁵⁵ A/HRC/54/41.

⁵⁶ A/HRC/54/82, A/HRC/54/83 and A/HRC/54/84.

19. *Requests* the Expert Mechanism to continue to pay particular attention to the international dimension of the right to development, and how this aspect will make the practical implementation of the right to development effective at the international, regional and national levels;

20. *Recalls* the preparation of a commentary on article 1 (1) of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the Expert Mechanism;⁵⁷

21. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur,⁵⁸ and requests him to continue to pay particular attention to the implementation of the right to development, which facilitates the full enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with his mandate;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur and the members of the Expert Mechanism to participate in relevant international dialogues and policy forums relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction with a view to enhancing the integration of the right to development in these forums and dialogues, and requests States, international organizations, United Nations agencies, regional economic commissions and other relevant organizations to facilitate the meaningful participation of the Special Rapporteur and members of the Expert Mechanism in these forums and dialogues;

23. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to provide advice to States, international financial and economic institutions and other relevant entities, the corporate sector and civil society on measures to achieve the goals and targets relating to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the full realization of the right to development;

24. *Reiterates* its decision to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard leads to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

25. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to keep the right to development high on its agenda, to pursue further work in this area in full cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development in their activities, and to provide them with all the assistance necessary for the effective fulfilment of their mandates;

26. *Expresses its appreciation* for the convening of the third biennial panel discussion on the right to development at its current session, looks forward to receiving the report on the panel discussion at its fifty-eighth session, as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/18, requests the Office of the High Commissioner, in accordance with paragraph 27 of its resolution 42/23, to organize the next biennial panel discussion on the right to development, to be held at its sixty-third session, in a format that is fully accessible to persons with disabilities, including sign language interpretation, and also requests the Office to prepare a report on the panel discussion and to submit it to the Council at its sixty-sixth session;

27. *Encourages* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism in their tasks, and to supply all necessary information requested, where available, for the fulfilment of the mandates entrusted to them;

28. *Requests* all special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to regularly and systematically integrate the right to development perspective into the implementation of their mandates;

29. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to

⁵⁷ See [A/HRC/54/41](#), annex II.

⁵⁸ [A/HRC/57/43](#).

development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group and to cooperate with the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism in the fulfilment of their mandates with regard to the promotion and implementation of the right to development;

30. *Decides* to review the progress of the implementation of the present resolution, as a matter of priority, at its future sessions.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 14, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay]

57/20. Situation of human rights in the Russian Federation

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties and instruments,

Reaffirming that it is the primary responsibility of each State to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty and political independence of the Russian Federation within its internationally recognized borders,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 51/25 of 7 October 2022 and 54/23 of 12 October 2023 on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation,

Recalling also all relevant statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies concerning the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, including those by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation,

Recalling further the alarming findings in the report of the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the legal and administrative practices of the Russian Federation of 22 September 2022,⁵⁹ as well as of its reports of 4 May 2023⁶⁰ and 25 April 2024,⁶¹

Gravely concerned at the continued significant deterioration of the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, in particular at reports of the extrajudicial killing of government critics, severe restrictions on the rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, both online and offline, to silence dissent, anti-war expression and other peaceful activities vital for the functioning of a democratic society,

⁵⁹ www.osce.org/odihr/526720.

⁶⁰ www.osce.org/odihr/542751.

⁶¹ www.osce.org/odihr/567367.

resulting in an unabating systematic crackdown by the Russian authorities on civil society organizations and representatives, human rights defenders, particularly women human rights defenders, who face specific sexual and gender-based violence and threats, independent media outlets, journalists, media workers, Indigenous Peoples, persons in vulnerable situations, children and their families, persons belonging to minorities, lawyers, political opposition representatives, and other individuals exercising their human rights,

Expressing its deep concern at the reported mass arbitrary arrests, detentions and harassment of the persons referred to in the previous paragraph, including persons peacefully protesting and speaking out against the deterioration of the rule of law in the Russian Federation and the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the excessive use of force against these individuals, as well as at the lack of an independent judiciary, denial of the right to a fair trial and legal assistance of their own choice, including for those detained, and the intimidation of, arbitrary disciplinary measures against, and disbarment and criminal prosecution of lawyers for performing their professional duties, including lawyers defending those arrested and sentenced on politically motivated grounds,

Expressing concern at the torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of detainees, including acts involving the denial of access to adequate medical care, and their arbitrary placement in punitive solitary isolation cells or solitary confinement; at the unwillingness of the authorities to investigate allegations of enforced disappearances, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as of sexual and gender-based violence against persons in detention; at the situation of individuals, especially children, deported to the Russian Federation; and at the persistent impunity for these acts,

Expressing grave concern at the death of the opposition leader Alexei Navalny in detention, and the failure of the Russian authorities to conduct an effective, independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances of his death,

Calling upon the Russian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release and effectively rehabilitate all those persons arbitrarily or unlawfully detained, arrested, charged or sentenced on politically motivated grounds or for exercising their human rights,

Expressing its concern at the mass forced shutdowns of civil society organizations, including Memorial, the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Sakharov Centre, the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, the Centre for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the human rights organization Man and Law, the blocking and forced closure of nearly all independent media outlets, including radio channels, television channels, online media and newspapers, the bans on foreign media and the targeted revocation of registration of foreign organizations by the Russian authorities, and also at the limited access of Russian civil society to information and communications infrastructure and to independent information, and the increase in offline and online censorship and disinformation, as well as the pervasive new cybersurveillance systems to control information and intimidate and silence critics,

Noting with deep concern the legislative measures to increasingly restrict the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, both online and offline, notably the laws on so-called “foreign agents”, “extremism” and “undesirable organizations”, as amended, the law on “fake news about the Russian army” and “discreditation of the use of the Russian armed forces” of March 2022, amending the Code on Administrative Offences and the Criminal Code, and general prohibitions on the dissemination of information based on vague and ambiguous notions, as well as the misuse of the court system for political purposes, which together have the effect of suppressing peaceful, independent and pluralistic views through the application of steep fines, arbitrary detention and lengthy prison sentences,

Concerned at the human rights violations stemming from the arbitrary use and instrumentalization of laws relating to the “security of the State”, including “treason” or anti-terrorism and anti-extremism legislation with an excessively broad interpretation beyond their stated purpose, aimed at silencing dissenting voices, and at extrajudicial restrictions, the secret trial of civilians by military courts and laws that are used in practice to limit freedom of expression and association, and in this regard expressing concern at the addition of at least

55 Indigenous Peoples' organizations and other regional and minorities groups to the list of "extremist organizations",

Alarmed that legislative measures are being used by the authorities against Russian civil society, human rights defenders and Indigenous Peoples to penalize and criminalize cooperation with international organizations, including as intimidation and reprisal for cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and that the enforcement of such legislation is reportedly leading to self-censorship and dissuading civil society actors from publicly engaging with the United Nations and other organizations,

Convinced that the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, the integrity of the judicial system and an independent legal profession are essential prerequisites for the protection of human rights, the rule of law, good governance and democracy, and for ensuring that there is no discrimination in the administration of justice, and that they should therefore be respected in all circumstances,

Deploing the continuing social, political and economic discrimination and violence against women and girls and individuals in vulnerable situations and the level of sexual and gender-based violence in the country, and urging the Russian authorities to take effective measures to criminalize in national law all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and to prevent, investigate and ensure accountability for sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic and intimate partner violence, as well as, in particular in the North Caucasus region, gender-related killings, such as "honour" killings, forced marriage and the practice of female genital mutilation, and to take a survivor-centred approach to fighting sexual and gender-based violence and abuse,

Deploing also that the Russian authorities have designated some human rights organizations and groups of persons in vulnerable situations as "extremist" and added them to the list of "undesirable" organizations, which has reportedly resulted in these persons suffering greater physical and verbal abuse, persecution, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture, and other crimes committed against them with impunity,

Regretting that, despite the two postponements granted by the Human Rights Committee, the Russian Federation did not participate in the constructive dialogue with the Committee during its 136th session, and taking note of the Committee's concluding observations on the eighth periodic review of the Russian Federation,⁶² the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of the Russian Federation⁶³ and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the combined twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth periodic reports of the Russian Federation,⁶⁴

Recalling that the Russian Federation ceased to be a high contracting party to the European Convention on Human Rights on 16 September 2022, and that 8,350 applications directed against the Russian Federation are currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights, which remains competent to deal with cases concerning acts or omissions that took place before that date, and recalling also that the Russian Federation remains bound by the decisions taken by the European Court of Human Rights on the aforementioned pending cases,

1. *Strongly urges* the Russian authorities to comply with all of the State's obligations under international human rights law;

2. *Urges* the Russian authorities to uphold the fundamental freedoms of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and political participation, and a democratic election process, in particular by removing restrictions on diversity in ideas, criticism and dissent, as well as associated rights to liberty and security of person; to put an immediate end to the reported violations of the rights to a fair trial and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, misuse of the judicial system, in particular the arbitrary use and

⁶² [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#).

⁶³ [CRC/C/RUS/CO/6-7](#).

⁶⁴ [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#).

instrumentalization of laws on “security of the State”, including on “treason”, or anti-terrorism and anti-extremism laws, to suppress the rights of journalists and other media workers, cultural figures, lawyers, researchers, historians, civil society and human rights defenders, and peaceful anti-war protesters, notably women and persons in vulnerable situations; and to release immediately and unconditionally all those arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared, and to ensure the safe return of deported individuals, especially children;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation;⁶⁵

4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation as defined by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/23 for a period of one year, and requests the mandate holder to hold consultations with all stakeholders, including civil society inside and outside the Russian Federation, and to present a comprehensive report to the Council at its sixtieth session and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

5. *Calls upon* the Russian authorities to establish full and non-selective engagement with all United Nations human rights mechanisms, including constructive communication and full cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, to allow the mandate holder unhindered access to visit the country and to meet freely with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and human rights defenders, as well as individuals in detention, including prisoners of war and civilians deported to the territory of the Russian Federation, and to provide the Special Rapporteur with the information necessary to properly fulfil the mandate, and also calls upon the Russian authorities to cooperate fully with all other special procedure mandate holders, the treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as all stakeholders in the context of the universal periodic review, and to refrain from all forms of intimidation and reprisal against persons and associations for their cooperation with these bodies;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with all assistance and adequate human, technical and financial resources necessary to enable the effective fulfilment of the mandate.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 20 to 8, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Romania, United States of America

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates]

57/21. Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic,

⁶⁵ [A/HRC/57/59](#).

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to full respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

Condemning the grave situation of human rights across the Syrian Arab Republic, and demanding that the Syrian regime meet its responsibility to protect the Syrian population and to respect and protect the human rights of all persons within its jurisdiction, including persons in detention and their families,

Welcoming the work of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-17/1 of 23 August 2011, and that of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011,⁶⁶ noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry, and recalling the statements made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that crimes against humanity and war crimes are likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic,

Noting with grave concern the findings of the Commission of Inquiry, including its most recent report,⁶⁷ in which it documented continued violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including attacks against civilians and civilian objects, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and deaths in detention due to ill-treatment or lack of access to medical care and arbitrary arrests on return to the Syrian Arab Republic,

Strongly condemning the fact that a devastatingly high number of children in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to be subjected to grave violations and abuses of human rights law, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, as identified by the Secretary-General,⁶⁸ and that the scale and recurrent nature of such violations and abuses will affect generations to come, and noting with deep regret the finding of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that almost one in 13 of those who have died as a result of the conflict was a child,⁶⁹

Condemning the significant number of reports of abuses against children by the Syrian regime, including the targeting and torturing of children to punish them for their familial relationships, real or assumed, with political dissidents, members of the armed opposition and activist groups and the use of detained children to compel their parents and other relatives associated with opposition fighters to surrender, and noting that more than 5,000 children in the Syrian Arab Republic remain unjustly detained or disappeared by parties to the conflict,

Affirming the human right of everyone to education, which is enshrined in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and other relevant international instruments,

Strongly condemning the recurring attacks on students, teachers, schools and universities, the military use of educational facilities and the increasing trend of recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which impair the continued realization of the right to education in conflict situations and cause severe and long-lasting harm to individuals and societies, while noting in this context the efforts aimed at facilitating the continuation of education in the Syrian Arab Republic,

Noting with deep concern the findings of the Commission of Inquiry that children have suffered sexual and gender-based violence since the early days of the Syrian conflict, including children as young as 11 years old who were subjected to a range of forms of sexual

⁶⁶ See [A/78/772](#) and [A/HRC/57/86](#).

⁶⁷ [A/HRC/57/86](#).

⁶⁸ See [A/78/842-S/2024/384](#).

⁶⁹ See [A/HRC/50/68](#).

and gender-based violence in regime detention facilities, and recognizing the profound effect that the conflict has had on children, and in this regard, noting the Commission of Inquiry's paper of 2020 entitled "‘They have erased the dreams of my children’: children's rights in the Syrian Arab Republic",⁷⁰

Recognizing the need for a coordinated and effective survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to such violence and abuse and for immediate and non-discriminatory access to services, such as healthcare and psychosocial support, to be provided to all survivors of such crimes, and underlining the need for effective and gender-sensitive measures to be in place to ensure the safety, confidentiality, privacy and broader protection of survivors and witnesses of sexual violence in accountability processes,

Reiterating its deep concern at the situation of the tens of thousands of individuals, including children, who have been forcibly disappeared and those missing and detained in the Syrian Arab Republic, first and foremost by the Syrian regime, calling in this regard for the cooperation of all parties with the newly established Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, demanding that all parties immediately cease the practices of involuntary or enforced disappearance and kidnapping, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2474 (2019) of 11 June 2019 and applicable international law, and demanding also that all parties to the conflict cease the ongoing use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and sexual and gender-based violence in places of detention and all related violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law,

Recalling the earthquakes of February 2023, reiterating its deepest condolences for the 8.8 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic affected by them, and noting the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation since then, affecting populations already in vulnerable situations,

Noting the impact of the earthquakes on the 2.4 million children who were already out of school prior to the earthquakes and others at greater risk of human rights violations and abuses, in addition to the existing crisis, and how their suffering has been heightened by impediments to the rapid, safe, unhindered and sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid to all people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic through all available modalities,

Noting also that since 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic has received 54 recommendations and observations concerning the right to education from human rights mechanisms, namely the universal periodic review, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Noting with concern the findings of the Commission of Inquiry that, throughout the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, women and girls have been targeted on the basis of their gender and that, according to its 2023 paper entitled "Gendered impact of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic on women and girls", further harm has been inflicted through obstacles to their exercise of their rights, including their rights to property and inheritance entitlements and to freedom of expression, a lack of justice and redress for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and legal barriers to the conferral of nationality to children for access to education and to other rights,

Expressing concern that girls have been uniquely affected by the conflict, as it has exacerbated existing gender inequalities and increased their vulnerability and caregiving responsibilities, further limiting their access to education and reducing their future power in decision-making processes relating to their own lives and their communities,

Noting with concern the situation of internally displaced persons, and of persons in camps, as described by the Commission of Inquiry, the majority of whom are women and children, who are especially vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, which includes killings, physical, verbal and sexual abuse, neglect, movement restrictions, child, early and

⁷⁰ Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iici-syria/documentation>.

forced marriage and child labour and trafficking, and who often lack access to food, water and sanitation, education, a livelihood and healthcare, including mental healthcare,

1. *Expresses grave concern* that the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic continues and that the conflict has been marked by consistent patterns of gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, strongly condemns all violations and abuses and the ongoing human rights situation, demands that all parties to the conflict immediately comply with their respective obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and emphasizes the need to ensure that all those responsible for such violations and abuses are held to account;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of establishing appropriate processes and mechanisms to achieve justice, reconciliation, truth and accountability for violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, and reparations and effective remedies for victims and survivors, and the prerequisite role that accountability and transitional justice mechanisms, with the meaningful participation of victims, can play in any effort to bring about a sustainable, inclusive and peaceful conclusion to the conflict, welcomes in this regard victim-led initiatives on truth and justice, also welcomes the significant endeavours of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, while noting the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard, and demands that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and the Commission of Inquiry by granting the Commission immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;

3. *Deeply deplores* the fact that the civilian population continues to bear the brunt of the conflict and that civilians, and objects indispensable to their survival, continue to be the target of deliberate and indiscriminate attacks, including with prohibited weapons and munitions, by all parties to the conflict, notably by the Syrian regime and its State and non-State allies;

4. *Expresses grave concern* in this regard at the continued and escalating violence, including air strikes and the use of cluster munitions, and the resulting civilian deaths and casualties, including children, and the destruction and military use of civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities and schools, and cultural property across the Syrian Arab Republic, demands that all parties comply immediately with their respective obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and emphasizes the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations and abuses are held to account and that civilians are protected;

5. *Condemns* the attacks against civilian objects, such as schools, as reported by the Commission of Inquiry,⁷¹ and the negative effects of the ongoing conflict on the rights and welfare of children, including their access to schools, medical care and healthcare, education and humanitarian assistance and decries the violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, as applicable;

6. *Recalls* the obligations of the Syrian Arab Republic under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to respect and ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child, and its obligation under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, and calls upon all parties, first and foremost the Syrian regime, to take all feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by the conflict;

7. *Urges* all parties to immediately respect and protect the full enjoyment by children of all their human rights, and to prevent, and to protect children from, all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, child, early and forced marriage, denial of humanitarian access, exploitation, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and violations and abuses, including the recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict, in

⁷¹ A/HRC/39/65.

contravention of international law, and attacks on schools, in contravention of international law;

8. *Also urges* all parties to ensure that children affected by the conflict receive appropriate assistance, including access to identity documentation, education, justice and healthcare, including the provision of mental health and psychosocial support, strongly condemns the use of schools for military purposes, in contravention of international law, and encourages the Commission of Inquiry to continue its investigation and documentation of violations and abuses of the rights of the child;

9. *Expresses grave concern* at the dire humanitarian conditions across the Syrian Arab Republic, demands that all parties to the conflict maintain rapid, unhindered, safe and sustainable humanitarian access and ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its intended recipients, also demands in this regard that all parties consent to humanitarian operations into the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, through all modalities, including cross-border and cross-line modalities, and notes that humanitarian aid must be delivered on the basis of need and guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

10. *Recalls* the findings of the Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that the Syrian Arab Republic does not yet offer a safe and stable environment for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees or for those displaced inside the country, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to protect returning refugees and internally displaced persons from human rights violations and abuses and to help to create the conditions necessary for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees;

11. *Strongly reiterates* the call of the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire, the call of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria for a complete, immediate and nationwide ceasefire throughout the Syrian Arab Republic and the recommendation made by the Commission of Inquiry to immediately institute a permanent ceasefire in order to provide the space for Syrian-led negotiations, including the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women, and for the restoration of respect for human rights, and urges all parties to the conflict to direct their efforts to enact such a ceasefire;

12. *Strongly supports* the efforts of the Special Envoy to make progress in the political process and the work of the Constitutional Committee to advance further aspects of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) of 18 December 2015, deplores the stalling of efforts to engage meaningfully and in good faith with the political process, and urges all parties to the conflict, and the Syrian authorities in particular, to advance all aspects of resolution 2254 (2015);

13. *Supports* efforts to ensure that children and youth in the Syrian Arab Republic are represented and empowered to play a meaningful role in the political process and that a key component of any political settlement is access to justice for child victims of abuses and violations;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

48th meeting
10 October 2024

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 26 to 4, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Qatar, Romania, United States of America

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Eritrea

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam]

57/22. Situation of human rights in Burundi*The Human Rights Council,*

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 30/27 of 2 October 2015, S-24/1 of 17 December 2015, 33/24 of 30 September 2016, 36/2 of 28 September 2017, 36/19 of 29 September 2017, 39/14 of 28 September 2018, 42/26 of 27 September 2019, 45/19 of 6 October 2020, 48/16 of 8 October 2021, 51/28 of 7 October 2022 and 54/20 of 12 October 2023, as well as all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Recalling also the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, which is rooted in the principles of human rights and transitional justice and provides the foundation for lasting peace, justice, national reconciliation, security and stability in Burundi,

Reaffirming full respect for the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Burundi,

Reaffirming also that States have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of Burundi for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its population in compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable,

Recalling that the States members of the Human Rights Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and shall fully cooperate with the Council,

Considering that the international community and the United Nations system, including the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, can play a critical role in strengthening the protection of human rights, preventing human rights violations and abuses and mitigating the risks of escalation of conflicts and deterioration in humanitarian situations,

Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi submitted to the Human Rights Council at its present session,⁷²

Noting with appreciation the progress made with regard to regional and international participation, the fight against trafficking in persons and the repatriation of Burundian refugees, while stressing the importance of guaranteeing security and social integration to returnees as stated by the Special Rapporteur in his previous report,⁷³ and noting also the commitments made towards realizing further improvements in the areas of human rights, good governance and the rule of law,

Expressing deep concern about human rights violations and abuses in Burundi, and regretting the lack of cooperation of the Government of Burundi with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur, while also regretting its lack of constructive cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the lack of progress in reopening its country office,

1. *Strongly condemns* all human rights violations and abuses committed in Burundi, including those involving extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary

⁷² A/HRC/57/58.

⁷³ A/HRC/54/56.

arrest and detention, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and sexual and gender-based violence, and calls for an immediate end to these violations and abuses and for the full respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Urges* the Government of Burundi to guarantee the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association, and deplores the reduced space for civil society, citizen activism, political participation and a free and fair judiciary, encourages the Government to consolidate the progress made in the field of the media, and stresses the need for the Government to provide a safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers and other media workers, including women working in these professions, to carry out their work independently, without intimidation or undue interference, and to release all those who are still in detention for doing their work in defence of human rights;

3. *Condemns* the widespread impunity for all human rights violations and abuses, and urges the Government of Burundi to hold all perpetrators, regardless of their affiliation or status, including members of defence and security forces and of the ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure, accountable for their actions, and to ensure that victims can seek justice and legal redress, and encourages the Government to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to honour its legal obligation to cooperate fully with the Court with regard to its ongoing investigation;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to create the conditions necessary for the holding of inclusive, transparent and credible parliamentary elections in 2025, in accordance with its international obligations and commitments;

5. *Also calls upon* the Government of Burundi to guarantee the full independence of the judiciary;

6. *Further calls upon* the Government of Burundi to provide the National Independent Human Rights Commission with all the means necessary to perform its function of promoting and protecting human rights in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and to ensure its independence;

7. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to implement fully the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi in their reports, as well as those accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, and to cooperate fully with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and relevant treaty bodies;

8. *Also calls upon* the Government of Burundi to refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against human rights defenders, including those who are cooperating with international human rights mechanisms and the Human Rights Council;

9. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to engage in a genuine and inclusive spirit with all Burundian stakeholders, operating from both inside and outside the country, to effectively address the multiple, deep-rooted challenges that Burundi is experiencing and to sustainably reintegrate returnees into Burundian society;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to take meaningful steps to address discrimination in all its forms and to ensure for all individuals within its territory full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights law;

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi for a further period of one year, and requests the Special Rapporteur to present to the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-ninth session, an oral update on the situation of human rights in Burundi, and also to submit a comprehensive report thereon to the Council at its sixtieth session and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

12. *Urges* the Government of Burundi to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, including by permitting unhindered access to the country, by providing all the information necessary for the proper fulfilment of the mandate, and facilitating cooperative exchanges and synergies with the National Independent Human Rights Commission, in line

with the public commitments made by the current administration to advance human rights and re-engage with the international community;

13. *Also urges* the Government of Burundi to constructively cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in particular its Regional Office for Central Africa, and to present a timeline for the reopening of the country office of the Office of the High Commissioner in Burundi, and to continue to cooperate with the United Nations country team in Burundi;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with the assistance and all resources necessary to fulfil the mandate with all its functions, as outlined by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 48/16;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 22 to 10, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Romania, United States of America

Against:

Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Qatar, South Africa, United Arab Emirates]

57/23. National human rights institutions

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant instruments,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, including most recently Assembly resolution 78/204 of 19 December 2023 and Council resolution 51/31 of 7 October 2022,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and pledged that no one would be left behind,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter, grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome and informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development, and recognizing, inter alia, the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide

equal access to justice and are based on respect for all human rights, effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and transparent, effective and accountable institutions,

Recalling also the general principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, namely, non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, individual autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities, gender equality and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities,

Concerned that, despite the various instruments and undertakings, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society and violations and abuses of their human rights in places throughout the world,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and reaffirming also its statement of the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, and their role in preventing, remedying and assisting victims to find remedies to human rights violations and abuses, in the dissemination of human rights information and education in human rights,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and the establishment of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions,

Reaffirming the importance of, and welcoming the rapidly growing interest and progress throughout the world in, establishing and strengthening independent, pluralistic national human rights institutions, in accordance with the Paris Principles,

Recalling that the existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles is a global indicator of progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,⁷⁴ including this indicator, and calling upon all States to accelerate progress under this indicator,

Reaffirming the important role that such national human rights institutions play, and will continue to play, in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including of human rights defenders, strengthening participation, in particular of civil society organizations, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, Indigenous Peoples, persons belonging to minorities, minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations, promoting the rule of law, developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses,

Encouraging greater efforts to investigate and respond to increasing reports of acts of intimidation and cases of reprisal against national human rights institutions, their members and staff and those who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them,

Recognizing the important role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing acts of intimidation and cases of reprisal as part of supporting cooperation between States and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing, as appropriate, to follow-up actions and to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, and in this regard recalling the Marrakech Declaration, adopted at the thirteenth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions,

Welcoming the strengthening in all regions of regional and cross-regional cooperation among national human rights institutions, and between national human rights institutions and other regional human rights forums,

Commending the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional networks of national human rights institutions, including the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human

⁷⁴ [A/79/79-E/2024/54](#).

Rights in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, for their important work in support of the development and strengthening of independent and effective national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles,

Welcoming efforts to strengthen United Nations system-wide coordination in support of national human rights institutions and their networks, including the tripartite partnership between the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions,⁷⁵ and encouraging further cooperation in this regard between United Nations mechanisms and processes and with national human rights institutions, the Global Alliance and its regional networks,

Welcoming also the valuable participation and contribution of national human rights institutions and their networks, including their contribution to national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, and with regard to follow-up to recommendations and relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, including the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review mechanism and the special procedures, the treaty bodies, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and their continuing efforts in support of the 2030 Agenda, and encouraging further efforts in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the important role of national human rights institutions in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including by supporting compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by States parties thereto at the national level, promoting and protecting the human rights of persons with disabilities and advancing the general principles of the Convention,

Welcoming the designation by some States of national human rights institutions as national monitoring mechanisms for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, consistent with article 33 (2) thereof, and welcoming also the involvement and full participation of civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in the monitoring process,

Emphasizing the importance of the role of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in significantly supporting the design of laws, regulations, policies and programmes for promoting, protecting and monitoring obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and noting in particular the importance of the representation of women with disabilities in the leadership of both independent monitoring frameworks and national human rights institutions,

Recognizing the important role of national human rights institutions in monitoring, reporting to and advising government bodies and other stakeholders in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with their respective mandates and in line with human rights obligations and the principles of non-discrimination, participation, access to justice and accountability,

Welcoming the role of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional networks in supporting national human rights institutions to fulfil their mandate and the support provided by the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Development Programme,

Reaffirming that, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and interdependent,

⁷⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/163, para. 19.

Stressing that the ability of all individuals to participate fully, equally and meaningfully in national, political, cultural, religious, economic and social processes in their societies is crucial to their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights,

Bearing in mind that the promotion and upholding of tolerance, respect, pluralism and diversity are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights in multicultural contexts and, in particular, for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and recognizing that the 2030 Agenda contains a pledge to leave no one behind and envisages a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of the independent voice of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting all human rights, including, in accordance with their mandates, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, particularly in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whose aim is to realize the human rights of all,

Welcoming the Mérida Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a priority under the current strategic plan of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and acknowledging the efforts that national human rights institutions are making to connect their work, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling the Belgrade principles on the relationship between national human rights institutions and parliaments,⁷⁶

Taking note of the Kyiv-Copenhagen Declaration, adopted at the fourteenth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, on the role of national human rights institutions in addressing and preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

1. *Welcomes* the most recent reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Human Rights Council on national human rights institutions⁷⁷ and on the activities of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);⁷⁸

2. *Also welcomes* the important role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the secretariat of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the support that it provides in assisting with the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles;

3. *Encourages* States to establish effective, independent, pluralistic and adequately resourced national human rights institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them to enable the effective fulfilment of their mandate to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and to do so in accordance with the Paris Principles;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the financial and administrative independence and the stability of national human rights institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, notes with satisfaction the efforts of those States that have provided their national human rights institutions with more autonomy and independence, including by giving them an investigative role or enhancing such a role, and encourages other Governments to consider taking similar steps;

⁷⁶ A/HRC/20/9, annex.

⁷⁷ A/HRC/57/65.

⁷⁸ A/HRC/57/66.

5. *Also stresses* that national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations, and calls upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them and to bring perpetrators to justice;

6. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, including the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and related global and regional processes, to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these United Nations mechanisms and processes, bearing in mind the relevant provisions dealing with their participation contained in General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011;

7. *Welcomes* the important role of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in assessing conformity with the Paris Principles and in assisting States and national institutions, when requested, to strengthen national human rights institutions in accordance with such principles, also welcomes the continuing number of national institutions seeking accreditation status through the Global Alliance, and encourages relevant national institutions, including ombudsman institutions, to seek accreditation status;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and all United Nations human rights mechanisms and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, working within their respective mandates, to continue to give high priority to requests from States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions, to work with States and national human rights institutions in the protection and promotion of human rights and to strengthen United Nations system-wide coordination in support of national human rights institutions;

9. *Recognizes* the contribution that national human rights institutions have made to the promotion and protection, and prevention of violations, of human rights by exercising their mandates and functions consistent with the Paris Principles, and encourages them to continue to do so, including by:

(a) Independently assisting, advising and engaging with the State, and other stakeholders, in the prevention of violations and abuses of human rights;

(b) Encouraging the ratification, and ensuring the implementation, of international human rights treaties;

(c) Promoting legal, policy and procedural reforms, including to promote and ensure the harmonization of national laws and practices with the international human rights instruments to which a State is a party, and their effective implementation;

(d) Cooperating with the United Nations system, including by contributing, as appropriate, to follow-up actions to the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms;

(e) Conducting and promoting at all levels practical and relevant human rights training and education, and raising public awareness and advocacy about the promotion and protection of human rights and efforts to combat all forms of discrimination;

(f) Working with non-governmental organizations devoted to promoting and protecting human rights and economic and social development, combating racism and

protecting groups subject to particular vulnerabilities, marginalization or intersecting forms of discrimination, or of specialized areas;

(g) Preparing and publicizing reports on the national situation with regard to human rights, drawing the attention of the Government to situations in any part of the country in which human rights are violated, making proposals to put an end to such situations and, where necessary, expressing an opinion on the positions and reactions of the Government;

(h) Supporting transparent and meaningful engagement by States in regional and international human rights forums by making contributions, in accordance with their independent mandates, to the reports that States are required to submit to United Nations bodies and committees and to regional institutions pursuant to their treaty obligations;

(i) Promoting, protecting, monitoring and reporting on the rights of persons with disabilities, including by supporting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by States parties thereto and engaging with relevant United Nations bodies, mechanisms and processes, such as the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;

10. *Acknowledges* that, in the performance of their key functions, in accordance with their mandates and with the Paris Principles, national human rights institutions are supporting the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies, and in doing so are contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by:

(a) Assisting States to adopt effective frameworks to promote and protect human rights, which are applied equally to protect the rights of all individuals without discrimination on any grounds, including race, colour, gender, age, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

(b) Contributing to building the capacity of States to prevent and reduce discrimination and violence through effective national-level legislation, regulation, policies and programmes, including those that guarantee equal access, rights and opportunities for all, including equal access to justice and participatory decision-making;

(c) Contributing to the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights for all;

(d) Contributing to the protection and implementation of the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who require more intensive support, and to the fight against inequality and discrimination on the basis of disability, which means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability that has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and championing the voices of persons with disabilities through close consultation with and the active involvement of such persons, through their representative organizations;

(e) Contributing to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls and of sexual and gender-based violence;

(f) Contributing to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance, all forms of hate speech, and religious intolerance and its manifestations, including hate crimes and incitement to hatred, and fostering cohesive societies that respect and celebrate diversity and multiculturalism;

(g) Contributing to addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that can increase the vulnerability to violence and discrimination of persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, refugees and migrants, persons who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and other individuals in vulnerable situations or belonging to marginalized groups;

(h) Working with businesses to fulfil their commitment to respect human rights, in accordance with human rights law, and to support initiatives aimed at protecting victims of human rights abuses, including through the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

11. *Encourages* all States and national human rights institutions, both individually and collectively, through the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional networks, to continue to take appropriate steps to maintain a legislative or policy framework compliant with the Paris Principles and to promote cooperation, the exchange of information, the sharing of experience and the dissemination of best practices concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions, including their contribution to the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

12. *Encourages* all States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider designating or including national human rights institutions as part of one or more independent monitoring mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the Paris Principles, consistent with article 33 (2) of the Convention;

13. *Invites* national human rights institutions to include in their cooperation the exchange of best practices on strengthening their liaison role between their Governments and civil society, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, Indigenous Peoples, persons belonging to minorities, minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations;

14. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and to strengthen its work with national human rights institutions, including through technical cooperation, capacity-building activities and advice, and urges the High Commissioner to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made and budgetary resources are provided to continue and further extend activities in support of national human rights institutions, including through increased support for the work of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional networks;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the Office of the High Commissioner with the financial and human resources necessary for the servicing of the sessions of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, relating to the participation of members, interpretation in the official languages of the Global Alliance, the processing of applications and the translation of documents;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its sixty-third session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution that includes examples of best practices among national human rights institutions, prepared in consultation with States, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders, and published in accessible formats, and a report on the activities of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/24. Education as a tool to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant international instruments, and reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness and interdependence of all human rights,

Acknowledging the importance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as a milestone in highlighting the essential role of education in the common fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, resolution 69/16 of 18 November 2014, in which the Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and resolution 78/323 of 13 August 2024, in which the Assembly proclaimed 25 July as the International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent,

Recalling also all previous resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and on the right to education,

Reaffirming the human right of everyone to education, which is enshrined in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and other relevant international instruments,

Recognizing the critical importance of an inclusive and equitable quality education and noting that education systems should nurture cultural diversity with a view to protecting cultural rights and fostering mutual understanding, respect for diversity and tolerance,

Noting that education systems and educational institutions have an important role and responsibility in addressing and eliminating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Acknowledging that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action recognizes that education at all levels and all ages, including within the family, in particular human rights education, is a key to changing attitudes and behaviour based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promoting tolerance and respect for diversity in societies, and affirms that such education is a determining factor in the promotion, dissemination and protection of the democratic values of justice and equity, which are essential to prevent and combat the spread of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recognizing that the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a key driver in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the importance of freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and the fundamental role of education and other active policies in the promotion of tolerance and respect for others and in the construction of pluralistic and inclusive societies,

Recognizing further the important role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in relation to education against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular the Routes of Enslaved Peoples: Resistance, Liberty and Heritage Programme, the thirtieth anniversary of which is celebrated in 2024,

Encouraging all States, in cooperation with the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant international organizations, to initiate and develop cultural and educational programmes aimed at countering racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to

ensure respect for the dignity and worth of all human beings and to enhance mutual understanding among all cultures and civilizations,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and recalling the recommendations contained in previous United Nations reports on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the efforts made by, inter alia, the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and other special procedures,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, including for Africans and people of African descent, Asians and persons of Asian descent, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including, but not limited to, Roma, women and girls and persons with disabilities, contributes to the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, to the eradication of poverty and to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recognizing that all States have the potential to expand their investment in inclusive and equitable quality education, which contributes to the fulfilment of their obligations regarding the realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

Recognizing also that new and emerging digital technologies have the potential to facilitate efforts to accelerate human progress, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic, social and cultural rights, and to bridge all digital divides, while also acknowledging that the potential risks posed by the digital environment can entail different forms of violence and harm,

1. *Underlines* the need for increased political will and commitment in using education as a tool to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

2. *Also underlines* the importance of the full and effective implementation of the paragraphs of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the role of education in preventing and eliminating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

3. *Reaffirms* that education, development and the faithful implementation of all international human rights norms and obligations, including the enactment of laws and political, social and economic policies, are crucial to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

4. *Recognizes* that inclusive and equitable quality education, the elimination of illiteracy, and access to free primary and secondary education for all can contribute to more inclusive societies, equity, stable and harmonious relations and friendship among nations, peoples, groups and individuals, and a culture of peace, fostering mutual understanding, solidarity, social justice and respect for all human rights for all;

5. *Underlines* the essential role of education, including human rights education and education that is responsive to and respects cultural diversity, especially among children and young people, in the prevention and eradication of all forms of intolerance and discrimination, and welcomes the catalytic role that civil society plays in promoting human rights education and raising awareness about racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Urges* States, in particular:

(a) To adopt and implement laws, policies and programmes that prohibit and combat discrimination on the basis of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, at all levels of education, both formal and non-formal;

(b) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate obstacles limiting access to education;

(c) To ensure that all children have access without discrimination to equitable quality education;

(d) To support efforts to ensure safe school environments, free from violence, harassment and bullying, both online and offline, including those motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia or related intolerance;

(e) To promote equitable access to new and emerging digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, and other information and communication technologies in the educational system;

7. *Also urges* States to introduce and, as applicable, to reinforce anti-discrimination and anti-racism components in human rights programmes in school curricula, to develop and improve relevant educational material, including history and other textbooks, and to ensure that all teachers are effectively trained and adequately motivated to shape attitudes and behavioural patterns based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and mutual respect;

8. *Encourages* States to raise awareness of the histories, heritages, cultures and cultural contributions of Africans and people of African descent, Asians and persons of Asian descent, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including, but not limited to, Roma, women and girls and persons with disabilities, to implement programmes that promote knowledge and comprehensive understanding, securing recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of individuals, and incorporating a racial and gender perspective, and to ensure that textbooks and other educational materials, including guidance for teaching staff, accurately and accessibly reflect historical facts;

9. *Recognizes* that new and emerging digital technologies have the potential to promote educational and awareness-raising tools against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, both in and out of school, and universal respect for human rights and for cultural diversity, while drawing attention to the need to address, in a manner that complies with States' obligations under international human rights law, misinformation and the spread of disinformation that can be designed to incite discrimination, hostility and violence and spread hatred, racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, and the need to ensure that the data used for development, deployment and use of such tools are accurate, relevant and representative;

10. *Stresses* the need for States parties to implement fully their obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the principal convention in the fight against racism, and in particular their obligations thereunder with respect to the elimination of racial discrimination, the right to education and training and their obligations to undertake to adopt immediate and effective measures in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information;

11. *Recalls* the importance of international cooperation in promoting education as a tool to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to share good practices;

12. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session a comprehensive report, accessible to persons with disabilities, including in an accessible and easy to read format, analysing relevant education-related practices and measures to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with input from all relevant stakeholders, including States, United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and educational institutions.

48th meeting
10 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/25. From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

For the text of the resolution, see chapter II.

57/26. Technical assistance and capacity-building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 51/35 of 7 October 2022 on technical assistance and capacity-building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands,

Noting with concern the adverse impact of the recent regular budget liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations on the work of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including in the implementation of Council resolution 51/35,

Acknowledging with appreciation the constructive engagement between the Office of the High Commissioner, the Government of the Marshall Islands and other States in implementing Human Rights Council resolution 51/35,

Acknowledging the engagement between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Government of the United States of America, and noting the concerns expressed by the United States of America,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes on his mission to the Marshall Islands,⁷⁹ in which the Special Rapporteur reported that the nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands had immediate and continuing effects on human rights that resulted in fatalities and serious health complications and that the radiation had led to environmental contamination and the loss of livelihoods and lands,

Recalling also the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on a non-toxic environment,⁸⁰ in which he reported that people in the Marshall Islands continued to suffer the adverse effects of radiation from nuclear tests, resulting in elevated levels of cancer, birth defects and psychological trauma that continued to the present day, and that Marshallese women and girls suffered disproportionately from thyroid and other cancers and from reproductive health problems,

Having considered the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realization and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands, stemming from the State's nuclear legacy,⁸¹ in which the Office reported that the nuclear legacy was not just a chapter in history, but a continuing reality for the Marshallese people, and recommended that the United Nations, through the Human Rights Council, continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the Marshall Islands and to prepare subsequent reports on transitional justice measures to address

⁷⁹ [A/HRC/21/48/Add.1](#).

⁸⁰ [A/HRC/49/53](#).

⁸¹ [A/HRC/57/77](#).

the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy through a cross-jurisdictional, interdisciplinary and gender-responsive approach,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 78/240 of 22 December 2023, entitled “Addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons: providing victim assistance and environmental remediation to Member States affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons”,

Noting with appreciation the guidance note of the Secretary-General, entitled “Transitional justice: a strategic tool for people, prevention and peace”, of 11 October 2023,

Acknowledging with appreciation the regional solidarity of the Pacific Island Forum towards addressing the nuclear legacy in the Pacific, including that of the Marshall Islands, and the operationalization of the Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy Issues of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 of 8 October 2021 and General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022, and reaffirming the importance of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as critical to the enjoyment of all human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing the adverse impact of the nuclear legacy on the realization and enjoyment of human rights by the people of the Marshall Islands;

2. *Urges* States, all relevant United Nations agencies, as one United Nations, and other stakeholders to support the Government of the Marshall Islands in its efforts to improve the health of its people and environment;

3. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to cooperate with the Government of the Marshall Islands in the field of human rights and to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the National Nuclear Commission of the Marshall Islands in advancing its national strategy for nuclear justice and determining its technical assistance and capacity-building needs to pursue transitional justice in its efforts to address the nuclear legacy;

4. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realization and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands, stemming from the State’s nuclear legacy, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue, with the participation of the National Nuclear Commission of the Marshall Islands;

5. *Further requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to seek the views of the Government of the Marshall Islands and its National Nuclear Commission, States, relevant United Nations mandate holders, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the Marshallese diaspora, Indigenous Peoples, youth representatives and affected communities;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/27. Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,

Reaffirming also its previous resolutions on Somalia,

Recalling its resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights in Somalia rests with the Federal Government of Somalia, and that enhancing the legal framework, human rights protection systems and the capacity, transparency and legitimacy of institutions is essential to help to combat impunity and to improve accountability for human rights violations and abuses and to encourage reconciliation,

Recognizing also the need for the Federal Government of Somalia and its security institutions to uphold their international human rights commitments and obligations and to address abuse and the excessive use of force against civilians,

Recognizing further the importance and effectiveness of international assistance to Somalia and the continued need to step up the scale, coordination, coherence and quality of all capacity development and technical assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights at the national and federal member state levels, and acknowledging the Mutual Accountability Framework, which is aimed at accelerating reforms regarding human rights, as well as reforms regarding security, economic and political institutions and elections,

Underscoring the importance of cooperation and consensus for making further progress on key national priorities, including the implementation of the national security architecture, the constitutional review, power- and resource-sharing in the federal order, including fiscal federalism, and reaching an agreement on a federated justice system, all of which require political agreements that can form the basis for legislation in the federal Parliament,

Recognizing the sustained and vital commitment of the African Union Mission in Somalia, followed by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, and the loss and sacrifice of personnel killed in action since these operations began, in maintaining support for peace and security in Somalia,

Recognizing also the role that women have played and will continue to play in community mobilization and peacebuilding in Somali society, the need to take special measures to end sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, and all other forms of unlawful violence in situations of armed conflict, to end impunity and, consistent with international law, to prosecute those responsible for sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, and the importance of promoting their economic empowerment and full, equal and meaningful participation in political and public decision-making processes, including within Parliament and at all levels of government, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recognizing further the increased commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states to strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights through their respective ministries, while urging increased advocacy for and implementation of human rights commitments in Somalia and engagement with the international human rights system,

1. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to improving the situation of human rights in Somalia, and in that regard also welcomes:

(a) The Somalia security sector development plan, which should support the emergence of effective Somali security institutions and the progressive handover of responsibility from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia to increased Somali ownership, while expressing appreciation, in particular, that this approach is underpinned by a focus on the rule of law, reconciliation, justice, respect for human rights and the protection of women and children, and girls in particular;

(b) The launch of the National Disability Agency's five-year strategy and action plan in December 2023 and the commitment of the Federal Government to entrenching the

rights of persons with disabilities in social, educational, political and economic life through the passing of the disability rights bill, in August 2024, and other legislative mechanisms and through improving the collection of data on persons with disabilities;

(c) The launch by the Federal Government in September 2022 of a national action plan for the implementation of the Somali Women's Charter and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent Council resolutions on the women and peace and security agenda, which entrenches an unconditional commitment to gender equality, human rights and the empowerment of women, zero tolerance for sexual and gender-based violence, justice for all, women's economic empowerment, reconciliation and peace for women at the centre of transitional justice, and the launch of the Somalia chapter of the African Women Leaders Network, which supports the implementation of the above-mentioned national action plan;

(d) The retention of provisions to protect human rights in chapter 2 of the provisional constitution as part of the constitutional review process, and encourages the Federal Government to ensure that the agreements made by the National Consultative Council are subject to broad consultations with technical experts, members of civil society, including women, persons with disabilities and members of minority clans, and to ensure that they are genuinely representative, that they follow due process through Parliament to enshrine these agreements and that full consideration is given to the long-term affordability of the model proposed;

(e) The efforts of the Ministry of Women and Human Rights (now the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development) to draft key human rights legislation, including sexual offences legislation and the child rights bill, and encourages the Government to ensure that said legislation is subject to broad consultation with civil society, including women, persons with disabilities and members of minority clans, to ensure that it is genuinely representative and compliant with international human rights law, as applicable, and follows due process through Parliament;

(f) The cooperation of Somalia with the Human Rights Committee and the presentation of its initial report under article 40 of the Covenant,⁸² covering the period 2012–2020, and the spirit of transparency and cooperation in which the delegation of Somalia engaged with the Committee in the consideration of that report during its 140th session;

(g) The launch of the national reconciliation framework by the Prime Minister on 30 April 2024 in Mogadishu, which represents a pivotal milestone in the pursuit of peace, unity and progress by Somalia and acts as a guiding structure for the country's reconciliation efforts, symbolizing hope and unity while laying the groundwork for a future defined by peace, prosperity and inclusivity;

(h) The continued implementation of the national durable solutions strategy for 2020–2024, fostering a supportive environment for internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and vulnerable communities to access equitable solutions, and notes that the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, through its Durable Solutions Unit, in collaboration with federal member states and international partners, has launched an action plan to ensure that 1 million internally displaced persons can access sustainable, long-term solutions;

(i) The development of the country's first national digital inclusion policy, focusing on those in vulnerable and marginalized situations, who may include women and girls, youth, rural communities, the urban poor, older persons, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as businesses, which mandates equitable access to information and communications technology initiatives, aiming for participation rates that meet or exceed national averages, and calls for legal and institutional changes to support full digital inclusion by 2033, proposing new legislation to integrate these groups into the digital economy;

(j) The launch of the National Action Plan for Children in Somalia on 17 September 2024, which marks a pivotal step in the dedication of Somalia to advancing

⁸² CCPR/C/SOM/1.

the welfare and rights of its youngest residents and details strategic initiatives focused on improving child protection, education, health and overall well-being;

(k) The drafting by the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development of a comprehensive national mechanism for a reporting and follow-up policy that will establish a robust framework to ensure greater transparency, accountability and efficiency in addressing human rights issues and is designed to facilitate better coordination among various governmental and non-governmental entities, thereby strengthening the overall human rights infrastructure;

2. *Recalls* the active engagement of the Federal Government of Somalia with the universal periodic review mechanism in May 2021, in this regard also recalls its acceptance of many recommendations made during the review,⁸³ encourages the Government to implement them as a matter of priority, and welcomes its commitment to completing a midterm review of the implementation of recommendations;

3. *Expresses concern* at the reports of violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law in Somalia, emphasizes that all armed actors should uphold respect for international humanitarian law and human rights for all and hold accountable all those responsible for such violations and abuses and related crimes, including those committed against women and children, and girls in particular, such as the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers and children in armed conflict, killing, maiming, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage and all forms of female genital mutilation and harmful practices, and emphasizes the importance of children formerly associated with armed groups being recognized as victims;

4. *Calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of international donors and organizations, to strengthen reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed groups, ensuring that they are treated primarily as victims of offences under international law and not only as perpetrators, and notes that these programmes should provide psychosocial support, education and vocational training to facilitate the successful reintegration of child soldiers into society and that a national monitoring system should be established to track and prevent the unlawful recruitment and use of children associated with armed forces and armed groups;

5. *Expresses concern* that internally displaced persons, including those who may be in vulnerable situations, who may include women, children, young persons, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to minority and marginalized groups, are the most at risk of violence, abuse and violations;

6. *Expresses deep concern* at the increasing risk of civilian protection issues resulting from continued counter-al-Shabaab operations, and notes that all actors engaged in conflict have a responsibility to uphold their respective obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable;

7. *Expresses concern* at any attack against, illegal restrictions imposed on or harassment of human rights defenders, civil society actors and opposition political actors, including journalists and media workers, especially in the form of harassment, arbitrary arrest or prolonged detention, emphasizes the need to promote respect for the right to freedom of expression and opinion and to end impunity, holding accountable those who commit any such related crimes, stresses the importance of the political neutrality of the police, and in addition encourages the Somaliland authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly in line with international human rights law and to reconsider implementing the draft media law and 2018 sexual offences bill;

8. *Also expresses concern* at the situation in Laascaanood and surrounding areas where, following violent conflict in 2023, there are still combatants detained on both sides, notes that the risk of a rise in tensions could result in increased human rights violations and abuses and further forced displacement, calls upon all parties to the conflict to exercise restraint and to refrain from provocative actions in order to de-escalate the situation on the

⁸³ See [A/HRC/48/11](#).

ground and create the conditions for peace, and also calls upon all parties to the conflict to uphold their respective obligations under international human rights law and humanitarian law, as applicable, including those relating to the treatment of detainees, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and humanitarian access;

9. *Further expresses concern* that those belonging to minority clans and marginalized groups, including women and girls, continue to be at the periphery of economic and political opportunities and decision-making in Somalia, and encourages the Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions to increase efforts to widen opportunities for their participation in public affairs, recognizing that women and girls belonging to minority groups continue to be more vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence owing to poverty, marginalization and discriminatory attitudes;

10. *Expresses concern* at the signing into law in August 2020 of the amended 2016 media law and provisions of the 1964 Penal Code that do not comply with international human rights law, such as those providing for imprisonment as a punishment for media-related offences, and encourages the Federal Government of Somalia to consider repealing such provisions;

11. *Also expresses concern* at the arrest and imprisonment of several individuals for practising their religious beliefs, and calls for freedom of religion or belief to be respected;

12. *Further expresses concern* about the large number of instances of the six types of grave violations committed against children in armed conflict as identified by the Secretary-General and documented in his annual report,⁸⁴ in addition to further alleged violations against children in Puntland, and demands that all parties to the conflict take appropriate measures to comply with applicable international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

13. *Expresses concern* that the exposure and sensitivity of Somalia to ongoing global crises, including those relating to climate change and environmental degradation, are vast and structural, and that this vulnerability is a driver of fragility, conflict and humanitarian need, including hunger, which is reflected in the grave humanitarian crisis in Somalia and the wider region;

14. *Encourages* the Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of international donors and specialized United Nations agencies, to develop and implement climate change resilience programmes to mitigate the human rights and overall impact of climate change and environmental degradation on vulnerable populations, which should be focused on enhancing infrastructure in drought-prone regions, creating early warning systems and building sustainable agricultural practices, and underscores that the participation of Somalia in international climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives should be strengthened to protect against future environmental risks;

15. *Recognizes* the efforts of those States hosting Somali refugees, urges all host States to meet their obligations under international law relating to refugees, and urges the international community to continue to provide financial support to enable host States to meet the humanitarian needs of Somali refugees in the region, to support the reintegration of those returning to Somalia when conditions are suitable and to support internally displaced persons in Somalia;

16. *Also recognizes* the efforts of Somalia, despite its own struggles, to accept and not turn its back on refugees from other countries in the region, in addition to the recent signing of the refugee and asylum-seekers bill, which outlines the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia;

17. *Calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia, federal member states and key political stakeholders, with the support of the international community:

(a) To finalize a new constitution through inclusive and regular high-level dialogue at all levels, including the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and

⁸⁴ [A/78/842-S/2024/384](#).

members of minorities, with a view to reaching political agreement among the Federal Government, all federal member states and the federal Parliament;

(b) To expedite the establishment of a national human rights commission consistent with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), as mandated by law in 2016, providing it with adequate resources to monitor and ensure accountability for violations and abuses, including a recruitment process that provides equal opportunities for the representation of women, persons belonging to marginalized groups and persons with disabilities;

(c) To hold, in a transparent manner, timely, free and fair, one-person, one-vote elections at the federal member state and district levels at a time when such elections can be held;

(d) To continue their cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia;

(e) To engage closely with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia and to facilitate her visits to Somalia so that she may conduct her mandated work;

(f) To encourage an inclusive and accessible approach to political participation at the Federal Government and federal member state levels by ensuring full, equal and meaningful opportunities for women, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to minority and marginalized groups, and agreement on a future electoral model that encourages inclusivity at all stages;

(g) To realize their commitments to security sector reform, including by ensuring the active and meaningful participation of women in the implementation of the national security architecture, to ensure that Somali security forces and institutions comply with applicable national and international law, together with international human rights law, including on the protection of individuals from, inter alia, sexual and gender-based violence and on the prevention of extrajudicial killings, and to the strengthening of internal and external accountability of all relevant security forces and institutions;

(h) To ensure, for continued international security sector support, that all security operations adhere to their relevant obligations under international humanitarian law and prioritize the protection of civilians, noting that security sector reform efforts should include specialized training for Somali security forces to prevent extrajudicial killings, ensure civilian oversight and build trust with local communities;

(i) To strengthen the legal and operational framework for the protection of children in Somalia, including by swiftly implementing the Child Rights Act, to consider becoming a party to the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, to prevent the unlawful recruitment and use of children in armed forces of all types, to work with specialized organizations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund, to ensure that children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups, including those who may have committed crimes, are primarily treated as victims and also to ensure their full reintegration through family- and community-based gender-sensitive reintegration programmes and access to healthcare, including mental health and psychosocial support, and education programmes, in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, which have been endorsed by the Federal Government, and to identify those responsible for such violations and abuses and hold them accountable;

(j) To implement the Safe Schools Declaration, which the Federal Government endorsed in October 2015, to ensure that education facilities, students and education personnel are protected;

(k) To accelerate the adoption and full implementation of the recommendations and activities envisaged under the national action plan on women and peace and security in an incremental and consultative process, in close collaboration with civil society, to thereby strengthen women's participation in peacebuilding and socioeconomic progress in

stabilization and rebuilding efforts for Somalia, in line with the Somali Women's Charter, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent Council resolutions on that issue;

(l) To ensure that all legislation is compatible with international legal obligations, noting Security Council resolution 2664 (2022) of 9 December 2022, according to which the provision, processing or payment of funds, other financial assets or economic resources or the provision of goods and services necessary to ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance or to support other activities that support basic human needs by the United Nations and certain organizations are permitted and are not a violation of the asset freezes imposed by the Council or its sanctions committees, as a model of best practices for relevant domestic legislation, including in Somalia, and to amend where appropriate existing legislation in the spirit of resolution 2664 (2022);

(m) To review the amended media law signed in August 2020 in order to enable the media to report independently without fear of retribution in Somalia and to ensure its compliance with international human rights law, and to accelerate the work of the special prosecutor for investigating crimes against journalists;

(n) To realize their commitments to ending the prevailing culture of impunity, to hold accountable those who commit human rights violations and abuses by ensuring prompt, thorough and effective investigations and by committing resources to reforming and developing the justice sector in a manner consistent with international human rights law, to increase the representation of women in the judiciary and to improve access to justice for women and children;

(o) To support the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development in facilitating the smooth passage of the sexual offences bill through Cabinet and Parliament, and to ensure that any bill passed into law reflects applicable international obligations and commitments on the protection of all women and children, and girls in particular, and to implement it and other laws as necessary to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage and all forms of female genital mutilation, while ensuring that those responsible for sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse are held to account, regardless of their status or rank;

(p) To continue to acknowledge the importance of inclusive dialogue and local reconciliation processes for stability in Somalia, including in the context of the national reconciliation framework and process, and calls upon the Federal Government and federal member states to increase leadership and engagement in de-escalating tensions and engage in constructive dialogue;

(q) To increase the support and resources allocated to the ministries and institutions responsible for the administration of justice and the protection of human rights, in particular the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development at the federal and state levels, and calls upon donor partners to intensify their efforts in supporting the priorities identified by the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development, which are essential for achieving effective and results-based goals that align with the transition objectives highlighted in the present resolution;

(r) To consider acceding to and ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(s) To realize the commitment made at the Global Disability Summit held on 16 and 17 February 2022, in particular by supporting the National Disability Agency in its work, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(t) To harmonize national and federal member state-level political policies and legal frameworks with applicable human rights obligations and other commitments;

(u) To treat former combatants in accordance with applicable obligations under national and international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

(v) To implement the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and the Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, adopted on 25 March 2017;

(w) To promote the well-being and protection of all internally displaced persons, including from sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation and abuse committed by State or international military or civilian personnel, and from forced evictions, to facilitate the voluntary reintegration or return of all internally displaced persons, including the most vulnerable, in safety and with dignity, to ensure a fully consultative process and best practices for relocations, and to provide sites that afford safe access to essential food and potable water, basic shelter and housing, appropriate clothing and essential medical services and sanitation;

(x) To ensure safe, timely, sustained and unhindered access for humanitarian organizations, to recognize the acute vulnerability of internally displaced persons, to facilitate safe, timely, sustained and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need, wherever they are located in Somalia, and to safeguard the neutrality, impartiality and independence of humanitarian actors from political, economic and military interference, while remaining sensitive to the needs of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups requiring humanitarian assistance;

(y) To regard primarily as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, which have been endorsed by the Federal Government, to cease detaining children on national security charges whenever doing so would be in violation of applicable international law, and to pass the juvenile justice bill in order to codify a minimum age of criminal responsibility in Somalia;

18. *Underlines* the importance of the realization by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia of its mandate throughout Somalia and the need to strengthen synergy with the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

19. *Commends* the engagement of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, and the facilitation by the Federal Government of Somalia of her visit in May 2024;

20. *Decides* to renew the mandate of Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, under agenda item 10, for a period of one year, to assess, monitor and report on the situation of human rights in Somalia, with a view to making recommendations on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights;

21. *Stresses* the important role of joint monitoring and reporting on the situation of human rights in Somalia by national and international experts and the Federal Government of Somalia, and the vital role that those monitoring human rights can play in evaluating and ensuring the success of technical assistance projects, which in turn must be for the benefit of all Somalis;

22. *Acknowledges* the call by the Federal Government of Somalia to develop a transition process with partners to facilitate the implementation of the national and international human rights obligations and commitments of Somalia, including the human rights benchmarks developed by the Independent Expert, recommendations accepted as part of the universal periodic review process and other human rights commitments outlined in the present resolution;

23. *Underscores* that the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert forms part of the transition process towards greater engagement by the Federal Government of Somalia with the Office of the High Commissioner, the other special procedures of the Human Rights Council and other human rights mechanisms, with a view to identifying areas for capacity-building and technical assistance;

24. *Calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia to work closely with the Independent Expert, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, international partners, the Office of the High Commissioner and civil society on the transition plan, and requests the Independent Expert to include an update on this transition in her next report to the Human Rights Council;

25. *Acknowledges* the call by the Federal Government of Somalia for increased technical assistance and capacity-building efforts to support the priorities of the Government in implementing its benchmarks and the recommendations accepted by Somalia in the context of the third cycle of the universal periodic review;

26. *Also acknowledges* the progress that Somalia has made and its cooperation with United Nations bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner and the mandate of the Independent Expert since its creation in 1993, further acknowledges that the situation of human rights in Somalia determines the action most appropriate for the Human Rights Council to take, and in this regard welcomes the transition plan towards deeper thematic engagement with the special procedures of the Council and other experts, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner, as proposed by the Independent Expert, in cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia, in her most recent report,⁸⁵ in which she included clear steps and benchmarks to inform appropriate follow-up actions by the Council, considering the recommendations of the Independent Expert and the human rights commitments of Somalia;

27. *Requests* the Independent Expert to continue to work closely with the Federal Government of Somalia and other relevant authorities at the national and subnational levels, with all United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the African Union, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other relevant international organizations, civil society and all relevant human rights mechanisms, and to assist Somalia in the implementation of:

- (a) Its national and international human rights obligations;
- (b) Human Rights Council resolutions and other human rights instruments, including associated routine reporting;
- (c) Recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review;
- (d) Other human rights commitments, policies and legislation to promote the empowerment of women, young people and persons belonging to marginalized groups, such as minority clans, freedom of expression, assembly and association, the protection of the media and civil society, including women peacebuilders, access for women and members of minority groups to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights, and the capacity-building of ministries and institutions responsible for the administration of justice and the protection of human rights;

28. *Takes note of* the options presented by the Independent Expert in her latest report on possible adjustments to the scope of the mandate in order to better respond to the technical assistance needs of the Federal Government of Somalia, based on an assessment conducted in collaboration with the Government and all stakeholders, including relevant United Nations actors, with a view to revising the focus and scope of the mandate and improving its ability to support the country in its efforts to improve the situation of human rights;

29. *Requests* the Independent Expert to report to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

30. *Also requests* the Independent Expert to provide an update to the Human Rights Council in her report on progress on the implementation of the benchmarks and indicators in the transition plan to inform future action by the Council;

31. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations agencies to provide the Independent Expert with all the human, technical and financial assistance necessary to carry out the mandate fully;

32. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

*48th meeting
10 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

⁸⁵ [A/HRC/54/78](#).

57/28. Biodiversity and human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments, and reaffirming the importance of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Reaffirming the importance of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles in addressing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and their adverse impact on the enjoyment of human rights by all,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the pledge contained therein to leave no one behind, including, inter alia, Sustainable Goals 14, on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources, and 15, on halting biodiversity loss,

Recalling also the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including section C thereof, which calls, inter alia, for the implementation of the Framework, including its vision, mission, goals and targets, to be consistent with a human rights-based approach and Conference of the Parties decisions 15/5, on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 15/6, on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, 15/7, on resource mobilization, and 15/8, on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 of 8 October 2021 and General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in which it is recognized that respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment, and recognizing that the failure to protect biodiversity and environmental degradation have adverse human rights consequences, as well as a negative impact on the preservation of traditional knowledge and the cultural heritage, expressions, identities and quality of life of Indigenous Peoples, as well as other biodiversity-dependent communities,

Acknowledging that the loss of biodiversity and the decline in ecosystem services can have a negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which has adverse effects, both direct and indirect, on the effective enjoyment of all human rights, as well as for the safeguarding of the needs and interests of future generations,

Recognizing that the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss often result from and contribute to reinforcing existing patterns of discrimination and inequality, particularly among persons in vulnerable situations,

Recognizing also that human rights defenders working on environmental matters, referred to as environmental human rights defenders, make a positive, important and legitimate contribution to the promotion and protection of all human rights, and expressing deep concern about the multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination against environmental human rights defenders, particularly women, girls and Indigenous defenders,

Taking note of international instruments such as the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, for the protection of environmental defenders, and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement), for the protection of environmental human rights defenders,

Taking note also of the guidance on integrating human rights in national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the United Nations Environment Management Group,

Looking forward to more ambitious commitments at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, consistent with its focus on achieving peace with nature,

1. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase its support, technical assistance and capacity-building for States, with their consent, to implement approaches that integrate the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, taking into account a gender-responsive approach and building on its previous work in this area, including by working with national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Indigenous Peoples representatives and other stakeholders, as well as with United Nations country teams, in accordance with obligations under international human rights law, and requests the Secretary-General to further strengthen the dedicated capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner at the regional level to provide such increased support;

2. *Encourages* the strengthening of means of implementation, as well as of all forms of technical and scientific cooperation, to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

3. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with States, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations and intergovernmental bodies, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, to conduct a global analytical study on the implementation of a human-rights based approach into the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with the provisions of the Convention, consistent with the considerations set out in section C of the Framework and taking into consideration the outcomes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be submitted to the Council at its sixty-first session, and also requests that the High Commissioner make the report available in accessible formats, including in easy-to-read versions;

4. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to cooperate with other relevant United Nations organizations and bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as with Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, peasants, rural and local communities, environmental human rights defenders, women, and persons and groups in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with disabilities, youth and children, on advancing human rights-based biodiversity action.

*49th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/29. Promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in particular Council resolutions 31/7 of 23 March 2016, entitled “Rights of the child: information and

communications technologies and child sexual exploitation”, 38/7 of 5 July 2018 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, 54/21 of 12 October 2023 on the right to privacy in the digital age and 56/7 of 10 July 2024 on freedom of opinion and expression, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 70/125 of 16 December 2015 containing the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, 75/176 of 16 December 2020 on the right to privacy in the digital age, 75/202 of 21 December 2020 on information and communications technologies for development and 78/213 of 19 December 2023 on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies,

Recalling also that the obligation and the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with the State, and that business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights as set out in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, both online and offline, including by implementing human rights due diligence policies and participating in good faith in domestic judicial and non-judicial processes,

Affirming the Global Digital Compact,⁸⁶ adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, and the sections of the Compact on Objectives, Principles, Commitments and actions and Follow-up and review, with regard to human rights,

Taking note of the document of the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, entitled “Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity: setting a baseline and targets for 2030”, of 2022, and the targets contained therein,

Recognizing the importance of access to information and communications technology for the full enjoyment of human rights, strengthening democracy, the rule of law and empowering civic engagement, attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and bridging all digital divides,

Recognizing also that universal connectivity means connectivity for all and that meaningful connectivity is a level of connectivity that allows users to have a safe, accessible and productive online experience at an affordable cost, and recognizing that universal and meaningful connectivity is essential for the enjoyment of human rights,

Acknowledging the need for sustained investment in digital infrastructure and capacity-building to bridge the digital divide, in particular within and among countries, encouraging States to ensure that digital cooperation and investment in digital infrastructure advances human rights, especially privacy, is inclusive and transparent and ensures reliable Internet connectivity for all, without discrimination of any kind, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Affirming that strengthened international cooperation is required to close all digital divides, between and within countries, and recognizing the challenges that these divides pose for many countries for the enjoyment of human rights, in particular developing countries, which have pressing development needs and limited resources,

Recognizing that digital divides, including age, disability, gender, geographical, urban and rural divides, may reflect and amplify existing social, cultural and economic inequalities,

Emphasizing the need for targeted efforts to promote the safe digital inclusion of women and girls, acknowledging the importance of efforts to promote, mentor, attract and retain women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and research and to ensure that woman and girls have access to affordable, meaningful, reliable and high-quality Internet connectivity, including broadband connectivity,

Emphasizing also that, in the digital age, technical solutions to secure and protect the privacy and confidentiality of digital communications, including measures for encryption and anonymity, are important to ensure the enjoyment of all human rights offline and online,

⁸⁶ General Assembly resolution 79/1, annex II.

Stressing the need to ensure that measures offline or online for the protection of national security, public order and public health are in full compliance with international law obligations and that the principles of lawfulness, legitimacy, necessity and proportionality are respected, and stressing also the need to protect human rights, including the freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association and privacy, and personal data in the response to health or other emergencies,

Noting with concern that over one third of the world's population, predominantly within developing countries, especially women and girls, do not have access to the Internet,

Expressing concern that many forms of digital divide remain between and within countries, and recognizing the need to close them, including through international cooperation that promotes meaningful connectivity, especially for developing countries, and recognizing also that the gender digital divide, which includes significant gender disparities in access to and use of information and communications technology, undermines women's and girls' full enjoyment of their human rights,

Recognizing that violations and abuses of women's and girls' rights online are a global concern that hinder the equal exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of gender, and may deter women and girls from using information and communications technology, which can exacerbate the gender digital divide and widen gender inequalities in society, and that the barriers that women and girls using the Internet face, including as a result of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, are exacerbated by offline inequalities,

Stressing the importance of empowering all women and girls by enhancing their access to information and communications technology, by promoting digital literacy and the participation of women and girls in education and training on information and communications technology and by encouraging women and girls to embark on careers in the sciences and in information and communications technology,

Recalling articles 9 and 21 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which, inter alia, call upon States parties to take appropriate measures to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technology and systems, including the Internet,

Recognizing the concept of Internet universality and in this regard also the Internet universality indicators of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a possible tool for meaningful connectivity and to bridge digital divides,

Noting the importance of building confidence and trust in the Internet, not least with regard to freedom of opinion and expression, privacy and other human rights, so that the potential of the Internet as, inter alia, an enabler for development and innovation can be realized, with full cooperation between Governments, civil society, the private sector, the technical community and academia,

Deeply concerned at all human rights violations and abuses committed against persons for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms on the Internet and the impunity for these violations and abuses,

Recognizing that the use of the Internet has the potential to promote educational and awareness-raising tools against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, while calling attention to the need to address, in a manner that complies with States' obligations under international human rights law, misinformation and the spread of disinformation that can be designed to incite discrimination, hostility and violence, as well as spread hatred, racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization,

Deeply concerned at measures in violation of international human rights law that aim to or that intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online,

Strongly condemning the use of Internet shutdowns, including the blocking of access to communication platforms, to intentionally and arbitrarily prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online, which is inconsistent with international law, including international human rights law, and stressing the importance of a free, open, interoperable, reliable and secure Internet,

Stressing the importance of applying a human rights-based approach when providing and expanding access to the Internet, and of the Internet being open, accessible and nurtured by multi-stakeholder participation, and noting the importance in this regard of the Internet Governance Forum,

Considering the key importance of government engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, the technical community and academia, in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms online,

Noting with concern threats to meaningful connectivity that restrict the free flow of information, enable human rights violations and abuses, erode democratic values and threaten freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly and association, including through use of technological tools, such as spyware, including commercial spyware, and other surveillance technologies,

Welcoming efforts to support meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement, including the principles and implementation procedures contained in the multistakeholder statement on strengthening Internet governance and digital policy processes adopted by the 10-year review conference of the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial+10), held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 29 and 30 April 2024,

1. *Affirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression, which is applicable regardless of frontiers and through any media of one's choice, in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Condemns unequivocally* all human rights violations and abuses committed against persons for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms on the Internet, and calls upon all States to ensure accountability and effective remedies in this regard, in accordance with their international obligations;

3. *Also condemns unequivocally* online attacks against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence and abuse of women that occurs through or is amplified by technology, in particular where women journalists, media workers, human rights defenders, public officials or others engaging in public debate are targeted for their expression, and calls for gender-responsive approaches that take into account these particular forms of online discrimination and harassment;

4. *Urges* States to develop comprehensive intersectional approaches grounded in international human rights law to counter all online manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, both offline and online, with a victim-centred and gender-responsive approach;

5. *Recognizes* the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring to leave no one behind;

6. *Calls upon* all States to accelerate efforts to bridge digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and to ensure meaningful connectivity, use of information and communications technology, promotion of open and secure digital access and digital inclusion, including through digital, media and information literacy, in order to promote the full enjoyment of human rights for all, including by:

(a) Fostering an enabling online environment that is safe and conducive to engagement by all, without discrimination and with consideration for individuals facing systemic inequalities;

(b) Maintaining and enhancing efforts to promote access to information on the Internet as one means of facilitating affordable, inclusive, equitable and quality education, health, justice and other public services globally, underlining the need to address digital literacy and digital divides;

(c) Promoting equal opportunities, including gender equality and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, in the design, development, governance and implementation of information and communications technology and in mainstreaming

gender, racial and disability inclusive perspectives and prioritizing accessibility in policy decisions and the frameworks that guide them;

(d) Applying a comprehensive human rights-based approach in providing and expanding access to information and communications technology and promoting, in consultation with all sectors of society, including business enterprises and civil society actors, policies and guidelines for information and communications technology that include specific attention to gender and accessibility considerations;

(e) Encouraging diverse and rights-respecting technological solutions to advance connectivity, including by creating an enabling and inclusive regulatory environment for small, non-profit and community Internet operators;

(f) Facilitating easy, prompt, effective and practical access to public information and proactively disclosing information held by public bodies as a means of intensifying efforts to advance universal and meaningful connectivity;

(g) Ensuring that victims of violations and abuses, both online and offline, have access to effective remedy, that threats and acts of violence are investigated effectively and promptly and that those responsible are brought to justice in order to combat impunity;

(h) Respecting their human rights obligations in the development of regulatory frameworks and legislation on the development and use of digital technologies;

7. *Encourages* all States to support civil society in its efforts to address the lack of meaningful connectivity as a human rights-related issue;

8. *Also encourages* all States to take the necessary and appropriate measures to promote free, open, interoperable, reliable, accessible and secure access to the Internet and, in a manner that complies with their international human rights obligations, address disinformation and advocacy of hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights;

9. *Condemns unequivocally* measures in violation of international human rights law that prevent or disrupt an individual's ability to seek, receive or impart information online, as well as other measures that prevent or disrupt access to meaningful connectivity, including Internet shutdowns and online censorship, and measures that use digital technologies to silence, unlawfully or arbitrarily surveil or harass individuals or groups, including but not limited to, human rights defenders, journalists, media workers and civil society actors, calls upon all States to refrain from and to cease such measures, and also calls upon States to ensure that all domestic laws, policies and practices are consistent with their international human rights obligations with regard to freedom of opinion and expression and of association and peaceful assembly online;

10. *Calls upon* States to ensure net neutrality, subject to reasonable network management, and to prohibit attempts by Internet access service providers to assign priority to certain types of Internet content or applications over others for payment or other commercial benefit;

11. *Calls upon* all States to address security concerns on the Internet in accordance with their international human rights obligations to ensure the protection of all human rights online, in particular freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association and of peaceful assembly and privacy, including through democratic and transparent national institutions, based on the rule of law, in a way that ensures freedom and security on the Internet so that it can continue to be a vibrant force that generates economic, social and cultural development;

12. *Stresses* that many States all over the world, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and developing countries, need support in expanding infrastructure, technological cooperation and capacity-building, including human and institutional capacity-building, to ensure the accessibility, affordability and availability of the Internet in order to bridge digital divides and ensure meaningful connectivity, to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights for all;

13. *Calls upon* all States to consider meaningful, transparent and inclusive participation with all stakeholders, including civil society, as well as remote and rural communities and persons belonging to groups at risk of being disconnected, when starting connectivity initiatives, and adopting national Internet-related public policies that have at their core the objective of universal access and the enjoyment of human rights;

14. *Encourages* the special procedures of the Human Rights Council to take these issues into account within their existing mandates, as applicable;

15. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on a human rights approach to meaningful connectivity and to overcoming digital divides, including by addressing threats to individuals' access to the Internet, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-second session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

16. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, on the Internet and with other information and communications technology, and of how the Internet can be an important tool for access to information, as well as fostering citizen and civil society participation, for the realization of development in every community and for exercising human rights, in accordance with its programme of work.

*49th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/30. Youth and human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which it is stated that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 32/1 of 30 June 2016, 35/14 of 22 June 2017, 41/13 of 11 July 2019 and 51/17 of 6 October 2022 on youth and human rights, and resolution 48/12 of 8 October 2021 on the human rights implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on young people,

Recalling all previous relevant resolutions, including the most recent, namely, General Assembly resolution 78/179 of 19 December 2023, on policies and programmes involving youth, Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and its subsequent resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Acknowledging that the World Programme of Action for Youth provided a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people,

Recalling the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in Lisbon, in August 1998, and the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21, also in Lisbon, in June 2019, and recalling also their Declarations on Youth Policies and Programmes, especially with regard to empowering youth and their representatives and the commitment to protect, respect and fulfil the human

rights and fundamental freedoms of all young people, protecting the most disadvantaged and those in vulnerable situations and contributing to the creation of indicators to assess the impact of youth policies and programmes,

Encouraging States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reaffirming the need to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere, including those in vulnerable situations, real opportunities to enable their full, effective and meaningful participation in society and in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular those for implementing the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling the high-level event held by the General Assembly on 29 May 2015 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which offered an important opportunity for States and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of the progress made in its implementation and to identify gaps and challenges and the way forward for its full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,⁸⁷ and noting the Secretary-General’s call to action for human rights,

Welcoming also the panel discussion entitled “Young people’s engagement with climate change and global environmental decision-making processes”, held at the fifty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2023, pursuant to Council resolution 51/17, and the summary report prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights thereon,⁸⁸

Taking note of the report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on solutions to promote digital education for young people and ensure their protection from online threats,⁸⁹ in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 51/17,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 76/306 of 8 September 2022 on the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office as a dedicated office for youth affairs in the Secretariat, integrating the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, and its work in addressing the needs of and making young people a cross-cutting priority of the United Nations,

Recognizing the importance of human rights education for youth, particularly on equality and non-discrimination, in building inclusive and peaceful societies, and taking note with appreciation of the plan of action for the fourth phase (2020–2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, focusing on youth,⁹⁰

Taking note of the United Nations Youth Strategy entitled “Youth 2030: working with and for young people”, launched at a high-level event held in September 2018 at United Nations Headquarters, as a tool for the empowerment of young people and the advancement of all human rights,

Taking note also of the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and subregional levels, inter alia, the World Youth Forums held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023,

Taking note further of the Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration, led by the Human Rights 75 Youth Advisory Group, and launched at the Human Rights 75 high-level event, held on 11 and 12 December 2023 in Geneva, and welcoming the call for the meaningful participation of youth in public affairs and in United Nations human rights mechanisms,

⁸⁷ [A/75/982](#).

⁸⁸ [A/HRC/55/40](#).

⁸⁹ [A/HRC/57/28](#).

⁹⁰ United Nations and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *World Programme for Human Rights Education: Fourth Phase – Plan of Action* (New York and Geneva, 2022).

Encouraging contributions by the High Commissioner, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as the United Nations Youth Office, headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, in identifying and addressing obstacles to the enjoyment of all human rights by youth,

Underlining the important role that youth can play in the promotion of peace and security, particularly in the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda, sustainable development and human rights and the importance of the active, meaningful, safe and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making processes,

Emphasizing the need to empower all young people in order to achieve sustainable development, including poverty eradication, noting that, globally, in 2023, the youth unemployment rate of 13.3 per cent far exceeded the rate of 3.9 per cent for adults,⁹¹ and stressing in this regard the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment,

Recalling that, in its resolution 76/137 of 16 December 2021, the General Assembly urged Member States to take all measures necessary to combat all forms of discrimination, neglect and abuse of and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, against young people and to address the barriers to their social integration and full, equal, meaningful and safe participation, bearing in mind that the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people empowers them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of their countries,

Expressing concern about the barriers faced by young people, inter alia, those living in rural and remote areas, in accessing digital education, particularly the digital divide, including the lack of access to adequate digital devices and services and reliable infrastructure, which exacerbates educational and social inequalities and affects their full and equitable participation in society,

Noting with concern the considerable barriers faced by young persons with disabilities, including stigma, discrimination and lack of accessible assistive devices and technologies and adapted digital platforms, putting at risk their enjoyment of the right to education in an equitable and inclusive manner,

Expressing concern about the persistent gender digital divide, often experienced by women and girls living in rural and remote areas, which limits young women's access to digital education and the necessary digital skills, perpetuating gender inequalities and hindering employment and educational opportunities for young women and girls,

Expressing concern also about gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks that ensure the security of young people's personal data, amid emerging cybersecurity threats, exposing them to potential violations of their privacy,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on youth, and recalls the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the recommendations contained therein on strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of young people;⁹²

2. *Stresses* the fundamental importance of equal opportunities, education, including digital literacy, and technical and vocational training and that lifelong learning opportunities and guidance for youth are necessary for the realization of all human rights for young people;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to convene a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government and with the full and effective participation of youth, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the Assembly, in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the

⁹¹ International Labour Organization, *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2024), p. 28.

⁹² [A/HRC/39/33](#).

World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, with a view to addressing the challenges still faced by young people in the realization of their full potential and human rights;

4. *Recognizes* that the participation and representation of youth in institutional political processes and policymaking are low compared with those of other age groups and that young people are not proportionately represented in political institutions, such as parliaments, political parties and public administrations;

5. *Urges* States, in consultation with youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to promote new initiatives for the full, effective, structured, sustainable, safe and meaningful participation of young people in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Calls upon* all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for young people, including by taking measures to combat age discrimination, the exclusion of young persons with disabilities, neglect, abuse and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and to address issues relating to barriers to social integration and active, full, equal, meaningful and safe participation, bearing in mind that the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people empowers them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of their countries;

7. *Urges* States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on age, race, colour, sex, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

8. *Calls upon* all States to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for meaningful youth participation that fully respects the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, in accordance with relevant and applicable international human rights instruments;

9. *Also calls upon* all States to take the steps necessary to ensure that the right of young people to freedom of expression and their safety are respected in the digital space, including by better educating them on the digital environment and by developing youth-friendly digital tools, as well as by protecting young people effectively from online threats;

10. *Recognizes* the potential of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to empower young people and to help them to develop their full potential, and encourages States to adopt specific measures to ensure that young people can enjoy all their rights safely and without fear of intimidation in the digital space and that they have access to justice and effective remedies when violations occur;

11. *Calls upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to develop initiatives on human rights education for youth, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the plan of action for the fourth phase (2020–2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and to engage youth as key partners in those efforts;

12. *Urges* States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, including harmful practices, both online and offline, and the stereotypical roles of women and men that hinder social development, by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to promote gender equality;

13. *Also urges* States to address the barriers faced by young persons with disabilities, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-inclusive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their

priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, through, inter alia, their participation in relevant decision-making processes, so that they are actively involved in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others;

14. *Encourages* States to conduct coherent youth-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with youth and relevant youth-led and youth-focused stakeholders and social development partners in the interest of developing integrated, holistic and inclusive youth policies and programmes, as well as coherent cross-sectoral efforts, based on the World Programme of Action For Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which human rights are mainstreamed, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

15. *Urges* States to consider addressing, through the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies, issues pertaining to the full and equal enjoyment of all the human rights of youth and to share the best practices that they have developed in dealing with the realization of the human rights of young people;

16. *Encourages* States, United Nations bodies, especially the Human Rights Council, and the Office of the High Commissioner to collaborate broadly with the United Nations Youth Office, headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, in implementing the United Nations Youth Strategy and other youth-focused activities in order to guarantee the empowerment of young people and the full enjoyment of their human rights;

17. *Decides* that the theme of the next biennial panel discussion, to be held during the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council, will be the role of youth in fostering peaceful societies and creating an enabling environment for the enjoyment of human rights by all, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the panel discussion following consultations with youth and youth-led organizations and to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion for consideration by the Council at its sixty-first session;

18. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, in consultation with States and relevant stakeholders, including relevant United Nations agencies, the United Nations Youth Office and the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, national human rights institutions, civil society and representatives of youth organizations, to conduct a detailed study on the impact of mental health challenges on the enjoyment of human rights by young people and to submit the study to the Council for consideration prior to its sixty-third session;

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*49th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/31. Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that States have the obligation and the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and all relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling all previous resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council on human rights and climate change, including Council resolution 48/14 of 8 October 2021,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Malé Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and all relevant international and regional instruments addressing the adverse impact of climate change on human rights,

Recalling article 2 of the Paris Agreement, which states that the Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by (a) holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; (b) increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production; and (c) making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development; and that the Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Recalling also article 5 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which states that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to mitigate and adapt to its adverse impact, and the protection of the environment, contribute to human well-being and to the better enjoyment of human rights, as well as to sustainable development,

Welcoming the decision adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund that was established in Sharm El Sheikh at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, for responding to loss and damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, by providing and assisting in mobilizing new and additional resources, and that these new arrangements complement and include sources, funds, processes and initiatives both under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement,

Recognizing that, while the human rights implications of the adverse impact of climate change affect individuals and communities around the world, especially in developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing States, the consequences most acutely affect women, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, peasants and other people working in rural areas, people living in conditions of water scarcity, drought and desertification, persons belonging to minority groups, homeless persons, persons living in poverty, older persons, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, those living in

conflict areas and those already in vulnerable situations, and the importance of recognizing their agency in contributing to climate action,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, on institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 40/11 of 21 March 2019, in which the Council recognized the contribution of human rights defenders, including women and Indigenous human rights defenders, working in environmental matters, referred to as environmental human rights defenders, to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development, urging all States to take all measures necessary to ensure the protection of the rights and safety of all persons, including environmental human rights defenders, and underscoring the responsibility of all business enterprises, both transnational and others, consistent with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to respect human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of human rights defenders, including environmental human rights defenders,

1. *Emphasizes* that, while taking steps to respond to climate change, States must ensure that they meet their obligations under international human rights law;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change;⁹³

3. *Decides* to extend for a period of three years the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change under the same terms as provided for by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 48/14, including paragraph 2, subparagraphs (a) to (m);

4. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report annually on the implementation of the mandate to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in accordance with their programmes of work;

5. *Also requests* the Special Rapporteur also to hold, on an annual basis, consultations on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, in accordance with the present resolution, Council resolution 48/14 and previous Council resolutions on human rights and climate change, with all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most acutely affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as States, academia, business enterprises and environmental and other human rights defenders, as reflected in the present resolution as appropriate;

6. *Further requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to give due consideration to:

(a) The need to scale up global action and support in addressing climate change, including in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(b) All the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, all in pursuit of the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

7. *Welcomes* the close coordination established between the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights, including the treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other special procedure mandate holders, inter alia the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water

⁹³ [A/HRC/50/39](#), [A/HRC/53/34](#), [A/HRC/56/46](#), [A/77/226](#) and [A/78/255](#).

and sanitation and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue efforts in that regard;

8. *Calls upon* all States and all stakeholders to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change in the performance of the mandate, including by providing all necessary information requested in the Special Rapporteur's communications, to react promptly to the Special Rapporteur's urgent appeals, to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the Special Rapporteur's requests for country visits and to consider implementing the recommendations in reports submitted under the mandate;

9. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, national independent monitoring frameworks, civil society, the private sector, donors and development agencies to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur to enable the mandate holder to fulfil the mandate;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the human, technical and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

49th meeting
11 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/32. Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to achieving international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling all relevant human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recognizing that, in the context of technical cooperation and capacity-building, the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, to prevent human rights violations and to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as stated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, and the provisions of Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 that aim to enable the Council to fulfil such a mandate,

Recalling all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, on national human rights institutions, on the promotion of international cooperation to support national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 51/31 of 7 October 2022, in which the Council encouraged States to establish effective, independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them to enable the effective fulfilment of their mandate to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and to do so in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),

Recognizing that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 51/33 of 7 October 2022, in which the Council encouraged States to establish or strengthen national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up for further compliance with human rights obligations and commitments and to share good practices and experiences in their use for the elaboration of public policies and plans at all levels,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Noting the contribution of international human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review mechanism, to promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with States’ obligations and commitments to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, and the role of technical cooperation and capacity-building in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of enhancing international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underlining the importance for relevant organizations of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations country teams, within their respective mandates, to mainstream technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in their work and programmes,

Acknowledging the role and impact of the activities of the relevant agencies of the United Nations and international and regional organizations, the contribution of national stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and civil society organizations in providing States with technical support and assistance on the basis of the needs and requests of the States concerned, and the support of national parliaments in the implementation of States’ human rights obligations, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations, in accordance with their respective mandates,

Reiterating that one of the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to provide advisory services and technical assistance, at the request of the State concerned, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights, and to coordinate activities to promote and protect human rights throughout the United Nations system in accordance with the mandate of the Office,

Expressing appreciation for the important role played by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review in supporting States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of their human rights obligations and the recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review,

Noting that a number of States have utilized relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the implementation of their human rights obligations and commitments, and underlining the need to further promote the visibility of these funds, to facilitate the way to solicit them, and to strengthen efforts to enhance their complementarity,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Boards of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review through their annual reports to the Human Rights Council,⁹⁴ in particular on the components of technical cooperation and the identification of good practices,

Welcoming and encouraging new and existing initiatives aimed at sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices, and providing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building support, in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, through bilateral, regional, multilateral and international cooperation, including bilateral human rights dialogues and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to assist States in implementing their human rights obligations, as well as voluntary pledges and commitments, and underlining the need for States and all relevant stakeholders to work in complementarity with one another in the delivery of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights,

Acknowledging national, regional and international initiatives establishing databases and tools used by States to track the implementation and reporting of and follow-up on human rights obligations in a holistic approach,

Stressing the need to raise awareness about the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, which would accelerate the implementation of activities in this area, with a view to improving human rights situations worldwide, and also the need to maintain the spirit of constructive cooperation and non-politicization,

Recalling that, in line with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Governments are urged to incorporate standards as contained in international human rights instruments in domestic legislation and to strengthen national structures, institutions and organs of society which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights,

Reaffirming, in line with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violations, in the dissemination of human rights information, and education in human rights, and partnership with relevant civil society initiatives,

Considering that the implementation of human rights obligations and commitments would benefit from expanded, institutionalized follow-up at the regional, national and local levels, such as by establishing or strengthening national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and that such mechanisms facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms,

Recognizing the distinct, complementary and mutually reinforcing roles of national human rights institutions and of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up as key national actors, and underscoring that each uniquely contributes to the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights obligations of States at the national level, within the framework of their respective mandates and functions,

1. *Emphasizes* that the general debate held under agenda item 10 is an essential platform for members and observers of the Human Rights Council to openly and safely share their visions and views, and concrete experiences, challenges, progress and achievements, as well as information on assistance needed, with regard to promoting more effective technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and that such technical

⁹⁴ [A/HRC/56/78](#) and [A/HRC/56/18](#).

cooperation should remain an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, the private sector, civil society, including women's organizations, and all rights holders;

2. *Reiterates* that technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights continue to be based on consultations with and with the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their requests, needs and priorities, as well as their national context, and the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and are aimed at making a concrete impact at all levels on the ground;

3. *Recognizes* that technical cooperation and capacity-building have been crucial in supporting the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles and of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, advancing the knowledge and capacities of national institutions on human rights obligations and aligning national laws and policies to international human rights standards;

4. *Underscores* the need to strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in support of the promotion and protection of human rights with a view to generating sustainable outcomes, and encourages regional human rights bodies to share experiences and exchange good practices in the promotion and protection of human rights, including those relating to the empowerment of all women and girls, while engaging with relevant players, including national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and rights holders;

5. *Reaffirms* the ongoing need for enhanced voluntary contributions to the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights, encourages States to continue to make contributions to these funds as well as to the technical assistance and capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner is in a position to respond to the requests for assistance identified in its annual appeals, and encourages the funds and the Office to continue to enhance the efficiency and transparency of their activities;

6. *Welcomes* the technical assistance and capacity-building provided by the Office of the High Commissioner through United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations national and regional representations, in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, in particular with regard to supporting the establishment or the strengthening of national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles and national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, depending on their national contexts, and encourages them to continue to do so;

7. *Encourages* States in need of technical assistance in the strengthening of national structures which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights and in the implementation of their human rights obligations, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments, including the recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, to consider requesting such assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations agencies, and strongly encourages the Office and respective United Nations agencies to respond favourably to such requests and to provide information, in a transparent and timely manner, on the technical support available for and provided to States;

8. *Encourages* States to continue to promote initiatives aimed at sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices in providing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building support through bilateral cooperation, including bilateral human rights dialogues and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to assist States in implementing their human rights obligations, as well as voluntary pledges and commitments;

9. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies in their technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts, and encourages the sharing of information and best practices, on a

regular basis, between the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and the States concerned, on technical assistance and capacity-building efforts undertaken at the national level;

10. *Encourages* the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in their interaction with States, to continue to share information and knowledge relating to best practices and the possibility of providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights within their respective mandates;

11. *Welcomes* the panel discussion held by the Human Rights Council at its fifty-sixth session, pursuant to Council resolution 54/28 of 12 October 2023, on the theme “Enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations”, at which participants underlined the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in supporting States in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, recognized the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation, reflected on achievements made and obstacles faced, and stressed the need to provide sufficient funding to deliver the required technical assistance and capacity-building activities;⁹⁵

12. *Reiterates* its request to the Office of the High Commissioner to establish and maintain, through additional dedicated capacity, an online repository of technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations – which has been postponed due to the current liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations Secretariat – with voluntary submissions made by States, as well as relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international and regional organizations, regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, upon the consent of the States concerned, and to update the Human Rights Council, from its fifty-ninth session, in the annual report of the Office on technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, on the information gathered there on a yearly basis, calling upon those stakeholders with good practices in the above-mentioned areas to provide technical assistance to the States concerned on the basis of their requests and consent as a form of peer support;

13. *Recognizes* the need to build synergies between the above-mentioned repository and other relevant databases, including, among others, a virtual knowledge hub for national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and the potential benefit of its expansion to include a match-making function to enhance coordination of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts in the implementation of accepted universal periodic review recommendations;

14. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Human Rights Council resolution 18/18 of 29 September 2011, that the theme of the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10, to be held at its fifty-ninth session, will be “The role of technical cooperation and capacity-building in strengthening national structures which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, particularly national human rights institutions and national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up”, and to make it fully accessible to persons with disabilities;

15. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the role of technical cooperation and capacity-building among States, the Office and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, to support States’ efforts to strengthen national structures which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, particularly national human rights institutions and national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, including the complementarity of the two latter entities, and to submit the report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-ninth session, to serve as a basis for the above-mentioned panel discussion;

16. *Calls upon* States to implement their human rights obligations, and also calls upon States, international human rights bodies and mechanisms, relevant international organizations, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and civil society to make use of the ideas and issues raised in the

⁹⁵ See [A/HRC/56/72](#).

panel discussion to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and policy coherence of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts and to build multi-stakeholder partnerships in strengthening national structures which play a complementary role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, especially in the light of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and as a contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

49th meeting
11 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/33. Cooperation with Georgia

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Bearing in mind relevant regional instruments, in particular the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights),

Taking note of the judgment of 21 January 2021 of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Georgia v. Russia (II)*, in which the Court established the responsibility of the Russian Federation for grave human rights violations during the period of occupation of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, following the August 2008 war, as the State exercising effective control over those regions,

Taking note also of the judgment of 7 March 2023 of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Mamasakhlisi and Others v. Georgia and Russia*, in which the Court once again confirmed the effective control of the Russian Federation over Abkhazia, Georgia, before the war between the Russian Federation and Georgia in August 2008 and its full responsibility for human rights violations in the region,

Taking note further of the judgment of 28 April 2023 of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Georgia v. Russia (II)* (just satisfaction), in which the Court ordered the Russian Federation to pay compensation to Georgian citizens who had suffered in connection with the armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation in August 2008,

Taking note of the judgment of 9 April 2024 of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Georgia v. Russia (IV)*, in which the Court confirmed violations of the European Convention on Human Rights due to unlawful “borderization” by the Russian Federation, including of the right to life, the prohibition of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security, the right to respect for private and family life, the right to protection of property, the right to education and the right to freedom of movement,

Acknowledging the conclusion of the investigation phase into the situation in Georgia by the International Criminal Court in 2022, which resulted in the issuance of arrest warrants for war crimes committed against civilians perceived to be ethnically Georgian from 1 July to 10 October 2008, including during the war between the Russian Federation and Georgia in August 2008, and noting the alleged role of the Russian military official uncovered by the investigation,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 34/37 of 24 March 2017, 37/40 of 23 March 2018, 40/28 of 22 March 2019, 43/37 of 22 June 2020, 46/30 of 24 March 2021, 49/33 of 1 April 2022 and 52/40 of 4 April 2023,

Expressing serious concern that the provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions with regard to Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, have not been implemented,

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders,

Reaffirming also the primary responsibility of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the importance of the Geneva International Discussions established on the basis of the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008, mediated by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union as an instrument for addressing the implementation of the agreement, the return of internally displaced persons and refugees and security, human rights and humanitarian issues on the ground,

Underlining the role of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms in Gali and Ergneti in finding durable solutions for the safety and humanitarian needs of conflict-affected persons on the ground, and stressing the need for the immediate resumption of the work of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Gali without preconditions and the functioning of both Mechanisms in accordance with their ground rules and founding principles,

Welcoming the cooperation of the Government of Georgia with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its office in Tbilisi and with other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms and actors,

Welcoming also the continuous technical assistance provided by the Office of the High Commissioner through its office in Tbilisi,

Recognizing the significance of the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁹⁶ and noting the recommendations made by the High Commissioner therein,

Condemning the ongoing illegal military presence of the Russian Federation in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, without the consent of Georgia, and the attempts to legitimize its military presence, including through the organization of illegal so-called elections by the authorities exercising effective control therein, the signing of so-called treaties and the creation of so-called joint socioeconomic spaces between the Russian Federation and Abkhazia, Georgia,

Condemning also land seizures, including in Gagra District in Abkhazia, Georgia, the transfer of Sokhumi airport, for reconstruction and operation, and of Bichvinta resort, in Abkhazia, Georgia, to the Russian Federation, and statements about the intention to hold a so-called referendum in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, on the matter of joining the Russian Federation,

Stressing the findings of the High Commissioner in the above-mentioned reports, in which the High Commissioner underscored the responsibility of the authorities exercising effective control in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, to uphold the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all people living therein and to address any conduct that violates or abuses their human rights, and expressed regret at the continued refusal of those in control of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, to grant immediate and unimpeded access to staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and to United Nations human rights mechanisms to both regions,

Expressing serious concern at the continued process of the installation and extension of barbed wire fences and other artificial barriers along the administrative boundary line in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and adjacent areas, which continue to have a negative impact on the already poor socioeconomic conditions of the conflict-affected population, their freedom of movement and sense of security, while preventing their access to property, grazing and farming lands, religious sites and cemeteries,

Noting with concern the grave situation of human rights in both Georgian regions, particularly owing to growing violations and restrictions on humanitarian access,

⁹⁶ [A/HRC/36/65](#), [A/HRC/39/44](#), [A/HRC/42/34](#), [A/HRC/45/54](#), [A/HRC/48/45](#), [A/HRC/51/64](#) and [A/HRC/54/80](#).

Expressing serious concern at various forms of reported discrimination against ethnic Georgians, cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, infringements of the right to life, the right to liberty and security of person, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and property rights, kidnappings and restrictions on education in one's native language in both Georgian regions, the continued practice of the demolition of the ruins of houses belonging to internally displaced persons in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and the obliteration and alteration of Georgian features from Georgian cultural heritage monuments in both regions,

Expressing serious concern also at the negative consequences of the prolonged closure of the so-called crossing points and the restrictions on freedom of movement, particularly at cases of denial of and obstacles to swift medical evacuations by the authorities exercising effective control in both regions, which has contributed to a number of deaths and the further isolation of the regions, thereby aggravating the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation on the ground, particularly with regard to the full enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and older persons,

Expressing serious concern further over arbitrary detentions and kidnappings, including of women, children and older persons, which in some cases involve shooting, torture and other forms of ill-treatment and continue to have a negative impact on human security and the health of conflict-affected people and restrict their freedom of movement,

Taking note of the judgment of 19 December 2023 of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Matkava and Others v. Russia*, in which the Court confirmed the responsibility of the Russian Federation for the violation of the right to life of Georgian citizen Giga Otkhзорia, killed on 19 May 2016, and the judgment of 19 December 2023 of the Court in the case *O.J. and J.O. v. Georgia and Russia*, in which the Court affirmed the responsibility of the Russian Federation for the unlawful detention of Georgian citizens in Abkhazia, Georgia,

Expressing deep concern about the killings of Georgian citizen Tamaz Ginturi by Russian forces on 6 November 2023 and Georgian citizen Temur Karbaia by so-called police forces in Gali in Abkhazia, Georgia, in December 2023,

Expressing serious concern at the lack of accountability for killings of ethnic Georgians, which continues to contribute to impunity in both Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia,

Expressing concern that internally displaced persons and refugees continue to be deprived of the right to return to their homes in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, in a safe and dignified manner,

Expressing serious concern that violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons living in both regions create an additional threat of further displacement,

Expressing serious concern also at the repeated denial of access to international and regional monitors, including the United Nations human rights mechanisms, to both Georgian regions by the authorities exercising effective control in those regions,

Expressing concern over restrictions on the work of international organizations operating on the ground and the hampering of confidence-building efforts by the authorities exercising effective control,

Recognizing in this context the importance of and need for periodic reports of the Office of the High Commissioner for an objective and impartial assessment of the situation of human rights in both Georgian regions,

1. *Demands* that immediate and unimpeded access be given to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international and regional human rights mechanisms to Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia;

2. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present to the Human Rights Council, in accordance with its resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, an oral

update on the follow-up to the present resolution at its fifty-eighth session and to present a report on developments relating to and the implementation of the present resolution at its fifty-ninth session;

3. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide technical assistance through the Office of the High Commissioner in Tbilisi.

*49th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 24 to 3, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Romania, United States of America

Against:

China, Cuba, Eritrea

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam]

57/34. Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming that all States have a responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to discharge their obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments to which they are parties,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling also its resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 7/20 of 27 March 2008 and S-8/1 of 1 December 2008,

Recalling further its resolutions 10/33 of 27 March 2009, 13/22 of 26 March 2010, 16/35 of 25 March 2011, 19/27 of 23 March 2012, 24/27 of 27 September 2013, 27/27 of 26 September 2014, 30/26 of 2 October 2015, 33/29 of 30 September 2016, 35/33 of 23 June 2017, 36/30 of 29 September 2017, 39/20 of 28 September 2018, 42/34 of 27 September 2019, 45/34 of 7 October 2020, 48/20 of 11 October 2021, 51/36 of 7 October 2022 and 54/34 of 12 October 2023, in which the Human Rights Council called upon the international community to support the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its institutions with a view to improving the situation of human rights and responding to its requests for technical assistance,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation and the activities of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,⁹⁷ submitted to the Human Rights Council in accordance with its resolution 54/34,

Taking note also of the report of the team of international experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo,⁹⁸ submitted to the Human Rights Council in accordance with resolution 54/34, and of its conclusions and recommendations,

⁹⁷ [A/HRC/57/76](#).

⁹⁸ [A/HRC/57/81](#).

Noting with concern the delays in implementing the measures being taken by the Government to improve the justice system, both the courts and prisons, in particular Makala Prison,

Deeply concerned about the continuing human rights violations and abuses, including those committed against women and children, particularly in conflict-affected areas,

Concerned about the deteriorating security and human rights conditions in some sectors in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a situation that continues to give cause for concern in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Tanganyika in particular,

Concerned also about the use of hate speech, in violation of article 20 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and requesting the Government to expedite the process for the adoption of the bill on this issue currently under discussion in Parliament,

Noting the progress made by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in preventing and ending the recruitment and use of children,

Concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the violence affecting civilian populations, particularly women and children, which have led to a significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons and persons in need of humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the progress made in recent years and the measures taken by the President to combat the violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Calling on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue and step up its efforts to respect and uphold all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with its international obligations, and to respect the rule of law,

Recalling the need to guarantee not only the right of opposition, but also the full exercise by Parliament of its mandate in a democratic system,

Noting the cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the team of international experts, including the facilitation of access to the country, sites and persons,

Noting also the efforts made in the region, in particular by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the East African Community, through the Luanda and Nairobi processes, aimed at contributing to peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Noting further the encouraging progress made through the mediation by Angola, notably at the last two ministerial meetings held in Luanda in August and September 2024, towards achieving lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and defusing tensions in the Great Lakes region,

Welcoming the Government's decision to pursue its cooperation with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, particularly in the context of the withdrawal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Noting the progress made in combating impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, including through the promulgation by the President of Act No. 22/065 of 26 December 2022, which establishes the basic principles on protection and reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and victims of crimes against the peace and security of mankind,

Noting with great concern that the situation of prolonged conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to numerous human rights violations and abuses and to the illicit exploitation of natural resources in that part of the country and prevents the population from fully enjoying their rights and freedoms,

Expressing its concern at the documented cases of sexual violence, including rape and sexual slavery, the killing and maiming of children and the recruitment and use of children

by armed groups, documented in the reports of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence⁹⁹ and on children and armed conflict,¹⁰⁰

Calling on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to find a durable solution to the problem of sexual and gender-based violence against children by implementing the 2012 plan of action and by prioritizing prevention, protection of the population and the provision of services to child survivors,

Noting the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to meet its commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013,

1. *Condemns* all violations of human rights and abuses, as well as the illicit exploitation of natural resources, in particular in the areas affected by armed or intercommunal conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the situation continues to lead to significant population displacement;

2. *Also condemns* the activities of armed groups and the resurgence of attacks against civilians, the international forces of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, humanitarian actors and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by rebel and terrorist groups, mainly those of the Allied Democratic Forces, the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo, the “Wazalendo” self-defence groups, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Mouvement du 23 mars, as well as the occupation by such groups, in particular, of Bunagana and a number of other nearby localities, where they commit daily atrocities and human rights abuses and serious violations of international humanitarian law;

3. *Strongly condemns* any support given by anyone to these rebel and terrorist groups that roam the country, in flagrant violation of the principles relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, and calls for such support to end immediately;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the region and the international community as a whole to support the Luanda and Nairobi processes for the return of lasting peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region;

5. *Encourages* the mediator appointed by the African Union, namely, the President of Angola, to pursue his efforts with a view to the restoration of peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, which has been ravaged by decades of armed and intercommunal conflict;

6. *Notes* the efforts made by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of serious crimes committed throughout the country, encourages them to take all necessary measures to ensure that survivors have access to justice and that all the alleged perpetrators are brought to justice, and welcomes the convictions already pronounced;

7. *Commends* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the submission of its national report¹⁰¹ under the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, due on 5 November 2024;

8. *Also commends* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the submission of its initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 22 May 2024, as well as its exceptional report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on 22 June 2024;

9. *Takes note* of the decision to operationalize and revitalize the Human Rights Liaison Body, in particular through the appointment by ministerial decree of the Minister of Human Rights, in May 2023, of the members of the technical secretariat of this local mechanism for cooperation between the Government, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society;

⁹⁹ S/2024/292.

¹⁰⁰ A/78/842-S/2024/384.

¹⁰¹ A/HRC/WG.6/47/COD/1.

10. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to submit its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as soon as possible;

11. *Also encourages* the Government to set up national and provincial committees to monitor pretrial detention, in accordance with its national policy on justice sector reform 2017–2026;

12. *Notes* the progress of the trial in the case involving the assassination of two United Nations experts before the High Military Court, and encourages the continuation of the proceedings until all the perpetrators have been convicted;

13. *Also notes* the efforts made to raise awareness of the national policy for the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons and the national strategy for the empowerment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons;

14. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to improve conditions of detention and to take additional urgent measures to relieve prison overcrowding, as well as to consider limiting pretrial detention to the period authorized by law, where appropriate, in order to prevent unfortunate incidents such as those which occurred on the night of 1–2 September 2024, and to ensure judicial oversight of all places of detention, and invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the necessary technical, logistical and financial support to the Government in its efforts to relieve overcrowding in places of detention;

15. *Decides* to renew, for one year, the mandate of the team of international experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and requests the team to provide the necessary technical support to the Government in implementing effectively its National Transitional Justice Policy, in particular by taking account of the cross-border nature of conflict and insecurity in the Great Lakes, identifying the causes of conflict and preventing their recurrence, and designing and implementing mechanisms for transitional justice and the fight against impunity, and encourages it to support the Government in this regard, in particular by proposing concrete measures;

16. *Encourages* collaboration between the team of international experts and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region;

17. *Also encourages* the collaboration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with all United Nations mechanisms, including the universal periodic review and the special procedures;

18. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with technical assistance, including the necessary forensic expertise, to support the country's judicial authorities in their investigations into allegations of serious human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations of children's rights, with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice, and to strengthen the technical assistance team with the necessary technical and financial resources to help the Government implement effective mechanisms to combat impunity, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the President of the Republic during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council;

19. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue to support the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the development and strengthening of its forensic medicine capacities, in particular through the effective implementation of the road map and recommendations of the Kinshasa Declaration adopted at the international symposium on forensic medicine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in Kinshasa from 17 to 19 July 2023, paying particular attention in this regard to the reform of the legal framework and the development of national expertise and national infrastructure, and thus to assist the Government in acquiring the necessary skills and Congolese specialists in the field of forensic medicine;

20. *Further requests* the High Commissioner to continue to support the Government in the development and implementation of its National Transitional Justice Policy;

21. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide the provincial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kasai-Central with increased technical and financial support to help it implement its mandate to shed light on the crisis in this region and propose solutions for lasting peace;

22. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to provide the Government with technical support to help it establish mechanisms to protect human rights in the extractive industries, in particular children's rights;

23. *Further requests* the High Commissioner to support the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the fulfilment of the right to development as a means of promoting sustainable and participatory development and conflict prevention at various levels of society;

24. *Calls on* international actors and partners, under the auspices of the Office of the High Commissioner, to provide the additional financial resources and technical and logistical support necessary for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to consolidate its efforts in the field of transitional justice;

25. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize, before its sixtieth session, a meeting to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution, bringing together all the actors involved and with the aim of assessing the progress made in the fields of forensic science and transitional justice;

26. *Requests* the team of international experts to submit its final report to the Council, in the framework of an enhanced interactive dialogue, at its sixtieth session and to present it with an oral update at its fifty-eighth session;

27. *Requests* the High Commissioner to present the Council with an oral update on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the framework of an enhanced dialogue, at its fifty-eighth session;

28. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to submit it to the Council, in the framework of an enhanced interactive dialogue, at its sixtieth session;

29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter until its sixtieth session.

*49th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/35. Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other international and African instruments on the protection of human rights,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Central African Republic,

Recalling the joint communiqué signed between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Government of the Central African Republic on 1 June 2019, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international and African human rights instruments to which they are parties,

Recalling that the Central African Republic bears the primary responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Recalling also the signing, five years ago, of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic on 6 February 2019, and the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic adopted on 16 September 2021 in Luanda by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region,

Recalling further the conclusions, in 2015, of popular consultations and of the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation, which was followed by the adoption of the Republican Pact for Peace, National Reconciliation and Reconstruction and the signing of an agreement on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration by the representatives of the main parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic, recalling also the recommendations of the republican dialogue of March 2022, and emphasizing the need for the full and effective implementation of the recommendations and measures contained therein,

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic,

Concerned by the fragility of the security situation in the Central African Republic, which remains particularly unstable, and condemning in particular the human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law that continue to be perpetrated by the parties to the conflict, despite the Government's efforts to ensure security over a significant part of the Central African Republic, concerned also by the persistence of insecurity in places due to the inaccessibility of certain localities with no passable road infrastructure, the lack of equipment and appropriate means of subsistence and transport for the national defence and internal security forces deployed, the lack of telephone network coverage in rural areas where armed groups and other security personnel are active, and the presence of explosive devices, all of which constitute obstacles to the organization of protection missions and patrols by the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic and their allies, and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic,

Condemning the attacks on humanitarian and medical personnel and civilian and humanitarian facilities and infrastructure, the taxation of humanitarian aid by armed groups in a context where the number of displaced persons is increasing and the number of refugees remains very high, and the fact that more than half of the country's population continues to need humanitarian assistance in order to survive,

Recalling the objective of enabling the safe, dignified and sustainable voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees,

Welcoming the efforts of subregional organizations in the ongoing mediation process, and the humanitarian assistance provided by the States members of these organizations to the population of the Central African Republic,

Recalling the efforts made by the non-operational and operational military training missions for the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic conducted by the European Union and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic,

Recalling also that the international forces present in the Central African Republic must carry out their duties with full respect for the applicable provisions of international law, particularly international humanitarian law, and must respect human rights and the principle of non-refoulement, expressing its concern at allegations that sexual abuse and other human

rights violations or abuses have been committed by the parties to the conflict, noting with satisfaction the establishment by the Government of the Central African Republic of a special commission of inquiry to ensure that those responsible for such acts are brought to justice, and the development in May 2024 of a training manual for judges and justice actors on sexual and gender-based violence, paving the way for the amendment of inadequate legal provisions in the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure,

Welcoming the fact that the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse is strictly implemented in the country, and thus acknowledging the implementation of the protocol on information-sharing and reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse signed on 3 September 2018,

Recalling that the memorandum between the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and troop-contributing countries must integrate respect for human rights, and recalling also the fundamental importance of national investigation and prosecution whenever a particular military unit or formed police unit of a contingent is repatriated following allegations of abuse and exploitation of certain elements of the contingent,

Deploing the numerous cases of sexual abuse and violence committed against civilians, including by armed groups and other security personnel, as documented in various United Nations reports, and by some elements of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, and recalling the decision of the Secretary-General to repatriate a particular military unit or formed police unit of a contingent when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by that unit,

Recalling that it is the primary responsibility of troop- and police-contributing countries to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and to hold perpetrators to account through legal proceedings, where appropriate,

Recalling also the July 2024 report of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, consisting in an analysis of deprivation of liberty in the country,

Stressing the efforts to combat impunity, but recalling that it remains urgent and imperative to end impunity in the Central African Republic, to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, regardless of their social, economic or political status, and to reject any general amnesty for such persons, and that it is necessary to strengthen national and hybrid judicial mechanisms to ensure that they are held to account for their actions,

Recalling the primary responsibility of the national authorities to create the conditions necessary to carry out prompt, impartial and transparent investigations, to conduct prosecutions, to render judgments effectively and independently and to protect victims and at-risk persons against reprisals, and calling upon international partners, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, within its mandate, to support the authorities of the Central African Republic to this end,

Recalling also that the international commission of inquiry tasked with investigating allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and human rights abuses in the Central African Republic concluded that, since January 2013, the main parties to the conflict had committed violations and abuses that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, and that the Security Council has a sanctions list of persons and entities alleged to have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Stressing the importance of pursuing investigations into allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and human rights abuses to complement the work of the international commission of inquiry and the report on the mapping exercise documenting serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the Central African Republic between January 2003 and December 2015 prepared by the United Nations Multidimensional

Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Noting the establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations and abuses in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture, particularly in Zemio, Mboki and Obo,

Noting also the crucial role played by civil society and human rights organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights, and stressing the need for States to promote a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights organizations, including by ensuring their protection,

Noting further the entry into force of the new Constitution on 30 August 2023, the organization of the process of local and municipal elections announced for October 2024, and the postponement of these elections to April 2025,

Reiterating the need to create, with the support of the guarantors and facilitators of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic of 6 February 2019 and the initiators of the joint road map of 16 September 2021, and with the support of the international community, the conditions for local and municipal elections that are truly inclusive, transparent and open, including women, young people and civil society, who must play a role in the public debate,

1. *Strongly condemns* all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including killings, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, conflict-related, sexual and other gender-based violence, abductions, arbitrary arrests and deprivation of liberty, extortion and looting, the recruitment and use of children, the occupation of schools and attacks on schools, the injured and the sick, medical personnel, health facilities and medical vehicles, and the denial of humanitarian assistance, the illegal destruction of property and all violations committed against civilians, in particular populations in situations of vulnerability, including women, children and displaced persons, and stresses that those responsible for such violations and abuses must be held accountable for their actions and brought to justice;

2. *Also strongly condemns* the targeted attacks launched by armed groups against civilians, humanitarian workers, health workers, humanitarian supplies and United Nations personnel, and urges armed groups to observe an immediate ceasefire in accordance with their commitment under the Peace Agreement of 6 February 2019 and the joint road map of 16 September 2021, and to make their dissolution a short-term objective;

3. *Reiterates* its call for an immediate end to all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed by all parties, for strict respect for all human rights and all fundamental freedoms, for victims to have access to justice and for the re-establishment of the rule of law in the country;

4. *Expresses deep concern* at the humanitarian situation, aggravated by the conflict in the Sudan and the unrest in Chad, stresses that lack of funding and insecurity constitute obstacles to the complete, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, calls upon the international community to offer greater support for humanitarian assistance efforts by supporting the humanitarian response and stabilization plan, urges the competent agencies to carry out explosive device demining campaigns in the north-east of the country, and requests all parties to authorize and facilitate rapid, complete, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian aid and humanitarian workers to the entire national territory, including by strengthening security on the roads;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of the Central African Republic, with the support of the international community, to create the conditions for the safe, dignified and sustainable return of displaced persons and refugees who so wish, and encourages it to put in place measures for the protection and restitution of land and other property belonging to these vulnerable populations, and policies to support the start-up of agricultural and livestock projects or commercial activities, and to organize reconciliation campaigns between the inhabitants;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of the Central African Republic, political and religious leaders and civil society organizations to undertake coordinated public action to combat hate speech and incitement to violence on conventional media or social networks, including on ethnic and religious grounds, and to take measures so that those responsible for such acts are held accountable for them when violence, including on ethnic and religious grounds, takes place, and recalls that individuals or entities who commit or provide support for acts that undermine the peace, stability and security of the Central African Republic, who threaten or impede the political stabilization and reconciliation process, target civilians or attack peacekeepers, incite others to violence, including intercommunity violence, or to hatred, particularly on ethnic or religious grounds, or to sexual or gender-based violence, or who prepare, commit or order the commission of acts that are contrary to human rights and international humanitarian law, recruit children for use in armed conflict, or impede the delivery or distribution of or access to humanitarian assistance, may be sanctioned by the Security Council;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic¹⁰² and the recommendations contained therein;

8. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Central African Republic and the joint rapid response unit to prevent sexual violence against women and children, with the effective support of technical and financial partners, to fulfil expeditiously the commitments undertaken in 2019 with the signing of the joint communiqué between the United Nations and the Government of the Central African Republic with a view to combating sexual violence in conflict, and the relevant recommendations of the Independent Expert;

9. *Urges* all parties in the Central African Republic to protect all civilians, in particular women and children, against sexual and gender-based violence;

10. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Central African Republic to provide support to the National Observatory for Gender Parity and to strengthen the organization and operations of the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the High Council for Communication, the High Authority for Good Governance, the National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination, and other State institutions working for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, the fight against corruption and the promotion of democracy and good governance;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to resolutely implement, in support of the authorities of the Central African Republic and as provided for in its mandate, a proactive and effective approach to the protection of civilians, and to lend the necessary assistance to the work of the Special Criminal Court and the enforcement of its decisions, the reconstitution of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission, and the continuation of the work of the criminal sessions, appeal courts and military tribunals, and centres of deprivation of liberty;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations, the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and international forces acting under the mandate of the Security Council to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect for the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations on sexual exploitation and abuse and other forms of sexual violence, and calls upon troop-contributing countries and international forces acting under the mandate of the Security Council to take the necessary measures to prevent such acts and to prevent impunity among their personnel in order to ensure justice for victims, including through prompt and diligent investigation at national level and the prosecution of soldiers alleged to have committed abuses and violations, and to duly communicate the outcomes of proceedings to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic within a reasonable period;

13. *Deplores* the fact that children continue to be used by armed groups as combatants, human shields, domestic workers and sex slaves, and the increasing number of child abductions, urges armed groups to release children from their ranks and to put an end

¹⁰² [A/HRC/57/79](#).

to and prevent the recruitment and use of children and early and forced marriages, and in this regard calls upon them to honour the commitments assumed by several of them under the Peace Agreement of 6 February 2019;

14. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Central African Republic, with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations country team, to revitalize the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process, and requests Member States and international organizations to continue and strengthen their financial support for the process and initiatives to promote peace, security and reconciliation within the population and the stabilization of the country, and for the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission, whose internal dysfunctions led to the suspension by Decree No. 24 0.139 of 24 May 2024 of the mandate of the commissioners and the launch in June 2024 of a new call for nominations, the selection process for which has been completed, with the decree confirming the appointment of the new commissioners still pending;

15. *Urges* the authorities of the Central African Republic, with the support of international partners, to intensify their efforts in the run-up to the elections to ensure that they are held in accordance with the principles of freedom, transparency and democracy, and are inclusive and balanced in terms of gender and youth participation, and encourages donors to provide logistical, financial and security support for the elections to ensure that they comply with the principles of human rights and democracy, in line with the State's commitments under the relevant international and regional instruments;

16. *Deplores* the fact that grave violations against children, including murder, rape and maiming,¹⁰³ have increased by 6 per cent compared to the previous period, with the prefectures of Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Fafa most affected, and that the reported grave violations against children were committed mostly by armed groups;

17. *Notes with satisfaction* the organization on 4 and 5 June 2024 by the Government, with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Children's Fund, of a workshop to validate the protocol for the transfer and protection of children associated with armed groups, which should make it possible for these children to be handed over directly to the child protection services of the country and its partners;

18. *Encourages* the Government of the Central African Republic to promptly adopt a national child protection plan and to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;

19. *Welcomes* the decree of the President of the Republic of 6 May 2024 establishing a steering committee headed by the Ministry of Justice to oversee the implementation of the national human rights policy adopted in 2023;

20. *Encourages* the Government of the Central African Republic to implement, with the support of technical and financial partners, a national strategy for technical and agricultural training and vocational training as a social lever for the transitional process, for the benefit of youth, including under the national development plan for the period 2024–2028;

21. *Urges* all parties to protect and to regard as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from the armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to protect, release and reintegrate in a sustainable manner all children associated with the armed forces and armed groups and to implement rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that take into account the specific needs of girls, in particular those who have been victims of violence;

22. *Remains deeply concerned* by the continuing conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence throughout the country, which is particularly prevalent in the prefectures of Mbomou and Ouham-Pendé, and which is reported to have been perpetrated mainly by the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement, including the group Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique, but also by the

¹⁰³ S/2024/473, annex I, figure VIII.

national defence forces, which are alleged to have committed conflict-related sexual violence;

23. *Encourages* the national authorities, the Special Criminal Court, the courts of appeal and their criminal sessions, the military courts and the joint rapid response unit to prevent sexual violence against women and children to systematically monitor cases of sexual violence, to ensure that prosecutions are conducted and that criminal penalties are applied, and to protect and support victims, recalls in this respect the mandate of the joint unit, and calls on the authorities of the Central African Republic to provide it with the appropriate resources and means necessary for its independence and operation, and to ensure, through the relevant services, the provision of psychotherapeutic and socioeconomic support to victims;

24. *Welcomes* the renewal, by Act No. 23.001 of 9 January 2023, of the mandate of the Special Criminal Court for a further period of five years and its first ruling, on 31 October 2022, in *Special Prosecutor's Office v. Adoum Issa Sallet alias Bozizé, Ousame Yaouba and Tahir Mahamat*, in which the three members of the armed group Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation were sentenced to imprisonment for terms of from 20 years to life for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Koundjili and Lemouna, in the prefecture of Lim-Pendé, in May 2019, and the decision by the Court of Assizes of 19 June 2023 on civil liability, by which 26 victims were awarded damages in amounts ranging from 200,000 to 1 million CFA francs, and calls on the authorities of the Central African Republic and neighbouring States, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the international community to provide the necessary support to carry out investigations, ensure access to relevant documents and execute arrest warrants;

25. *Takes note* of the withdrawal of all charges against Maxime Mokom by the International Criminal Court on 16 October 2023, as the Court found that there was no longer a reasonable prospect of conviction at trial in view of changed circumstances regarding the availability of witnesses, affirms, however, that the victims of the acts committed by Mr. Mokom should receive some form of reparation, notes the sentencing of Mr. Mokom and others by the Bangui Court of Appeal on 21 September 2023 to life imprisonment for offences against internal security and rebellion, and welcomes the arrest on 18 March 2023 of "general" Hissein Damboucha, commander of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, whose name appears in the reports of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic as a perpetrator of violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law;

26. *Urges* States neighbouring the Central African Republic to cooperate in combating insecurity and the impunity of members of armed groups, including through cooperation with national and international courts and the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission, and to work together on border management, the circulation of arms, refugees and transhumance;

27. *Welcomes* the efforts of the authorities of the Central African Republic that have enabled the Special Criminal Court to expedite proceedings in respect of serious violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and encourages the Government of the Central African Republic, with support from the international community, to continue its cooperation with the Special Prosecutor of the Court so that those responsible for international crimes, regardless of their status or their affiliation, are identified, arrested and brought to justice without delay;

28. *Also welcomes* the arrest on 4 September 2023 of Abdoulaye Hissène, rebel leader of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, charged by the Special Criminal Court with war crimes and crimes against humanity;

29. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Central African Republic to strengthen the financial and human resources allocated for the purpose of restoring, extending and consolidating the effective authority of the State over the entire country by strengthening the redeployment of government services, particularly in the areas of basic social services, criminal justice and prison administration, in the provinces with a view to combating

impunity and ensuring stable, responsible, inclusive and transparent governance at the national and local levels;

30. *Urges* the authorities of the Central African Republic to implement the national strategy for the protection of victims and witnesses participating in judicial proceedings, and to establish appropriate programmes to provide victims of violations and members of their families with material and symbolic reparations, at both the individual and collective levels, and encourages the establishment of a reparation and compensation fund for victims, to support and complement the work of the Special Criminal Court, the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission and national courts in the fight against impunity;

31. *Encourages* the authorities to fully implement security sector reform in order to establish multi-ethnic, professional, representative and well-equipped national defence and internal security forces, with an effective command and accountability mechanism for the forces deployed, and recalls that these forces must respect the principles of accountability and the rule of law in order to win and retain the trust of local communities, including by ensuring that candidates for recruitment are subject to appropriate vetting and background checks, particularly with regard to respect for human rights;

32. *Invites* the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to continue to exercise due diligence in the field of human rights, so as to ensure that the conduct of the national security forces and other security personnel is monitored and that their members are held accountable for their actions, and to continue to publish reports on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic in order to enable the international community to monitor the situation;

33. *Stresses* the need to start building and rehabilitating social infrastructure in order to ensure effective access to health care, to ensure the proper functioning of schools and vocational training centres whose facilities were destroyed or damaged by armed groups and security personnel during the conflict, to ensure access to sanitation and drinking water in places where storage, treatment and distribution facilities have deteriorated as a result of the conflict, to resume agropastoral activities disrupted by insecurity and explosive devices, to register births and civil status, to issue identity documents, and to ensure the provision of local justice services in the context of the inadequate restoration of State authority, and requests the partners of the Central African Republic to help the country to meet these challenges;

34. *Requests* States Members of the United Nations and international and regional organizations to provide urgent support to local populations in response to the food insecurity affecting almost half of the population, by supporting humanitarian assistance and stabilization efforts while expanding the role of the Economic Community of Central African States in peace efforts and cross-border issues, in particular transhumance, the circulation of arms and refugees;

35. *Urges* the authorities of the Central African Republic to take great precautions to prevent the dysfunctions that affected the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission, which has been dissolved, from recurring with the new commission currently being set up, and to provide it with all the necessary resources to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively, particularly with regard to the fight against impunity and the promotion of reparation and guarantees of non-repetition, to complement the work of the Special Criminal Court and the ordinary courts, including with regard to the duration of its mandate initially provided for in the law of 7 April 2020;

36. *Also urges* the authorities of the Central African Republic, with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, other international partners and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to continue in an inclusive manner to strengthen the effective implementation of the transitional justice mechanisms;

37. *Stresses* the need to involve all sectors of Central African civil society and to promote the full and effective participation of victims, women and young people in the dialogue between the authorities of the Central African Republic and the armed groups within the framework of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African

Republic and its road map, which is the main framework for a political solution in the Central African Republic, and the need to coordinate the peace process with transitional justice in order to facilitate national reconciliation;

38. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to involve the parliament in the national human rights programme, which resulted in the establishment in 2023 of a network of parliamentarians of the Central African Republic for human rights, now involved in government human rights initiatives and consultations and those of the national human rights institution and civil society, stresses the importance of a greater presence of elected representatives and their involvement in human rights issues, and calls upon donors, including those involved in promoting parliamentary initiatives, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to give greater support to this involvement of elected representatives;

39. *Urges* the authorities of the Central African Republic to make it a priority to implement the recommendations of the republican dialogue;

40. *Remains concerned* about the surge in the number of children recruited by armed groups and self-defence militias, calls for the establishment and implementation of socioeconomic reintegration and psychological support programmes for minors who are victims of the six most serious violations suffered by children in armed conflict, encourages greater advocacy to improve the protection of children in armed conflict, including by taking account of the specific needs of girls, and calls upon armed groups to end such serious violations and abuses and upon the authorities of the Central African Republic to enforce the Child Protection Code;

41. *Remains deeply concerned* about the conditions in which displaced persons and refugees are living and encourages the international community to support the national authorities and host countries in offering appropriate protection and assistance for victims of violence, in particular women, children and persons with disabilities;

42. *Expresses its concern* about the conditions of detention of persons deprived of liberty and the implementation of procedures relating to deprivation of liberty, and urges the Government to adopt a sustainable approach consisting of better equipping its places of detention, increasing the professionalism of its personnel, including judicial and prison personnel, and committing itself to responding in a comprehensive manner to the recommendations and observations of the various international and national mechanisms, in particular in the reports published to this effect, including by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic;

43. *Calls upon* the national authorities to protect and promote the right to freedom of movement for all, including internally displaced persons and refugees, without distinction, and to respect their right to choose their place of residence, to return home or to seek protection elsewhere;

44. *Encourages* States Members of the United Nations, within the framework of international cooperation, the relevant United Nations bodies, international financial institutions and other international organizations concerned, and also donors, to provide the Central African Republic with technical assistance and capacity-building in order to assist it in promoting respect for human rights and undertaking reform of the justice and security sectors, and to stand ready to respond to the urgent needs and priorities identified by the Central African Republic;

45. *Encourages* the effective implementation of the national development plan for the period 2024–2028 and the national human rights policy and its action plan for the period 2023–2027, drawn up by the authorities of the Central African Republic with the technical and financial support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations country team, and the implementation of the recommendations of the supervisory mechanisms, so that the Central African Republic complies with its obligations under the international human rights instruments it has ratified and with international humanitarian law;

46. *Decides* to renew, for one year, the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, which is to assess, monitor and report on the situation with a view to making recommendations relating to technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights;

47. *Welcomes* the fact that the Central African Republic underwent the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review on 26 January 2024, its openness, reflected by the acceptance of 238 of the 244 recommendations issued within this framework, and the efforts made by the Government, with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, in designing and drafting an inclusive action plan, drawn up in consultation with civil society, national institutions, the parliament and key ministries, to implement the universal periodic review recommendations;

48. *Notes* the call by the Government of the Central African Republic for increased technical assistance and capacity-building efforts to support the priorities of the Government in implementing the recommendations accepted as part of the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review;

49. *Requests* the Independent Expert to pay particular attention to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law alleged to have been committed by all parties to the conflict;

50. *Requests* all parties to cooperate fully with the Independent Expert in carrying out his mandate;

51. *Decides* to convene, at its fifty-eighth session, a high-level dialogue to enable it to assess human rights developments on the ground, with particular emphasis on decentralization and local governance as tools for implementing human rights recommendations at the local level, as political and social responses to the restoration and consolidation of State authority throughout the Central African Republic, and as levers to support the peace and national reconciliation process;

52. *Requests* the Independent Expert to work closely with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and United Nations bodies, particularly in the area of transitional justice;

53. *Also requests* the Independent Expert to work closely with all United Nations bodies, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, and with other relevant international organizations, Central African civil society and all relevant human rights mechanisms;

54. *Further requests* the Independent Expert to work closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;

55. *Requests* the Independent Expert to provide an oral update on his report on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-ninth session and to submit a written report to the Council at its sixtieth session and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

56. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the Independent Expert with all the necessary technical, human and financial resources to enable him to carry out fully his mandate, including the organization of capacity-building programmes for national institutions with a mandate to protect human rights, combat impunity and corruption, and strengthen democratic governance in the country;

57. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*49th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/36. Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to promote, protect, respect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their population and to fulfil their obligations under the human rights treaties, agreements and other instruments to which they are parties, as well as their human rights commitments,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 39/1 of 27 September 2018, 42/25 of 27 September 2019, 45/20 of 6 October 2020 and 51/29 of 3 October 2022 on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as 42/4 of 26 September 2019 and 45/2 of 6 October 2020, which were supported by the country concerned,

Recalling also the Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All, signed in Barbados on 17 October 2023,

Welcoming the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights¹⁰⁴ and the international independent fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,¹⁰⁵ and other international organizations and mechanisms, and expressing grave concern at the continued serious human rights violations and abuses in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that they highlight,

Expressing concern that the ongoing crisis continues to have a disproportionate impact on the rights of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, Indigenous Peoples, particularly in the Arco Minero del Orinoco region, and other persons belonging to groups in vulnerable situations,

Expressing grave concern at the protracted humanitarian crisis, which has led to more than 7.7 million people being compelled to leave the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and about the more than 7.6 million people within the country who remain in need of humanitarian assistance owing to the ongoing political and economic crisis,

Recognizing the need to avoid obstacles inconsistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, that exacerbate pre-existing challenges and negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the extensive and continuing efforts of neighbouring and other countries, especially in the region, to host Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, including through the establishment and implementation of programmes for the inclusion of Venezuelans in the host communities to promote and protect their human rights, and the humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations, other humanitarian organizations and partner countries, including by different means of coordination such as the Quito Process, the Inter-agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, and the International Conferences in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and their Host Countries and Communities, among others, affirming the need to enhance international cooperation with the host and transit countries of Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and encouraging host countries to continue to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against them,

Alarmed at continued reports of worsening human rights violations and abuses and increasing restrictions of civic and democratic space, particularly in the context of the presidential elections, including arbitrary deprivations of life, large numbers of arbitrary detentions, some of which may amount to enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force by law enforcement officials and armed individuals known as *colectivos*, acts of intimidation, attacks, harassment, reprisals, including through the cancellation of passports,

¹⁰⁴ [A/HRC/47/55](#), [A/HRC/48/19](#), [A/HRC/50/59](#), [A/HRC/53/54](#) and [A/HRC/56/63](#).

¹⁰⁵ [A/HRC/48/69](#), [A/HRC/51/43](#), [A/HRC/54/57](#) and [A/HRC/57/57](#).

and public defamation of opposition leaders, peaceful protesters, journalists and other media workers, lawyers, human rights defenders, persons who served in the electoral process, including as electoral observers, Indigenous Peoples and other civil society stakeholders,

Deeply concerned by all human rights violations and abuses committed against persons for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms on the Internet, and alarmed at reports of closures of media outlets, surveillance, blocking and shutdowns of websites and digital platforms,

Expressing deep concern at recent reports of the detention of children and adolescents, who have been charged with the same serious crimes as adults and have not been accompanied by their parents or guardians during the judicial proceedings, and recalling the elements set out by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its general comment No. 24 (2019) on children's rights in the child justice system,

Deeply regretting the decision of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to suspend the in-country activities and presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is inconsistent with the confidential letter of understanding between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as highlighted by the High Commissioner in his update to the Human Rights Council on 7 July 2024,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of an office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the resumption of the Prosecutor's investigation under article 18 (2) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

Affirming its strong conviction that there can only be a peaceful and democratic solution to the current crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and that such a solution lies with the Venezuelan people, without any sort of foreign military, security or intelligence interference, and expressing support for relevant diplomatic efforts in this regard,

Taking note of the concerns expressed by the United Nations Panel of Experts in their interim report on the 2024 Venezuelan presidential elections and the irregularities they documented therein, and reiterating that a Venezuelan-led solution requires respecting the will of the Venezuelan people, through free and fair democratic elections, in accordance with international standards, the verification of electoral proceedings, the transparent publication of election results as tallied by individual polling stations and their implementation,

1. *Strongly condemns* all violations and abuses of international human rights law in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, some of which, according to the independent international fact-finding mission, may amount to crimes against humanity;

2. *Urges* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to implement fully and immediately the recommendations contained in the recent reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the independent international fact-finding mission and to investigate all violations and abuses of human rights and hold those responsible to account;

3. *Also urges* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to respect, protect and fulfil the right of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs and the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and urges the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to cease its ongoing nationwide targeted repression and persecution on political grounds, including through the excessive use of force, arbitrary detention, including of children and adolescents, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, extrajudicial execution and enforced disappearance by the security and intelligence forces, intervention in the autonomy and composition of political parties, disqualification of opposition candidates from electoral processes and other restrictions to civic and democratic space;

4. *Calls upon* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to cease immediately all acts of intimidation, attacks, harassment, surveillance, reprisals and public defamation of opposition leaders, peaceful protesters, journalists and other media workers, lawyers, human rights defenders, persons who served in the electoral process, including as electoral

observers, Indigenous Peoples and other civil society stakeholders, and in this regard also calls upon the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to put an end to undue closures of media outlets and to violations of human rights online, including through the blocking and shutting down of websites and digital platforms;

5. *Calls upon* all stakeholders and political and social actors to abstain from resorting to acts of violence and repression that might jeopardize the peaceful settlement of the Venezuelan crisis;

6. *Urges* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to immediately and unconditionally release all arbitrarily detained persons, including political prisoners, prioritizing those in vulnerable situations and those who remain in pretrial detention beyond the limits set out in national law, while ensuring guarantees of non-repetition, and also urges the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to improve conditions of detention and to uphold due process and fair trial guarantees for all detainees, including communication with counsel of their own choosing;

7. *Also urges* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to adopt appropriate measures to address reported human rights violations and abuses, such as acts of violence and harassment, including sexual and gender-based violence, against women and girls in detention;

8. *Calls upon* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to ensure that criminal legislation, particularly counter-terrorism legislation, and its application fully comply with international human rights law;

9. *Denounces* the adoption of legislation that restricts the right of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs and the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and calls upon the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to refrain from adopting legislation that would further restrict these human rights;

10. *Expresses deep concern* that the continued erosion of the rule of law, the insecurity of tenure, the lack of transparency in the process of designating judges and prosecutors, the precarious working conditions and political interference, including the appointment of Supreme Court justices who lack independence, continue to undermine the independence of the justice system, contribute to impunity and the persistence of human rights violations and abuses, have an impact on access to justice for victims and hinder the holding of free and fair elections;

11. *Calls upon* parties in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to engage in the preparation of a process that will ensure the holding of free and fair local, regional and legislative elections, with an independent national electoral council and an independent and impartial Supreme Court, full freedom of the press and the unfettered political participation of all Venezuelans and all political parties, without fear of repercussions or interference, respecting international standards and civil and political rights;

12. *Calls upon* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to protect diplomatic facilities and personnel residing in Venezuelan territory, including individuals seeking asylum in such facilities, consistent with international law, in particular the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, bearing in mind the human rights of all individuals, including asylum-seekers;

13. *Expresses deep concern* at the human rights and environmental situation in the Arco Minero del Orinoco region and urges the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to cease and investigate all violations and abuses of human rights in the Arco Minero del Orinoco region, including those relating to labour exploitation of miners, child labour exploitation, disappearances, human trafficking, contemporary forms of slavery and violations and abuses of the rights of Indigenous Peoples;

14. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to monitor, report on and provide technical cooperation with a view to improving the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

15. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to present to the Human Rights Council an oral update at its fifty-eighth and sixty-first sessions, to present to the Human Rights

Council oral updates, to be followed by an interactive dialogue before the end of 2024 and before the end of 2025, and to submit a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela containing a detailed assessment of the implementation of the recommendations made in previous reports to the Council for consideration at its fifty-ninth and sixty-second sessions, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

16. *Decides* to extend for a period of two years the mandate of the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as set out in Human Rights Council resolution 45/20, to enable the mission to continue to investigate gross violations of human rights, including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including those involving sexual and gender-based violence, committed since 2014, with a view to combating impunity and ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims, with a particular focus on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the lead-up to, during and after the 2024 presidential elections, and on the violence by armed individuals known as *colectivos*;

17. *Requests* the fact-finding mission to present to the Human Rights Council an oral update on its work, followed by an interactive dialogue at the Council's fifty-eighth and sixty-first sessions, and to submit to the Council a report on its findings and recommendations for future action by the Council, followed by an interactive dialogue at its sixtieth and sixty-third sessions;

18. *Urges* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to resume cooperation in a full manner with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the fact-finding mission, to grant them immediate, full and unfettered access to the entire country, including to victims and places of detention, to provide them with all the information necessary to fulfil their mandates, and to ensure that all individuals have unhindered access to and can communicate with the United Nations and other human rights entities without fear of reprisal, intimidation or attack;

19. *Also urges* the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court;

20. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue its efforts towards the protection of human rights of migrants and refugees from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and, in this respect, to promote effective measures and best practices, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant agencies, and invites all relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation with the host and transit countries of Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers;

21. *Requests* that the Office of the High Commissioner and the independent international fact-finding mission each be provided, in a timely manner, with all the resources necessary and the full administrative, technical and logistical support needed to carry out their respective mandates;

22. *Encourages* relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council to pay particular attention, within their respective mandates, to the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and urges the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to cooperate fully with their work, including by facilitating country visits;

23. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

50th meeting
11 October 2024

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 23 to 6, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Romania, Somalia, United States of America

Against:

Algeria, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Sudan, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Qatar, South Africa, United Arab Emirates]

57/37. Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of States to promote and protect human rights,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 2014 (2011) of 21 October 2011, 2051 (2012) of 12 June 2012 and 2140 (2014) of 26 February 2014, and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/19 of 29 September 2011, 19/29 of 23 March 2012, 21/22 of 27 September 2012, 24/32 of 27 September 2013, 27/19 of 25 September 2014, 30/18 of 2 October 2015, 33/16 of 29 September 2016, 36/31 of 29 September 2017, 39/23 of 28 September 2018, 42/31 of 27 September 2019, 45/26 of 6 October 2020, 48/21 of 11 October 2021, 51/39 of 7 October 2022 and 54/29 of 12 October 2023,

Emphasizing Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) of 14 April 2015, 2451 (2018) of 21 December 2018 and 2624 (2022) of 28 February 2022,

Welcoming the commitment of the Government of Yemen to maintaining the humanitarian truce despite the refusal of the Houthis to renew the agreement on it,

Welcoming also the process of exchange of prisoners between the two sides, and calling for the lifting of the siege of the city of Taiz and for the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian aid,

Reiterating its strong support for the international efforts to reach a comprehensive ceasefire, to end the conflict in Yemen and to renew a meaningful and inclusive political dialogue for peace, represented by the initiative of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, the initiative of Saudi Arabia, the efforts of the Special Envoy of the United States of America for Yemen and some countries in the region, and recalling the need for all parties to the conflict to react to these efforts in a flexible and constructive manner, without preconditions, and to fully and immediately implement all provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions, while welcoming in this regard the positive engagement of the Government of Yemen,

Recognizing that the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights are essential factors in ensuring a fair and equal justice system and, ultimately, reconciliation and stability for Yemen,

Recalling the agreement by Yemeni political parties to complete the political transition process on the basis of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism, and emphasizing the need for the implementation of the recommendations made in the outcome document of the National Dialogue Conference, including the completion of the drafting of a new constitution,

Recalling with appreciation Presidential Decree No. 16 of 23 August 2023, in which the mandate of the National Commission of Inquiry was extended for a period of two years with a view to investigating all violations of human rights since 2011,

Recalling the Riyadh Agreement signed by the Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council, and encouraging the speedy and full implementation of the Agreement as an important step towards a political solution in Yemen,

Concerned that the liquidity situation of the regular budget of the United Nations Secretariat has limited the regular budget funds of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and directly affected the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide full technical assistance, including as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/29,

Welcoming the positive engagement of the Presidential Leadership Council to negotiate with the Houthis under the auspices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen with a view to reaching a final and comprehensive political settlement in Yemen, and welcoming also the position adopted by the Government of Yemen to allow the continuation of international flights from and to Sana'a airport and the unimpeded entry of commercial and humanitarian shipping into all Yemeni ports, including the ports of Hudaydah and Salif,

Welcoming with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations and partners, which resulted in a successful and safe offloading of the oil tanker Safer, thereby protecting the marine life of the Red Sea from a great environmental disaster, and commending donor States for their generous contributions to that essential operation,

Aware of reports by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicating that the existing humanitarian emergency affects the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, including social and economic rights, and that the parties to the conflict must facilitate the rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on technical assistance and capacity-building in Yemen;¹⁰⁶

2. *Notes* the comments made by the Government of Yemen on the report of the High Commissioner during the present session;

3. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Government of Yemen and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

4. *Takes note* of the twelfth report of the National Commission of Inquiry;

5. *Welcomes* the work carried out by the Joint Incident Assessment Team and its cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and its country office in Yemen;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the work done to date by the National Commission of Inquiry despite the challenges that it has faced, and welcomes the progress that it has made, such as the regular field visits made throughout Yemen, the consultations held with civil society groups and the improved reporting on different types of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to renew the truce and immediately implement all of its provisions, calls for the lifting of the siege that the Houthis have imposed on the city of Ta'izz, and calls upon all parties to immediately implement the Stockholm Agreement in order to begin negotiations for a comprehensive and inclusive political solution to the current crisis in Yemen and to uphold the commitments announced on 23 December 2023;

8. *Expresses deep concern* at the serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law in Yemen committed by all parties to the conflict, including those involving sexual and gender-based violence, the continued recruitment of children, contrary to international treaties, the abduction of political activists, the violations of human rights against journalists and the killing of civilians;

9. *Calls upon* the Houthis to remove the obstacles that prevent access for relief and humanitarian aid, to immediately and unconditionally release all detained United Nations personnel and humanitarian workers, staff working for international and national

¹⁰⁶ [A/HRC/57/74](#).

non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions and to end violence and discrimination against women and targeting based on religion or belief;

10. *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict in Yemen to respect their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, to immediately cease attacks on civilians, including on those delivering medical supplies and on aid workers, and to facilitate rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the affected population nationwide;

11. *Expresses deep concern* at all attacks against civilian objects, in violation of international humanitarian law, recalls the obligations of all parties to the conflict to take all precautions necessary to avoid and in any event to minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects, such as schools, markets and medical facilities, and the prohibition on attacking or destroying infrastructure and provisions that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, including water installations, supplies and foodstuffs, and strongly condemns the launching of ballistic and other missiles targeting the territory of neighbouring countries and posing a major threat to regional peace and stability and the security of international trade in Red Sea shipping lanes;

12. *Urges* the Government of Yemen to take measures to protect civilians and to take appropriate measures with a view to ending impunity for all cases involving violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, violence against journalists and the detention of journalists and political activists;

13. *Requests* all parties to the conflict in Yemen to fully implement Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) of 14 April 2015, which will contribute to an improvement in the situation of human rights, and encourages all parties to the conflict to reach a comprehensive agreement to end the conflict while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in the political and peacemaking process;

14. *Demands* that all parties to the conflict work towards a comprehensive ceasefire, continue inter-Yemeni negotiations with a view to reaching a mutually agreed comprehensive and lasting political solution to the conflict, and allow access for humanitarian assistance to all Yemeni towns and villages, urges the Houthis to respond to the requests of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen for them to open the crossing points to the city of Ta'izz, end the recruitment and use of children and release those who have already been recruited, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to cooperate with the United Nations for their reintegration into their communities;

15. *Reiterates* the commitments and obligations of the Government of Yemen to ensure respect for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all individuals within the territory that it controls and that is subject to its jurisdiction, and in that connection recalls that Yemen is a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, and looks forward to the Government continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights;

16. *Expresses deep concern* at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen, expresses its appreciation to donor States and organizations working on improving that situation and for their commitment to provide financial support for the United Nations Yemen humanitarian response plan for 2024, calls upon all States to increase their financial support for United Nations relief operations and urges States to fulfil their pledges to the relevant United Nations humanitarian appeal;

17. *Reaffirms* the responsibilities of all parties to the conflict to facilitate the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those who are in

need, in accordance with the principles of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

18. *Invites* all bodies of the United Nations system, including the Office of the High Commissioner, and all States to assist the transitional process in Yemen, including by supporting the mobilization of resources to tackle the consequences of the violence and the economic and social challenges faced by Yemen, in coordination with the international donor community and according to the priorities set by the Yemeni authorities;

19. *Welcomes* the technical assistance provided by the Office of the High Commissioner to the National Commission of Inquiry, and requests the High Commissioner to continue to provide substantive capacity-building and technical assistance to the Government of Yemen and all requisite technical and logistical support to the National Commission of Inquiry, at the same level as any investigation commission, to enable it to continue to investigate allegations of violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen, in line with international standards, and to submit its comprehensive report on alleged violations and abuses of human rights in all parts of Yemen, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 16 of 23 August 2023, as soon as it is available, and encourages all parties to the conflict in Yemen to extend full and transparent access and cooperation to the National Commission;

20. *Requests* the High Commissioner to present a report on the implementation of technical assistance, as stipulated in the present resolution, to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner is provided with all the resources necessary to facilitate the technical assistance requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/29 and in the present resolution.

*50th meeting
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

B. Decisions

57/101. Outcome of the universal periodic review: North Macedonia

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of North Macedonia on 2 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of North Macedonia, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹⁰⁷ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹⁰⁸

30th meeting
27 September 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/102. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Viet Nam

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Viet Nam on 7 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Viet Nam, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹⁰⁹ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹¹⁰

30th meeting
27 September 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/103. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Afghanistan

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

¹⁰⁷ [A/HRC/57/11](#).

¹⁰⁸ [A/HRC/57/11/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹⁰⁹ [A/HRC/57/7](#).

¹¹⁰ [A/HRC/57/7/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

Having conducted the review of Afghanistan on 29 April 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Afghanistan, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹¹¹ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹¹²

*30th meeting
27 September 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/104. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Cyprus

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Cyprus on 30 April 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Cyprus, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹¹³ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹¹⁴

*31st meeting
30 September 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/105. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Chile

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Chile on 30 April 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

¹¹¹ [A/HRC/57/5](#).

¹¹² [A/HRC/57/5/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹¹³ [A/HRC/57/15](#).

¹¹⁴ [A/HRC/57/15/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

Adopts the outcome of the review of Chile, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹¹⁵ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹¹⁶

32nd meeting
30 September 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/106. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Yemen

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Yemen on 1 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Yemen, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹¹⁷ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹¹⁸

32nd meeting
30 September 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/107. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Slovakia

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Slovakia on 6 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Slovakia, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹¹⁹ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹²⁰

32nd meeting
30 September 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹¹⁵ [A/HRC/57/6](#).

¹¹⁶ [A/HRC/57/6/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹¹⁷ [A/HRC/57/9](#).

¹¹⁸ [A/HRC/57/9/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹¹⁹ [A/HRC/57/13](#).

¹²⁰ [A/HRC/57/13/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

57/108. Outcome of the universal periodic review: New Zealand

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of New Zealand on 29 April 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of New Zealand, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹²¹ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹²²

*32nd meeting
30 September 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/109. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Comoros

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of the Comoros on 3 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of the Comoros, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹²³ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹²⁴

*32nd meeting
30 September 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/110. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Vanuatu

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Vanuatu on 2 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

¹²¹ [A/HRC/57/4](#).

¹²² [A/HRC/57/4/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹²³ [A/HRC/57/12](#).

¹²⁴ [A/HRC/57/12/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

Adopts the outcome of the review of Vanuatu, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹²⁵ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹²⁶

33rd meeting
1 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/111. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Eritrea

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Eritrea on 6 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Eritrea, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹²⁷ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹²⁸

33rd meeting
1 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/112. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Uruguay

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Uruguay on 1 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review of Uruguay, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹²⁹ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹³⁰

33rd meeting
1 October 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹²⁵ [A/HRC/57/10](#).

¹²⁶ [A/HRC/57/10/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹²⁷ [A/HRC/57/14](#).

¹²⁸ [A/HRC/57/14/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹²⁹ [A/HRC/57/8](#).

¹³⁰ [A/HRC/57/8/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

57/113. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Dominican Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of the Dominican Republic on 7 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review the Dominican Republic, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹³¹ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹³²

*33rd meeting
1 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

57/114. Outcome of the universal periodic review: Cambodia

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and President's statement PRST/8/1 of 9 April 2008, on the modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process,

Having conducted the review of Cambodia on 8 May 2024 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the review Cambodia, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review,¹³³ the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions made, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue held in the Working Group.¹³⁴

*34th meeting
1 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹³¹ [A/HRC/57/16](#).

¹³² [A/HRC/57/16/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

¹³³ [A/HRC/57/17](#).

¹³⁴ [A/HRC/57/17/Add.1](#); see also [A/HRC/57/2](#), part two, sect. VI.

C. President's statements

PRST 57/1. Report of the Advisory Committee

At the 46th meeting, held on 9 October 2024, the President of the Human Rights Council made the following statement:

“The Human Rights Council, recalling its resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, in particular section III of the annexes thereto, including on the functions of the Advisory Committee, takes note of the report of the Advisory Committee on its thirty-first session.”¹³⁵

¹³⁵ [A/HRC/AC/31/2](#).