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Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters

Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-fourth session

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Part One

Resolutions, decisions and President's statements adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session

I. Resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session

24/1

Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the key international human rights treaties, in particular article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling also the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the issue of sport and Olympic Games, in particular its resolutions 66/5 of 17 October 2011 and 67/17 of 28 November 2012 on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, in which the Assembly emphasized and encouraged the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and young persons; prevent disease and promote health, including the prevention of drug abuse; empower girls and women; foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities; and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding,

Reaffirming previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the issue of sport and human rights, in particular resolutions 13/27 of 26 March 2010 and 18/23 of 30 September 2011,

Recognizing the potential of sport as a universal language that contributes to educating people on the values of respect, diversity, tolerance and fairness and as a means to combat all forms of discrimination and promote social inclusion for all,

Recognizing also the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace and, in this regard, welcoming activities that aim to foster and encourage such initiatives at the global level,

Acknowledging the potential of sport and major sporting events to educate the youth of the world and to promote their inclusion through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity,

Noting the Fundamental Principles of Olympism as enshrined in the Olympic Charter,

Acknowledging the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and the United Nations system in such fields as human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the need to combat discrimination and intolerance where they occur within and outside the sporting context,

Recognizing that sport and major sporting events, such as the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, can be used to promote human rights and strengthen universal respect for them, thus contributing to their full realization,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution that the appeal by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce, also known as *ekecheiria*, could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the hosting of the Olympic and the Paralympic Games in the cities of Sochi, Rio de Janeiro, PyeongChang and Tokyo in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020 respectively, and stressing the opportunity to make use of these important events to promote human rights, especially through sport and the Olympic ideal,

Stressing the need to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, throughout the period beginning with the start of the Games of the 2014 Winter Olympiad and ending with the closing of the Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi,

Recognizing the potential of sport and major sporting events in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and noting that, as declared at the 2005 World Summit, sport has the potential to foster peace and development and to contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Welcoming the recent proclamation by the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/296 of 23 August 2013, of 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Being aware of the need to actively involve sport and the Olympics in achieving the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, as well as respect for their inherent dignity, and welcoming efforts made by the hosting countries to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities at, inter alia, the 2014 Winter Olympic games in Sochi,

Recognizing the need to reflect more thoroughly on the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and good sporting example in achieving the universal respect for and realization of all human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the high-level interactive panel discussion held at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, which highlighted the ways how sport and major sporting events, in particular the Olympic and Paralympic Games, can be used to promote awareness and understanding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the application of the principles enshrined therein;
2. *Takes note* of the summary of the above-mentioned discussion prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;¹
3. *Calls upon* States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote human rights, development, peace, dialogue and reconciliation during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;
4. *Encourages* States to promote sport as a means to combat all forms of discrimination;
5. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them, bearing in mind both the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the value of good sporting example, to seek the views and inputs of States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in this regard, and to present a progress report thereon to the Human Rights Council before its twenty-seventh session;
6. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue in accordance with its programme of work.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹ A/HRC/20/11.

24/2**Local government and human rights**

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and Council decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007,

Recalling also the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as set forth by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Taking note of Advisory Committee action 9/1 of 10 August 2012 on research proposals,² which includes a research proposal on local government and human rights, presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval in accordance with its functions as described in paragraphs 75 to 78 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1,

Bearing in mind that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, 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 its constitutional and legal system,

Taking note of relevant international and regional initiatives to promote human rights at the local level,

1. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare, from within existing resources, a research-based report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services, with a view to compiling best practices and main challenges, and to present a progress report on the requested research-based report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session, for its consideration;

2. *Also requests* the Advisory Committee to seek the views and inputs of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant special procedures, as well as national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, in order to prepare the above-mentioned research-based report;

3. *Encourages* the Advisory Committee, when elaborating the above-mentioned report, to take into account, as appropriate, the recommendations made by the human rights treaty bodies, at the universal periodic review and by the special procedures, as well as the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/3**Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences**

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that no one shall be held in slavery or servitude and that slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms,

² See A/HRC/AC/9/6.

Recognizing the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956 and the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, as well as other relevant international instruments which prohibit all forms of slavery and call upon Governments to eradicate such practices,

Recalling that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action strongly condemned the fact that slavery and slavery-like practices still exist today in parts of the world, and urged States to take immediate measures as a matter of priority to end such practices, which constitute flagrant violations of human rights,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions 6/14 of 28 September 2007 and 15/2 of 29 September 2010,

Condemning contemporary forms of slavery, while acknowledging that it is a global issue that affects all continents and most countries of the world, and calling upon States to take appropriate measures as a matter of priority to end such practices,

Deeply concerned that the minimum estimate of the number of people subjected to contemporary forms of slavery is that of 21 million victims of forced labour worldwide,

Recognizing that discrimination, social exclusion, gender inequality and poverty lie at the heart of contemporary forms of slavery, as well as the particular vulnerability of migrant workers,

Stressing the importance of criminalizing all forms of slavery through national legislation,

Acknowledging the challenges to slavery eradication highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, including the absence of legislation in some countries, deficiencies and loopholes in legal frameworks, insufficiently dissuasive sanctions, a lack of will and/or resources for implementing law and policy measures, the difficulty in locating and identifying victims and a lack of effective rehabilitation measures,

Recognizing that broad international cooperation among States, as well as between States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, is essential for effectively countering contemporary forms of slavery,

Recalling 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 Council of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his/her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Convinced that the issue of contemporary forms of slavery continues to require the attention of the Human Rights Council,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and its importance for addressing the issues raised by the Special Rapporteur,

1. *Welcomes* the work and takes note with appreciation of the thematic reports of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, including those on servile marriage³ and child slavery in the artisanal mining and quarrying sectors;⁴
2. *Also welcomes* the cooperation of those States that have accepted requests for visits by the Special Rapporteur and have responded to her requests for information;
3. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a period of three years;
4. *Also decides* that the Special Rapporteur shall examine and report on all contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices, but in particular those defined in the Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of

³ A/HRC/21/41.

⁴ A/HRC/18/30.

Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956, as well as all other issues covered previously by the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; in the discharge of the mandate, the Special Rapporteur shall:

- (a) Promote the effective application of relevant international norms and standards on slavery;
 - (b) Request, receive and exchange information on contemporary forms of slavery from Governments, treaty bodies, special procedures, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources, including on slavery practices and, as appropriate and in line with the current practice, respond effectively to reliable information on alleged human rights violations with a view to protecting the human rights of victims of slavery and preventing violations;
 - (c) Recommend actions and measures applicable at the national, regional and international levels to eliminate slavery practices wherever they occur, including remedies that address the causes and consequences of contemporary forms of slavery, such as poverty, discrimination and conflict, as well as the existence of demand factors and relevant measures to strengthen international cooperation;
 - (d) Focus principally on aspects of contemporary forms of slavery that are not covered by existing mandates of the Human Rights Council;
5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out the mandate, to continue:
- (a) To give careful consideration to specific issues within the scope of the mandate and to include examples of effective practices as well as relevant recommendations;
 - (b) To take account of the gender and age dimensions of contemporary forms of slavery;
6. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to compile and analyse examples of national legislation relating to the prohibition of slavery and slavery-like practices in order to assist States in their national efforts to combat contemporary forms of slavery;
7. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, to supply all necessary information requested by the mandate holder, and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the Special Rapporteur's requests to visit their countries so as to enable the mandate holder to fulfil the mandate effectively;
8. *Encourages* the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, Governments, independent experts, interested institutions and non-governmental organizations to cooperate to the fullest extent possible with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of the mandate;
9. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to cooperate fully and effectively with all other relevant existing human rights mechanisms, taking full account of their contribution while avoiding duplication of their work;
10. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit annual reports on the activities of the mandate to the Human Rights Council, together with recommendations on measures that should be taken to combat and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices and to protect the human rights of victims of such practices;
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give the Special Rapporteur all necessary human and financial assistance, from within existing resources, for the effective fulfilment of the mandate.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/4

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,

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolutions 4/4 of 30 March 2007 and 9/3 of 17 September 2008, and recalling all Commission on Human Rights, Council and General Assembly resolutions on the right to development, the most recent being Council resolution 21/32 of 28 September 2012,

Recognizing the renewed commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by their target date of 2015, as set out in the outcome document adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁵

Emphasizing the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

Cognizant of the importance of engaging the United Nations system, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, relevant international organizations, including financial and trade organizations, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in discussions on the right to development,

Recognizing that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, requires effective policy coherence and coordination,

Recognizing also that extreme poverty and hunger are one of the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for its eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1, and therefore calling upon the international community to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Taking note of 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, encouraging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, as well as into development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

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 Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular global partnership for development, for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development, and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recalling that 2011 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Stressing that, in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the 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,

⁵ General Assembly resolution 65/1.

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development,⁶ which provided information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development in the period from July 2012 to May 2013;

2. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on its activities, including on inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system with regard to the promotion and realization of the right to development;

3. *Takes note* of the efforts under way in the framework of the Working Group on the Right to Development, with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4, in fulfilment of the mandate of the Working Group as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998;

4. *Acknowledges* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and 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;

5. *Welcomes* the launching in the Working Group of the process of considering, revising and refining the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria,⁷ with the first reading of the draft criteria and operational sub-criteria;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on its fourteenth session;⁸

7. *Recalls* that the Working Group, at its fourteenth session, had before it five documents containing detailed views and comments on the draft criteria and operational sub-criteria, submitted by Governments, groups of Governments, regional groups and other relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other relevant multilateral institutions and forums, in fulfilment of the conclusions and recommendations agreed at its thirteenth session;

8. *Acknowledges* the need to have the contributions of experts and, in this context, re-emphasizes the importance of engaging further and inviting to the fifteenth session of the Working Group experts from relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other multilateral institutions and forums, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

9. *Also acknowledges* the need to further consider, revise and refine the draft criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria mentioned in paragraph 5 above, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 21/32;

10. *Decides:*

(a) To continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in this regard, lead 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;

(b) That the criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria mentioned in paragraph 5 above, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

(c) That the Working Group shall take appropriate steps to ensure respect for and practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms,

⁶ A/HRC/24/27.

⁷ See A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2.

⁸ A/HRC/24/37.

including guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

(d) To endorse the recommendations of the Working Group as reflected in its report on its fourteenth session;⁹

(e) That the Working Group will continue, at its fifteenth session, its work on the consideration of the draft operational sub-criteria, with the first reading of the remaining operational sub-criteria;

(f) To convene a two-day informal intersessional intergovernmental meeting of the Working Group with the participation of States, groups of States and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other multilateral institutions and forums, and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to improve the effectiveness of the Working Group at its fifteenth session;

(g) To consider the extension of the meeting time of the Working Group, as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to pursue her efforts, in fulfilment of her mandated responsibility, to enhance support for the promotion and protection of the realization 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;

12. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group and to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the fulfilment of her mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development;

13. *Decides* to review the progress of the implementation of the present resolution, as a matter of priority, at its future sessions.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Montenegro, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

United States of America]

24/5

The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

The Human Rights Council,

⁹ Ibid., para. 47.

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

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 15/21 of 30 September 2010, and recalling Council resolutions 19/35 of 23 March 2012, 20/8 of 5 July 2012, 21/16 of 27 September 2012 and 22/10 of 21 March 2013, and relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recognizing the importance of the rights of everyone to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to the full enjoyment of all human rights,

Recalling that, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and as similarly prescribed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, no restriction may be placed on the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association other than those that are prescribed by law and that are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (*ordre public*), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others,

Reiterating the critical mandate, role, expertise and specialized supervisory mechanisms and procedures of the International Labour Organization with respect to employers' and workers' rights to freedom of association,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-third session,¹⁰

Aware that resources are necessary for the existence and sustainable operations of associations,

Reiterating the important role of new information and communications technologies in enabling and facilitating the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and the importance for all States to promote and facilitate access to the Internet and international cooperation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries,

Recognizing the importance of the freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association, as well as the importance of civil society, to good governance, including through transparency and accountability, which is indispensable for building peaceful, prosperous and democratic societies,

Aware of the crucial importance of the active involvement of civil society in processes of governance that affect the life of people,

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

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, as established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 15/21, for a period of three years;

2. *Reminds* States of their obligation to respect and fully protect the rights of all individuals to assemble peacefully and associate freely, online as well as offline, including in the context of elections, and including persons espousing minority or dissenting views or beliefs, human rights defenders, trade unionists and others, including migrants, seeking to exercise or to promote these rights, and to take all necessary measures to ensure that any restrictions on the free exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association are in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;

3. *Expresses concern* at violations of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;

¹⁰ A/HRC/23/39.

4. *Emphasizes* the critical role of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for civil society, and recognizes that civil society facilitates the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

5. *Stresses* that respect for the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, in relation to civil society, contributes to addressing and resolving challenges and issues that are important to society, such as the environment, sustainable development, crime prevention, human trafficking, empowering women, social justice, consumer protection and the realization of all human rights;

6. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate fully with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his mandate, to respond promptly to his urgent appeals and other communications and to consider favourably his requests for visits;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist States to promote and protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, including through the technical assistance programmes of the Office, at the request of States, and to cooperate with relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to assist States to promote and protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;

8. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

9. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in accordance with its programme of work.

34th meeting
26 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/6

The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling 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 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 Human Rights Council resolutions 6/29 of 14 December 2007 and 15/22 of 30 September 2010, and all previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Council on the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recognizing the need for States, in cooperation with international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to create favourable conditions at the national, regional and international levels to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 on institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for the special procedures mandate holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

as established by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 1 of its resolution 6/29, for a further period of three years;

3. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated and to give due consideration to the recommendations made by the mandate holder;

4. *Encourages* all Governments to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests made by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable the mandate holder to fulfil the mandate effectively;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

6. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly covering all activities relating to the mandate with a view to maximizing the benefits of the reporting process;

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

34th meeting
26 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/7 Arbitrary detention

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming articles 3, 9, 10 and 29, as well as other relevant provisions, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling articles 9 to 11 and 14 to 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1991/42 of 5 March 1991 and 1997/50 of 15 April 1997, and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/4 of 28 September 2007, 10/9 of 26 March 2009, 15/18 of 30 September 2010 and 20/16 of 6 July 2012,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 on the Human Rights Council,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and resolution 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for special procedures mandate holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

2. *Takes note with interest* of the latest report of the Working Group,¹¹ including the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Requests* the States concerned to take account of the views of the Working Group and, where necessary, to take appropriate steps to remedy the situation of persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, and to inform the Working Group of the steps they have taken;

4. *Encourages* the Working Group to pursue its work relating to the preparation of the draft basic principles and guidelines, as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 20/16, and invites the Working Group to report to the Council on the progress made in drafting the basic principles and guidelines at its next interactive dialogue with the Council;

¹¹ A/HRC/22/44.

5. *Encourages* all States to respond to the questionnaire sent by the Working Group to prepare those draft basic principles and guidelines;

6. *Also encourages* all States:

(a) To give due consideration to the recommendations of the Working Group;

(b) To take appropriate measures to ensure that their legislation, regulations and practices remain in conformity with relevant international standards and the applicable international legal instruments;

(c) To respect and promote the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power, and to be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release;

(d) To respect and promote the right of anyone deprived of his or her liberty by arrest or detention to bring proceedings before court, in order that the court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his or her detention and order his or her release if the detention is not lawful, in accordance with their international obligations;

(e) To ensure that the right referred to in subparagraph (d) above is equally respected in cases of administrative detention, including administrative detentions in relation to public security legislation;

(f) To ensure that anyone who is arrested or detained on a criminal charge has adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his or her defence, including the opportunity to engage and communicate with the counsel of his or her choice;

(g) To ensure that the conditions of pretrial detention do not undermine the fairness of the trial;

(h) To provide guarantees with respect to any form of detention against unlawful or arbitrary deprivations of liberty;

7. *Further encourages* all States to cooperate with the Working Group and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to its requests for visits so that it may carry out its mandate even more effectively;

8. *Notes with concern* that a persistent proportion of urgent appeals of the Working Group has been left unanswered, and urges the States concerned to give the necessary attention to the urgent appeals addressed to them by the Working Group on a strictly humanitarian basis and without prejudging its possible final conclusions, as well as to the communication of the same case pursuant to the regular complaint procedure;

9. *Encourages* the Working Group to, in accordance with its working methods, continue to provide the State concerned with relevant and detailed information concerning allegations of arbitrary detention in order to facilitate a prompt and substantive response to these communications without prejudice to the need for the State concerned to cooperate with the Working Group;

10. *Notes with deep concern* that the Working Group has received increasing information on reprisals suffered by individuals who were the subject of an urgent appeal or opinion or who applied a recommendation of the Working Group, and calls upon the States concerned to take appropriate measures to prevent such acts and to combat impunity by bringing perpetrators to justice and by providing victims with appropriate remedies;

11. *Expresses* its profound thanks to the States that have extended their cooperation to the Working Group and responded to its requests for information, and invites all States concerned to demonstrate the same spirit of cooperation;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Working Group has been informed of the release of some of the individuals whose situation has been brought to its attention, while deploring the many cases that have not yet been resolved;

13. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a further period of three years, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1991/42 and 1997/50 and Human Rights Council resolution 6/4;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Working Group, particularly with regard to the staffing and resources needed for the effective fulfilment of its mandate, especially in respect of field missions;

15. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of arbitrary detention in conformity with its programme of work.

34th meeting
26 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/8

Equal political participation

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions on political participation,

Reaffirming that every citizen 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 political and public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country,

Reaffirming also that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government and that every citizen 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 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,

Reaffirming further that no distinctions are permitted among citizens in the enjoyment of the right to participate in the conduct of political and 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,

Emphasizing the critical importance of equal political participation for democracy, the rule of law, social inclusion and economic development, and advancing gender equality, as well as for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making, is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Recognizing that the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly and to freedom of association are among the essential conditions for equal political participation and must be protected,

Recognizing also the need to intensify efforts to eliminate barriers in law and in practice and to actively facilitate equal political participation,

Welcoming the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures, the treaty bodies and other relevant human rights mechanisms on identifying and addressing obstacles to equal political participation,

1. *Expresses concern* that, despite the progress made in achieving equal political participation worldwide, many people continue to face obstacles, including discrimination, in the enjoyment of their right to participate in political and public affairs of their countries;

2. *Recognizes* that women, persons belonging to marginalized groups or to minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations are among the most affected by discrimination in political participation;

3. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has an effective right and opportunity to participate in political and public affairs on an equal basis;

4. *Urges* all States to ensure the full and effective participation of all citizens in political and public affairs on an equal basis, including by, inter alia:

(a) Complying fully with their international human rights obligations and commitments with regard to equal political participation;

(b) Taking all necessary measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, directly or indirectly, discriminate against citizens in their right to political participation 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;

(c) Ensuring that no one's right to participate in political and public affairs of his or her country is suspended or conditioned, except on objective and reasonable grounds which are duly established by law and in conformity with international law;

(d) Taking proactive measures to eliminate all barriers in law and in practice that prevent or hinder citizens, in particular women, persons belonging to marginalized groups or minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations, from fully and effectively participating in political and public affairs;

(e) Taking appropriate measures to publicly encourage and promote the importance of equal political participation of all citizens, in particular women, persons belonging to marginalized groups or to minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations;

(f) Ensuring the right of everyone to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly and to freedom of association, and facilitating equal and effective access to information, media and communication technologies in order to enable pluralistic debates fostering equal political participation;

(g) 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;

5. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures, 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;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a study on factors that impede equal political participation and on steps to overcome those challenges, while taking into account, inter alia, the relevant work of the special procedures, the treaty bodies and other relevant international human rights mechanisms, and to present the study to the Human Rights Council for consideration at its twenty-seventh session.

34th meeting
26 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/9

Human rights and indigenous peoples: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

The Human Rights Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling resolution 5/1 on institution-building of the Human Rights Council and resolution 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for special procedures mandate holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with these resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2001/57 of 24 April 2001, 2002/65 of 25 April 2002, 2003/56 of 24 April 2003, 2004/62 of 21 April 2004 and 2005/51 of 20 April 2005 on human rights and indigenous issues, and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/12 of 28 September 2007 and 15/14 of 30 September 2010 on the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples for a period of three years on the same terms as provided by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 15/14;

2. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, to furnish all available information requested in his or her communications, and to react promptly to his or her urgent appeals;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, Governments, independent experts, interested institutions, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, indigenous peoples to cooperate to the fullest extent possible with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his or her mandate;

4. *Encourages* all Governments to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him or her to fulfil the mandate effectively;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary human, technical and financial assistance to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of his or her mandate;

6. *Decides* to continue consideration of this question in conformity with its programme of work.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/10

Human rights and indigenous peoples

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights and indigenous peoples,

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004, proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010, in which the Assembly expanded the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations so that it could assist representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and of the human rights treaty bodies, based on diverse and renewed participation and in accordance with relevant rules and regulations, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and also welcoming Assembly resolution 66/296 of 17 September 2012, in which the Assembly further expanded the mandate of the Voluntary Fund so that it could assist, in an equitable manner, representatives of indigenous peoples, organizations and

communities to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including in the preparatory process, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, and urged States to contribute to the Voluntary Fund,

Recognizing the importance to indigenous peoples of revitalizing, using, developing and transmitting their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures to future generations, and designating and retaining their own names for communities, places and persons,

Welcoming the completion by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of its study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,¹² and encouraging all parties to consider the examples of good practices and recommendations included in that study as practical advice on how to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Stressing the need to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous women, children, youth and persons with disabilities, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in the process of protecting and promoting access to justice by indigenous peoples, indigenous women, children, youth and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the need to find ways and means of promoting the participation of recognized indigenous peoples' representatives within the United Nations system on issues affecting them, as they are not always organized as non-governmental organizations,

Taking note of the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises,¹³ in which the Working Group addressed the impact of business-related activities on the rights of indigenous peoples through the lens of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,¹⁴

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples,¹⁵ and requests the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on the rights of indigenous peoples containing information on relevant developments in human rights bodies and mechanisms and activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner at Headquarters and in the field that contribute to the promotion of, respect for and the full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to the follow-up on the effectiveness of the Declaration;

2. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the official visits he has made in the past year, takes note with appreciation of his report,¹⁶ and encourages all Governments to respond favourably to his requests for visits;

3. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report on the implementation of his or her mandate to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

4. *Welcomes* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, takes note with appreciation of the report on its sixth session,¹⁷ and encourages States to continue to participate in and contribute to its discussions, including by their national specialized bodies and institutions;

¹² A/HRC/24/50.

¹³ A/68/279.

¹⁴ A/HRC/17/31, annex.

¹⁵ A/HRC/24/26.

¹⁶ A/HRC/24/41.

¹⁷ A/HRC/24/49.

5. *Requests* the Expert Mechanism to continue its study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, with a focus on restorative justice and indigenous juridical systems, particularly as they relate to achieving peace and reconciliation, including an examination of access to justice related to indigenous women, children and youth and persons with disabilities, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

6. *Also requests* the Expert Mechanism to prepare a study on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in natural disaster risk reduction and prevention and preparedness initiatives, including consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned in elaboration of national plans for natural disaster risk reduction, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

7. *Further requests* the Expert Mechanism to continue to undertake, with the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner, the questionnaire survey to seek the views of States and indigenous peoples on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies in order to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a view to completing a final summary of responses for presentation to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session, and encourages States that have not yet provided their responses to do so, as well as those States that have already responded to the questionnaire survey to update their responses as appropriate;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 65/198 and 66/296 on the organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014, and takes note of its inclusive preparatory process, including the meeting to be held in Mexico, and, in this regard,

(a) Encourages States, in accordance with the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 66/296, to continue to promote the participation of indigenous peoples during the preparatory process of the World Conference and to support it, in particular by means of technical and financial contributions;

(b) Recommends that the studies and advice of the Expert Mechanism be considered in the formulation of the agendas of the preparatory process;

9. *Also welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/153 of 20 December 2012, to continue, at its sixty-ninth session, its consideration of the ways and means of promoting the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples at meetings of relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant United Nations meetings and processes on issues affecting indigenous peoples, on the basis of the rules of procedure of such bodies and existing United Nations procedural rules and regulations, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁸ existing practices for the accreditation of representatives of indigenous peoples at the United Nations and the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

10. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider changing the title of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples;

11. *Decides* to hold, at its twenty-seventh session, a half-day panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in natural disaster risk reduction, and prevention and preparedness initiatives, including consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned in the elaboration of national plans for natural disaster risk reduction;

12. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperation and coordination among the Special Rapporteur, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism, and requests them to continue to carry out their tasks in a coordinated manner, and welcomes in that regard their permanent effort to promote the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

¹⁸ A/HRC/21/24.

13. *Reaffirms* that the universal periodic review, together with the United Nations treaty bodies, are important mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and, in that regard, encourages effective follow-up to accepted universal periodic review recommendations concerning indigenous peoples, as well as serious consideration to follow up on treaty body recommendations on the matter;

14. *Encourages* those States 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 and to consider supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and welcomes the increased support by States for that Declaration;

15. *Welcomes* the sixth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and encourages States that have endorsed it to adopt measures to pursue the objectives of the Declaration in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, where appropriate;

16. *Encourages* States to consider the rights of indigenous peoples in the discussion of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

17. *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 encourages such institutions to develop and strengthen their capacities to fulfil that role effectively, including with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner;

18. *Takes note* of the outcome document of the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in Alta, Norway, in June 2013, and other proposals made by indigenous peoples, and recommends that the four themes identified in the outcome document be taken into account when considering the specific themes for the round tables and interactive panel for the World Conference;

19. *Welcomes* the study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities presented to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its twelfth session,¹⁹ stresses the need to focus on challenges to indigenous persons with disabilities regarding full enjoyment of their human rights and to include them in all aspects of development, including by enhancing their access to goods and services to improve their standard of living, and encourages all stakeholders to increase consultations on these topics with indigenous persons with disabilities;

20. *Takes note* of the activity of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, and invites States and other potential donors to support it;

21. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at a future session, in conformity with its annual programme of work.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/11

Preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern

The Human Rights Council,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other human rights instruments,

Recalling all previous relevant resolutions on the rights of the child of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, the most recent

¹⁹ E/C.19/2013/6.

being Council resolution 22/32 of 22 March 2013, on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, which is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as enshrined in the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Welcoming the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child related to reducing and eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age,

Reaffirming that States should take all appropriate measures to ensure the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without discrimination of any kind and, in doing so, be guided by the best interests of the child, ensuring the meaningful participation of children, consistent with their evolving capacities, in all matters and decisions affecting their lives, bearing in mind the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents or caregivers in relation to preventing mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age, and take steps to ensure the allocation of available resources to the maximum extent possible to achieve the full realization of the right of the child to the highest attainable standard of health, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field,

Reaffirming also the commitments made by States to make every effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including Millennium Development Goal 4, to reduce by two thirds the under-5 mortality rate by 2015, and Goal 5, to improve maternal health and Goal 6 to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and taking into account the ongoing consultations on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and the need to take into account preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age in the post-2015 discussions,

Welcoming the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched by the Secretary-General and the related establishment of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health and the Independent Expert Review Group on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, and taking note of the analytical study by the World Health Organization, *Women's and Children's Health: Evidence of Impact of Human Rights*,

Deeply concerned that more than 6,600,000 children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, owing to inadequate or lack of access to integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health care and services, early childbearing, as well as to health determinants, such as safe drinking water and sanitation, safe and adequate food and nutrition, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on mortality of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern prepared by the World Health Organization pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/32,²⁰ and welcomes its emphasis on integrating human rights into efforts to prevent under-5 mortality;

2. *Recognizes* that a human rights-based approach to reduce and eliminate preventable child mortality and morbidity is an approach underpinned by the principles of, inter alia, equality and non-discrimination, participation, the best interests of the child, international cooperation and accountability;

3. *Affirms* the importance of applying a human rights-based approach to reducing and eliminating preventable child mortality and morbidity, and requests all States to renew their political commitment in that respect at all levels, and also calls upon States, in adopting a human rights-based approach, especially to scale up efforts to achieve integrated management of integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health care and services,

²⁰ A/HRC/24/60.

particularly at the community and family levels, and to take action to address the main causes of child mortality;

4. *Encourages* States and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, to take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age, such as poverty, malnutrition, harmful practices, violence, stigma and discrimination, unsafe households and environments, lack of safe drinking water and sanitation, lack of accessible, affordable and appropriate health-care services and medicines, late detection of childhood illnesses and lack of education;

5. *Calls upon* States to strengthen their international commitment, cooperation and mutual assistance with the objective of reducing and eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age, including through the sharing of good practices, research, policies, monitoring and capacity-building;

6. *Reaffirms* that the Human Rights Council should promote the effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, to prepare concise technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age;

8. *Also requests* the Office of High Commissioner to convene, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, special procedures mandate holders and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, an expert workshop to discuss the draft of the technical guidance referred to in paragraph 7 above, with the participation of Governments and open to regional organizations, relevant United Nations bodies and civil society organizations, to assist in the preparation of the technical guidance;

9. *Further requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to provide an oral update in this regard before the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council;

10. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to present the technical guidance to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

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

34th meeting
26 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/12

Human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and encouraging all States that have not ratified or acceded to the afore-mentioned treaties to consider doing so expeditiously,

Bearing in mind the numerous other international standards and norms in the field of the administration of justice, in particular of juvenile justice, including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules

for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),²¹ the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners,²² the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,²³ the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines)²⁴ and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (the Havana Rules),²⁵ the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System (the Vienna Guidelines),²⁶ the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime,²⁷ the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power²⁸ and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),²⁹

Welcoming the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,³⁰

Recalling all resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relevant to the subject, in particular Human Rights Council resolutions 10/2 of 25 March 2009 and 18/12 of 29 September 2011, Assembly resolutions 63/241 of 24 December 2008, 65/231 of 21 December 2010 and 67/166 of 20 December 2012, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/26 of 30 July 2009,

Bearing in mind its decision to devote the 2014 full-day meeting on the rights of the child to the question of access to justice for children,

Noting with appreciation the work of all special procedures of the Human Rights Council that address human rights in the administration of justice in the discharge of their mandates,

Noting with interest the work of all human rights treaty body mechanisms on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular the adoption by the Human Rights Committee of its general comments No. 21, on the humane treatment of prisoners deprived of their liberty, and No. 32, on the right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial, and noting its ongoing work on the liberty and security of persons, and noting with interest also the adoption by the Committee on the Rights of the Child of its general comments No. 10, on children's rights in juvenile justice, and No. 13, on the rights of the child to freedom from all violence,

Acknowledging the efforts made by the Secretary-General on improving the coordination of United Nations activities in the field of administration of justice, the rule of law and juvenile justice,

Noting with appreciation the important work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in the field of the administration of justice,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice and its members, in particular their coordination in providing technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, and the active participation of civil society in its work,

Encouraging continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, and noting

²¹ General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

²² General Assembly resolution 45/111, annex.

²³ General Assembly resolution 43/173, annex.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 45/112.

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 45/113.

²⁶ Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, annex.

²⁷ Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20, annex.

²⁸ General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

²⁹ General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

³⁰ General Assembly resolution 67/187, annex.

in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015,

Reaffirming that an independent and impartial judiciary, an independent legal profession and the integrity of the judicial system are essential prerequisites for the protection of human rights and for ensuring that there is no discrimination in the administration of justice,

Emphasizing that the right to access to justice for all forms an important basis for strengthening the rule of law through the administration of justice,

Recalling that every State should provide an effective framework in which to pursue remedies to redress human rights violations or grievances,

Recalling also that the social rehabilitation of prisoners shall be among the essential aims of the criminal justice system, ensuring, as far as possible, that offenders are willing and able to lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life upon their return to society,

Recognizing the importance of the principle that, except for those lawful limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, persons deprived of their liberty shall retain their non-derogable human rights and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Aware of the need for special vigilance with regard to the specific situation of children, juveniles and women in the administration of justice, in particular while deprived of their liberty, and their vulnerability to violence, abuse, injustice and humiliation,

Reaffirming that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all decisions concerning deprivation of liberty and, in particular, that depriving children and juveniles of their liberty should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, in particular before trial, and the need to ensure that, if they are arrested, detained or imprisoned, children should be separated from adults, to the greatest extent feasible, unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so,

Reaffirming also that the best interests of the child shall be an important consideration in all matters concerning the child related to sentencing of his or her parents or, where applicable, legal guardians or primary caregivers,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the latest report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted to the Human Rights Council on the protection of human rights of juveniles deprived of their liberty;³¹

2. *Also notes with appreciation* the latest report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Human Rights Council on the latest developments, challenges and good practices in human rights in the administration of justice, analysing the international legal and institutional framework for the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty;³²

3. *Further notes with appreciation* the joint report of the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system;³³

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full and effective implementation of all United Nations standards on human rights in the administration of justice;

5. *Calls upon* States to spare no effort in providing for effective legislative, judicial, social, educative and other relevant mechanisms and procedures, as well as adequate resources, to ensure the full implementation of those standards, and invites them to take into consideration the issue of human rights in the administration of justice in the universal periodic review procedure;

³¹ A/HRC/21/26.

³² See A/HRC/24/28.

³³ A/HRC/21/25.

6. *Invites* Governments to include in their national development plans the administration of justice as an integral part of the development process, and to allocate adequate resources for the provision of legal aid services with a view to the promotion and protection of human rights, and invites the international community to provide an increased level of both technical and financial assistance to States and to respond favourably to their requests for the enhancement and strengthening of institutions concerned with the administration of justice;

7. *Stresses* the special need for national capacity-building in the field of the administration of justice, through reform of the judiciary, the police and the penal system, as well as juvenile justice reform;

8. *Reaffirms* that no one should be unlawfully or arbitrarily deprived of his or her liberty, and notes the principles of necessity and proportionality in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* States to apply individual criminal responsibility and to refrain from detaining persons based solely on their family ties with an alleged offender;

10. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that anyone who is deprived of his or her liberty has prompt access to a competent court with the effective power to determine the lawfulness of the detention, and to order release if the detention or imprisonment is determined not to be lawful, as well as prompt access to legal counsel, in accordance with their international obligations and commitments;

11. *Encourages* States to address overcrowding in detention facilities by taking effective measures, including through enhancing the use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences, access to legal aid, and the efficiency as well as the capacity of the criminal justice system and its facilities;

12. *Urges* States to endeavour to reduce pretrial detention by, inter alia, adopting legislative and administrative measures and policies on its preconditions, limitations, duration and alternatives, and by taking measures aimed at the implementation of existing legislation, as well as by ensuring access to justice and legal advice and assistance;

13. *Urges* all States to consider establishing, maintaining or enhancing independent mechanisms with the mandate to monitor all places of detention and have private interviews with all persons deprived of liberty without witnesses;

14. *Recalls* the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in international law, and calls upon States to address and prevent detention conditions of persons deprived of their liberty that amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

15. *Calls upon* States to investigate promptly, effectively and impartially all alleged human rights violations suffered by persons deprived of their liberty, in particular cases involving death, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to provide effective remedies to the victims;

16. *Notes* the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the revision of the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners reiterating that any changes should not lower any existing standards but should reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices as well as human rights standards, and, in this regard, invites the expert group to continue to benefit from the expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders;

17. *Recognizes* that every child and juvenile in conflict with the law must be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with international law, bearing in mind relevant international standards on human rights in the administration of justice, and calls on States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to abide strictly by its principles and provisions;

18. *Encourages* States that have not yet integrated children's issues into their overall rule of law efforts to do so, and to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to prevent and address juvenile delinquency as well as with a view to

promoting, inter alia, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

19. *Encourages* States to foster close cooperation between the justice sectors, different services in charge of law enforcement, social welfare and education sectors in order to promote the use and improved application of alternative measures in juvenile justice;

20. *Stresses* the importance of including reintegration strategies for former child offenders in juvenile justice policies, in particular through educational programmes, with a view to their assuming a constructive role in society;

21. *Encourages* States not to set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at too low an age level, bearing in mind the emotional, mental and intellectual maturity of the child, and, in this respect, refers to the recommendation of the Committee of the Rights of the Child to increase their lower minimum age of criminal responsibility without exception to the age of 12 years as the absolute minimum age, and to continue to increase it to a higher age level;

22. *Urges* States to ensure that, under their legislation and practice, neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment are imposed for offences committed by persons under 18 years of age;

23. *Calls upon* States to enact or review legislation to ensure that any conduct not considered a criminal offence or not penalized if committed by an adult is also not considered a criminal offence and not penalized if committed by a child, in order to prevent the child's stigmatization, victimization and criminalization;

24. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures so that children who are victims of human trafficking are not subject to criminal sanctions for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that such involvement is a direct consequence of their situation as trafficked persons;

25. *Invites* Governments to provide for human rights training on the administration of justice and juvenile justice, including anti-racist, multicultural and gender-sensitive and child rights training, for all judges, lawyers, prosecutors, social workers, immigration, correction officers and police officers and other professionals working in the field of administration of justice;

26. *Calls upon* States to consider establishing or strengthening existing independent and child-friendly national monitoring and complaints mechanisms to contribute to safeguarding the rights of children deprived of their liberty;

27. *Stresses* the importance of paying greater attention to the impact of the imprisonment of parents on their children;

28. *Urges* States to take all necessary and effective measures, including legal reform where appropriate, to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children within the justice system;

29. *Invites* States, upon their request, to benefit from technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice provided by the relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, in particular the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in the field of the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice, encouraging States to provide adequate resources to the secretariat of the Panel and to its members;

30. *Calls upon* relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council to give special attention to questions relating to the effective protection of human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice and the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, and to provide, wherever appropriate, specific recommendations in this regard, including proposals for advisory services and technical assistance measures;

31. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner to reinforce advisory services and technical assistance relating to national capacity-building in the field of the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice;

32. *Decides* to convene, at its twenty-seventh session, a panel discussion on the protection of the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty;

33. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize, from within existing resources, at the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, the afore-mentioned panel discussion in consultation with States, relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as with civil society and other stakeholders, with a view to ensuring their contribution to the panel discussion;

34. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion in the form of a summary, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session;

35. *Requests* the High Commissioner to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its thirtieth session, an analytical report on the human rights implications of over-incarceration and overcrowding, drawing on the experience of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, seeking the views of States, including on their practice regarding alternatives to detention, and other relevant stakeholders;

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

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/13

The 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 and 18/4 of 29 September 2011,

Recalling also 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 Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with these resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling further all relevant resolutions that, inter alia, condemn 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, and recalling also the 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,

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,

Deeply concerned at 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,

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

Recalling the holding of regional consultations in all five regions from 2007 to 2011, in which participants noted that the enjoyment and exercise of human rights were increasingly impeded by the emergence of several new challenges and trends relating to mercenaries or their activities and by the role played by private military and security companies registered, operating or recruiting personnel in each region, and expressing its appreciation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for its support for the holding of those consultations,

Convinced that, notwithstanding the way in which mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are used or the form they take to acquire a semblance of legitimacy, they are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights by peoples,

1. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing, protection and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate 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 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, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, 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 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 by private companies offering international military consultancy and security services, and to impose a specific ban on such companies intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes;
5. *Encourages* States that import the military assistance, consultancy and security services provided by private companies to establish regulatory national mechanisms for the registering and licensing of those companies 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;
6. *Emphasizes* its utmost concern about the impact of the activities of private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular when operating in armed conflicts, and notes that private military and security companies and their personnel are rarely held accountable for violations of human rights;

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

8. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that received a visit 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;

9. *Invites* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur;

10. *Condemns* mercenary activities in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of these countries and 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, as well as the political motivations of mercenaries and for mercenary-related activities;

11. *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;

12. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work and contributions made by the Working Group, including its research activities, and takes note of its latest report;³⁴

13. *Decides* to renew, for a period of three years, the mandate of the Working Group, to continue to undertake the tasks contained in Human Rights Council resolution 7/21 of 28 March 2008 and in all other relevant resolutions on the subject;

14. *Recalls* the holding of the second session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies, expresses satisfaction at the participation of experts, including of the members of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries, as resource persons at the above-mentioned session, and requests the Working Group and other experts to continue their participation during the third session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, to be held from 16 to 20 December 2013;

15. *Recommends* that all Member States, including those confronted with the phenomenon of private military and security companies, as contracting States, States of operations, home States or States whose nationals are employed to work for a private military or security company, contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, taking into account the work done by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries;

16. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to continue the work already done by previous mandate holders on the strengthening of the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, taking into account the proposal for a new legal definition of a 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;³⁵

17. *Reiterates* its requests to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to, as a matter of priority, publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries and private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and other military and security-related services on the international market on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by those activities;

³⁴ A/HRC/24/45.

³⁵ E/CN.4/2004/15.

18. *Requests* the Working Group to continue to monitor mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations, including private military and security companies, in different parts of the world, including instances of protection provided by Governments to individuals involved in mercenary activities, and to continue to update the database of individuals convicted of mercenary activities;

19. *Also requests* the Working Group to continue to study and identify sources and causes, emerging issues, manifestations and trends regarding mercenaries or mercenary-related activities and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination;

20. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Working Group in the fulfilment of its mandate;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the Working Group with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, both professional and financial, including through the promotion of 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;

22. *Requests* the Working Group to consult States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in the implementation of the present resolution, and 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 General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

23. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item at its twenty-seventh session.

*34th meeting
26 September 2013*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 31 to 15, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Kazakhstan]

24/14

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also all previous resolutions on human rights and unilateral coercive measures adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 19/32 of 23 March 2012 and General Assembly resolution 67/170 of 20 December 2012,

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights and, in this regard, reaffirming the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of all human rights,

Expressing its concern at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, development, international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Recognizing that unilateral coercive measures in the form of economic sanctions can have far-reaching implications for the human rights of the general population of targeted States, disproportionately affecting the poor and the most vulnerable classes,

Recognizing also that long-term unilateral coercive measures may result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns in the States targeted,

Recalling the final document of the sixteenth summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Tehran in August 2012, in which the States members of the Movement decided to refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on non-aligned countries – threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment – and to prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States, and, in this regard, oppose and condemn these measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, and request States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately,

Recalling also that the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, called upon States to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that created obstacles to trade relations among States and impeded the full realization of all human rights, and that also severely threatened the freedom of trade,

Deeply concerned that, despite the resolutions adopted on this issue by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and at United Nations conferences held in the 1990s and at their five-year reviews, and contrary to norms of international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated, implemented and enforced by, inter alia, resorting to war and militarism, with all their negative implications for the social-humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which provides that, inter alia, in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

1. *Calls upon* all States to stop adopting, maintaining or implementing unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States and, in this context, calls upon all Member States neither to recognize these measures nor to apply them, and to take effective administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

3. *Condemns* the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure against any country, particularly against developing countries, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems;

4. *Expresses grave concern* that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities,

5. *Reiterates its call* upon Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions, and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from relevant provisions of the international law and human rights instruments to which they are parties by putting an immediate end to such measures;

6. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their own economic, social and cultural development;

7. *Also reaffirms* its opposition to any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State, which is incompatible with the Charter;

8. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and to the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measure to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

9. *Reaffirms* that essential goods, such as food and medicines, should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

10. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and, in this regard, calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries;

11. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, as well as the increasing trend in this direction, including through the enactment of laws with extraterritorial application, which are not in conformity with international law;

12. *Recognizes* that the Declaration of Principles, adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003, strongly urges States to avoid and refrain from any unilateral measure in building the information society;

13. *Urges* all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of the quantitative and qualitative documentation of the negative impacts associated with the application of unilateral coercive measures in the context of ensuring the accountability of those responsible for the human rights violations resulting from the application of unilateral coercive measures against any State;

15. *Decides* to give due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the human rights issues in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

16. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, to pay due attention and give urgent consideration to the present resolution;

17. *Takes note* of the thematic study prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights,³⁶ including recommendations on actions aimed at ending such measures;

18. *Also takes note* of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the proceedings of the workshop on the various aspects relating to the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations in the States targeted,³⁷ and takes positive note of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on human rights and unilateral coercive measures;³⁸

19. *Notes with appreciation* the holding of the workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations in the States targeted organized by the Office of the High Commissioner, on 5 April 2013, in Geneva;

20. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report containing recommendations on mechanism to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability, and to present a progress report of the requested research-based report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session for its consideration;

21. *Also requests* the Advisory Committee to seek the views and inputs of Member States and relevant special procedures, as well as national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, in the preparation of the above-mentioned research-based report;

22. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the proceedings of the workshop³⁹ held on 5 April 2013:

(a) To organize, prior to the twenty-seventh session, a workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations, in particular their socioeconomic impact on women and children, in the States targeted;

(b) To prepare a report on the proceedings of the workshop and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

23. *Decides* to examine this question in accordance with its annual programme of work under the same agenda item.

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 31 to 15, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, India,

³⁶ A/HRC/19/33.

³⁷ A/HRC/24/20.

³⁸ A/67/181.

³⁹ See A/HRC/24/20.

Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Kazakhstan]

24/15

World Programme for Human Rights Education

The Human Rights Council,

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

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, in which the Assembly launched the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, resolutions 59/113 A of 10 December 2004 and 59/113 B of 14 July 2005, in which the Assembly proclaimed the World Programme for Human Rights Education and adopted the Plan of Action for its first phase, 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,

Recalling also previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the most recent being resolution 21/14 of 27 September 2012,

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

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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the consultation on the focus of the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education;⁴⁰

2. *Encourages* States and, where appropriate, relevant stakeholders to, during the third phase of the World Programme, strengthen efforts to advance the implementation of the first and second phases, with a special emphasis on:

- (a) Advancing implementation and consolidating the work done;
- (b) Providing human rights education and training for educators in formal and non-formal education and training, in particular those working with children and youth;
- (c) Undertaking related research and mapping, sharing good practices and lessons learned, and sharing information among all actors;
- (d) Applying and strengthening sound educational methodologies based on good practices and assessed through continued evaluation;
- (e) Fostering dialogue, cooperation, networking and information-sharing among relevant stakeholders;

⁴⁰ A/HRC/24/24.

(f) Furthering the integration of human rights education and training into school and training curricula;

3. *Decides* to make media professionals and journalists the focus group of the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, with a special emphasis on education and training in equality and non-discrimination, with a view to combating stereotypes and violence, fostering respect for diversity, promoting tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and social inclusion, and raising awareness of the universality, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights among the general public;

4. *Calls upon* States and, where applicable, relevant governmental authorities and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to implement, disseminate and promote universal respect for and understanding of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training;

5. *Encourages* States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive and sustainable national plans of action for human rights education and training, with dedicated resources;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare, from within existing resources, a plan of action for the third phase of the World Programme (2015-2019) in consultation with States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, national human rights institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and to submit the plan of action for consideration by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

7. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General ensure that an adequate component of United Nations assistance, to be provided at the request of Member States to develop their national systems of promotion and protection of human rights, is available to support human rights education and training;

8. *Decides* to consider this issue at its twenty-seventh session in accordance with its programme of work.

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/16

The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations of States thereunder to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other human rights instruments, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council,

Recalling the role of the Human Rights Council in the prevention of human rights violations through cooperation and dialogue, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

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,

Expressing concern at continued human rights violations around the world,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions 14/5 of 17 June 2010 and 18/13 of 29 September 2011,

1. *Affirms* the importance of effective preventive measures as a part of overall strategies for the promotion and protection of all human rights;
2. *Recognizes* that States, including all branches thereof, have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the prevention of human rights violations;
3. *Stresses* that States should promote supportive and enabling environments for the prevention of human rights violations, including, inter alia, by:
 - (a) Considering ratifying international human rights conventions and covenants;
 - (b) Fully implementing international human rights conventions and covenants to which they are party;
 - (c) Enhancing and developing good governance, democratic systems, the rule of law and accountability;
 - (d) Adopting policies to ensure the enjoyment of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;
 - (e) Addressing all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination;
 - (f) Addressing factors, inter alia, inequality and poverty, that may lead to situations in which human rights violations are committed;
 - (g) Promoting a free and active civil society;
 - (h) Promoting freedom of opinion and expression;
 - (i) Ensuring, where they exist, strong and independent 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);
 - (j) Promoting human rights education and training;
 - (k) Ensuring an independent and functioning judiciary;
 - (l) Fighting corruption;
4. *Welcomes* the role of national human rights institutions in contributing to the prevention of human rights violations, and encourages States to strengthen the mandate and capacity of such institutions, where they exist, to enable them to fulfil this role effectively in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);
5. *Invites* national human rights institutions to consider addressing the issue of the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights in the framework of relevant international and regional forums;
6. *Acknowledges* that the Human Rights Council shall, inter alia, contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, to the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies;
7. *Also acknowledges* the importance of the universal periodic review as a cooperative mechanism of the Human Rights Council aimed at, inter alia, improvement of human rights situations on the ground and the fulfilment of the State's human rights obligations and commitments, based on the principle of promoting the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights;
8. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Workshop on the Role of Prevention in the

Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,⁴¹ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

9. *Stresses* the need to develop further the concept of prevention of human rights violations and to step up efforts to raise awareness of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights in order to encourage its reflection in relevant policies and strategies at the national, regional and international levels;

10. *Recognizes* the need for further research to assist States, at their request, and other stakeholders to understand and mainstream the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the basis of consultation with States, relevant regional organizations, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders, to inform the Human Rights Council on a regular basis on the practical applications of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;

12. *Decides* to convene, from within the existing resources, at its twenty-seventh session, a panel discussion on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;

13. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the above-mentioned panel discussion in consultation with States, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, 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 multi-stakeholder participation in the panel discussion;

14. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion in the form of a summary, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session;

15. *Further requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, in consultation with States, national human rights institutions, civil society, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, and taking into account, inter alia, the outcome of the above-mentioned panel discussion, to draft a study on the prevention of human rights violations and its practical implementation, and to present the study to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to gather information and research for further preparation of a practical toolkit to support States and other stakeholders in the practical application of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;

17. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter under the same agenda item, in conformity with its annual programme of work.

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/17

Conscientious objection to military service

The Human Rights Council,

Bearing in mind that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 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,

⁴¹ A/HRC/18/24.

Reaffirming that it is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, as well as the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the right not to be discriminated against,

Reaffirming also that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching, and that no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair one's freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, as well as that freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others,

Recalling article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the right of everyone to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution,

Recalling also all previous relevant resolutions and decisions, including Human Rights Council resolution 20/2 of 5 July 2012 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2004/35 of 19 April 2004 and 1998/77 of 22 April 1998, in which the Commission recognized the right of everyone to have conscientious objection to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as laid down in article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and general comment No. 22 (1993) of the Human Rights Committee,

Noting general comment No. 32 (2007) of the Human Rights Committee, in which it stated that repeated punishment of conscientious objectors for not having obeyed a renewed order to serve in the military based on the same constant resolve may amount to punishment in breach of the legal principle *ne bis in idem*,

Recognizing that conscientious objection to military service derives from principles and reasons of conscience, including profound convictions, arising from religious, ethical, humanitarian or similar motives,

Aware that persons performing military service may develop conscientious objections,

1. *Recognizes* that the right to conscientious objection to military service can be derived from the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;
2. *Takes note* of the analytical report on conscientious objection to military service presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-third session,⁴² pursuant to resolution 20/2;
3. *Encourages* all States, relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Commissioner by providing relevant information for the preparation of the next quadrennial analytical report on conscientious objection to military service, in particular on new developments, best practices and remaining challenges;
4. *Takes note* of the publication by the Office of the High Commissioner of a guide entitled *Conscientious Objection to Military Service* (2012);
5. *Acknowledges* that an increasing number of States recognize conscientious objection to military service not only for conscripts but also for those serving voluntarily, and encourages States to allow applications for conscientious objection prior to, during and after military service, including reserve duties;
6. *Recognizes* that an increasing number of States that retain compulsory military service are taking steps to ensure the establishment of alternatives to military service;

⁴² A/HRC/23/22.

7. *Welcomes* the fact that some States accept claims of conscientious objection to military service as valid without inquiry;

8. *Calls upon* States that do not have such a system to establish independent and impartial decision-making bodies with the task of determining whether a conscientious objection to military service is genuinely held in a specific case, taking account of the requirement not to discriminate between conscientious objectors on the basis of the nature of their particular beliefs;

9. *Urges* States with a system of compulsory military service, where such provision has not already been made, to provide for conscientious objectors various forms of alternative service which are compatible with the reasons for conscientious objection, of a non-combatant or civilian character, in the public interest and not of a punitive nature;

10. *Emphasizes* that States should take the necessary measures to refrain from subjecting individuals to imprisonment solely on the basis of their conscientious objection to military service and to repeated punishment for refusing to perform military service, and recalls that repeated punishment of conscientious objectors for refusing a renewed order to serve in the military may amount to punishment in breach of the legal principle *ne bis in idem*;

11. *Calls upon* States to consider releasing individuals imprisoned or detained solely on the basis of their conscientious objection to military service;

12. *Reiterates* that States, in their law and in practice, must not discriminate against conscientious objectors in relation to their terms or conditions of service, or any economic, social, cultural, civil or political rights;

13. *Encourages* States, subject to the circumstances of the individual case meeting the other requirements of the definition of a refugee as set out in the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, to consider granting asylum to those conscientious objectors to military service who have a well-founded fear of persecution in their country of origin owing to their refusal to perform military service when there is no provision, or no adequate provision, for conscientious objection to military service;

14. *Also encourages* States, as part of post-conflict peacebuilding, to consider granting and effectively implementing, amnesties and restitution of rights, in law and in practice, for those who have refused to undertake military service on grounds of conscientious objection to military service;

15. *Affirms* the importance of the availability of information about the right to conscientious objection to military service, and the means of acquiring conscientious objector status, to all persons affected by military service;

16. *Welcomes* initiatives to make such information widely available, and encourages States, as applicable, to provide information to conscripts and persons serving voluntarily in the military services about the right to conscientious objection to military service;

17. *Urges* States to respect freedom of expression of those who support conscientious objectors or who support the right of conscientious objection to military service;

18. *Encourages* States to use the information contained in the above-mentioned report and guide of the Office of the High Commission and in the present resolution to consider introducing appropriate legislation, policies and practices regarding conscientious objection to military service, and to address any discriminatory provisions therein, and to inform the enforcement of an adequate legal framework to ensure that the right can be respected in practice;

19. *Invites* States to consider including in their national reports, to be submitted to the universal periodic review mechanism and to United Nations human rights treaty bodies, information on domestic provisions related to the right to conscientious objection;

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

35th meeting
27 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/18

The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming all previous relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, inter alia, resolutions 7/22 of 28 March 2008, 12/8 of 1 October 2009, 15/9 of 30 September 2010, 16/2 of 24 March 2011, 18/1 of 28 September 2011 and 21/2 of 27 September 2012,

Recalling General Assembly 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,

Recalling also 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 further Human Rights Council resolution 22/5 of 21 March 2013, on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling the relevant provisions of declarations and programmes with regard to access to safe drinking water and sanitation adopted by major United Nations conferences and summits, and by the General Assembly at its special sessions and during follow-up meetings, including Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/154 of 20 December 2010, establishing 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation and that strengthening international cooperation is crucially important in order to achieve the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all,

Welcoming the proclamation of 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/291 of 24 July 2013,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, in which Heads of State and Government committed to, inter alia, accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7, including by redoubling efforts to close the sanitation gap through scaled-up ground-level action, and Assembly resolution 65/153 of 20 December 2010, on follow-up to the International Year of Sanitation,

Bearing in mind the commitments made by the international community to achieve fully the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing in that context the resolve of Heads of State and Government, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, as agreed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Taking note of relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa-South America Summit, in 2006; the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of

Non-Aligned Countries, in 2009; the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011; the Chiang Mai Declaration, adopted at the second Asia-Pacific Water Summit, in 2013; and the Panama Declaration, adopted at the third Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Sanitation, in 2013,

Recalling in particular paragraph 14 of Human Rights Council resolution 21/2, in which the Council encouraged the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation to continue to make contributions to the discussions on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,

Deeply concerned that approximately 768 million people still lack access to improved water sources and that more than 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation as defined by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in their 2013 Joint Monitoring Programme update, and concerned that these figures do not fully capture the dimensions of water safety, the affordability of services, and the safe management of excreta and wastewater, as well as of equality and non-discrimination, and therefore underestimate the numbers of those without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and alarmed that, every year, approximately 1.5 million children under five years of age die and 443 million school days are lost as a result of water- and sanitation-related diseases,

Reaffirming the importance of national programmes and policies in ensuring the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Affirming the importance of regional and international technical cooperation, where appropriate, as means to promote the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, without any prejudice to questions of international water law, including international watercourse law,

Recognizing that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure and acceptable, and that provides privacy and ensures dignity,

Recalling 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 Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the recognition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and the reaffirmation by the latter that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and 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;

2. *Also welcomes* the commitments of States regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on 22 June 2012;

3. *Further welcomes* the fact that, according to the 2012 Joint Monitoring Programme report, the Millennium Development Goal target relating to the reduction by 50 per cent of people without access to an improved water source was met five years before its deadline of 2015, and insists that much remains to be done on safety, equity, equality and non-discrimination issues;

4. *Regrets* the fact that, according to the 2013 Joint Monitoring Programme update, the Millennium Development Goal target on sanitation still is one of the most off-track of the United Nations development agenda, and calls upon all Member States to continue to support the global effort to realize the goals of the advocacy campaign "Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015";

5. *Encourages* Member States to intensify global partnerships for development as means to achieve and sustain the Millennium Development Goal targets on water and sanitation;

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the comprehensive, transparent and inclusive consultations conducted with relevant and interested actors from all regions for her thematic reports and the undertaking of country missions, and notes with interest the announcement of the development of a handbook on implementing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

7. *Also welcomes* the annual report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the General Assembly on integrating non-discrimination and equality into the post-2015 development agenda for water, sanitation and hygiene,⁴³ takes note with appreciation of her proposal to integrate the progressive reduction and elimination of inequalities into the post-2015 agenda, and encourages further discussion on how to possibly integrate these issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 agenda;

8. *Notes* the recommendation contained in the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, commissioned by the Secretary-General,⁴⁴ listing water and sanitation among the indicative goals in the post-2015 development agenda, and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”,⁴⁵ in which the Secretary-General recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation as one of the foundations for a decent life;

9. *Also notes* the discussion on water issues, especially on water and sanitation, at the third session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, held from 22 to 24 May 2013;

10. *Calls upon* States to integrate the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the principles of equality and non-discrimination into the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Welcomes* the annual report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the Human Rights Council on sustainability and non-retrogression in the realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,⁴⁶ and takes note of its potential relevance to the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Recalls* that safe drinking water and sanitation must be progressively made available for present and future generations, without discrimination, and that the provision of services today should safeguard the ability in the future to realize the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

13. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To incorporate the principle of sustainability into measures adopted to realize the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, during times of both economic stability and economic and financial crisis;

(b) To prioritize appropriately funding for maintenance and operation to achieve and maintain sustainability and prevent retrogression in service provision, and to ensure, in an appropriate manner, independent regulation and monitoring of the water and sanitation sectors, as well as accountability mechanisms to deal with practices that undermine the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(c) To undertake holistic planning aimed at achieving sustainable universal access, including in instances where the private sector, donors and non-governmental organizations are involved in service provision;

14. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their

⁴³ A/67/270.

⁴⁴ *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* (United Nations, New York, 2013).

⁴⁵ A/68/202, para. 11.

⁴⁶ A/HRC/24/44.

available resources, to achieve progressively the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;

15. *Stresses* the important role of international cooperation and the technical assistance provided by States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in particular in the timely achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals, and urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

16. *Decides* to extend, for a period of three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation as set out in Human Rights Council resolutions 7/22 and 16/2;

17. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to make contributions to the discussions on the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, with special regard to the integration of the elimination of inequalities and to the full realization and sustainability of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

18. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report, on an annual basis, to the Human Rights Council and to submit an annual report to the General Assembly;

19. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to facilitate, including through engagement with relevant stakeholders, the provision of technical assistance in the area of the implementation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

20. *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;

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

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

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/19

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and subsequent Assembly resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, the latest being resolution 63/170 of 18 December 2008,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and subsequent Commission resolutions in this regard, and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/20 of 28 September 2007, 12/15 of 1 October 2009 and 18/14 of 29 September 2011,

Bearing in mind paragraph 5 (h) of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly decided that the Council should work in close cooperation with regional organizations,

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which reiterates, inter alia, the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Reaffirming the fact that regional arrangements play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by Governments in the establishment of regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, and their achievements in all regions of the world;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,⁴⁷ held from 12 to 14 December 2012 in Geneva, including its conclusions and recommendations;

3. *Further welcomes* the holding of the first meeting of focal points for cooperation between United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms in Geneva on 14 December 2012, and takes note with appreciation of its outcome;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Addis Ababa road map on cooperation between the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the special mechanisms of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in Addis Ababa, on 18 January 2012;

5. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the holding of a dialogue between the chairpersons of United Nations human rights treaty bodies and African human rights mechanisms in Addis Ababa in June 2012, and encourages them to continue to enhance their cooperation;

6. *Further takes note with appreciation* of the critical role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in advancing cooperation between international and regional human rights mechanisms;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the resources necessary to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to support the above-mentioned activities appropriately, in particular the continuous functioning of the Office's focal point for cooperation with regional mechanisms;

8. *Requests* the High Commissioner to hold, in 2014, a workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights to take stock of developments since the workshop in 2012, including three thematic discussions – on (a) the mainstreaming of economic, social and cultural rights, (b) the economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities, and (c) the economic, social and cultural rights of women – based on concrete and practical experience of regional mechanisms, in order to share information on best practices, lessons learned and new possible forms of cooperation, with the participation of relevant experts from international, regional, subregional and interregional human rights mechanisms, as well as Members States, observers, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations;

9. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to present to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-eighth session, a report containing a summary of the discussions held at the above-mentioned workshop and on the progress towards the implementation of the present resolution.

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

⁴⁷ A/HRC/23/18.

24/20

The human rights of older persons

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

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly established an open-ended working group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 21/23 of 28 September 2012 on the human rights of older persons,

Acknowledging the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing⁴⁸ and of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights of older persons,⁴⁹

Recalling general comment No. 6 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons, and other relevant documents by treaty bodies,

Conscious that older persons represent a large and growing segment of the population and that greater attention is needed to the specific human rights challenges affecting them,

Concerned at the multiple forms of discrimination that may affect older persons and at the high incidence of poverty among this particularly vulnerable group, especially older women, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, individuals belonging to indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, rural persons, persons living on the streets and refugees, among other groups,

Recalling 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 Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in areas such as prevention of and protection against violence and abuse, social protection, food and housing, employment, legal capacity, access to justice, health support, long-term and palliative care, and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps;

2. *Acknowledges* the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the consultation on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons,⁵⁰ which summarizes the issues discussed at the consultation,

⁴⁸ A/67/188.

⁴⁹ E/2012/51.

⁵⁰ A/HRC/24/25.

including age discrimination, access by older persons to work, adequate health services and social protection, protection from abuse, violence and neglect, long-term care and the situation of older prisoners;

3. *Calls upon* all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, and to address issues related to social integration and adequate health care, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development;

4. *Encourages* all States to conduct their age-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

5. *Decides* to appoint, for a period of three years, an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, with the following mandate:

(a) To assess the implementation of existing international instruments with regard to older persons while identifying both best practices in the implementation of existing law related to the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons and gaps in the implementation of existing law;

(b) To take into account the views of stakeholders, including States, relevant regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions;

(c) To raise awareness of the challenges faced in the realization of all human rights by older persons, and to ensure that older persons receive information about those rights;

(d) To work in cooperation with States in order to foster the implementation of measures that contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons;

(e) To integrate a gender and disability perspective into his/her work, and to pay particular attention to older women, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, individuals belonging to indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, rural persons, persons living on the streets, and refugees, among other groups;

(f) To assess the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(g) To work in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, with the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies;

6. *Requests* the Independent Expert to report annually to the Human Rights Council and to present his/her first report at its twenty-seventh session, with a view to presenting a comprehensive report at its thirty-third session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the above-mentioned comprehensive report of the Independent Expert is brought to the attention of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 67/139 of 20 December 2012;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with the Independent Expert, and invites them to provide him/her with all the necessary information related to the mandate;

9. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of human rights of older persons at its twenty-seventh session.

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/21

Civil society space: creating and maintaining, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and all other relevant instruments,

Recalling the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

Recalling also all Human Rights Council resolutions relevant to civil society space, inter alia, resolutions 12/2 of 1 October 2009, on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, 12/16 of 2 October 2009, on freedom of opinion and expression, 21/16 of 27 September 2012, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, 22/6 of 21 March 2013, on protecting human rights defenders, and 22/10 of 21 March 2013, on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests,

Recognizing the important role of civil society at the local, national, regional and international levels, and that civil society facilitates the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that special emphasis should be given to measures to assist in the strengthening of a pluralistic civil society, including through the strengthening of the rule of law, social and economic development, the promotion of freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, and the administration of justice, and to the real and effective participation of the people in the decision-making processes,

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

Mindful that domestic legal and administrative provisions and their application should facilitate, promote and protect an independent, diverse and pluralistic civil society and, in this regard, strongly rejecting any acts of intimidation or reprisals against civil society,

Underscoring that the legal framework within which civil society operates is that of national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law,

Deeply concerned that, in some instances, domestic legal and administrative provisions, such as national security and counter-terrorism legislation, and other measures, such as provisions on funding to civil society, have sought to or have been misused to hinder the work and endanger the safety of civil society in a manner contrary to international law, and recognizing the urgent need to prevent and stop the use of such provisions, and to review and, where necessary, amend any relevant provisions in order to ensure compliance with international human rights law and, as appropriate, international humanitarian law,

1. *Reminds* States of their obligation to respect and fully protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all individuals, inter alia the rights to freedom of expression and opinion and to assemble peacefully and associate freely, online as well as offline, including for persons espousing minority or dissenting views or beliefs, and that respect for all such rights, in relation to civil society, contributes to addressing and resolving challenges and issues that are important to society, such as addressing financial and economic crises, responding to humanitarian crises, including armed conflict, promoting the rule of law and accountability, achieving transitional justice goals, protecting the environment, realizing the right to development, empowering persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, combating racism and racial discrimination, supporting crime prevention, promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, combating human trafficking, empowering

women and youth, advancing social justice and consumer protection, and the realization of all human rights;

2. *Urges* States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity;

3. *Also urges* States to acknowledge publicly the important and legitimate role of civil society in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to engage with civil society to enable it to participate in the public debate on decisions that would contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law, and of any other relevant decisions;

4. *Urges* all non-State actors to respect all human rights and not to undermine the capacity of civil society to operate free from hindrance and insecurity;

5. *Emphasizes* the essential role of civil society in subregional, regional and international organizations, including in support of the organizations' work, and in sharing experience and expertise through participation in meetings in accordance with relevant rules and modalities and, in this regard, reaffirms the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with subregional, regional and international bodies, in particular the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms;

6. *Encourages* human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures, as appropriate, in the framework of their existing mandates, to continue to address relevant aspects of civil society space;

7. *Welcomes* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote and protect civil society space, and invites it to continue efforts in this regard;

8. *Decides* to organize, at its twenty-fifth session, a panel discussion on the importance of the promotion and protection of civil society space, which will, inter alia, contribute to the identification of challenges facing States in their efforts to ensure space for civil society and lessons learned and good practices in this regard, and invites the Office of the High Commissioner to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, relevant special procedures, civil society and other stakeholders with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session.

*35th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/22

The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming all previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

Condemning the grave deterioration of the human rights situation and the indiscriminate or deliberate targeting of civilians as such, in violation of international humanitarian law,

Condemning also the lack of cooperation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic with the independent international commission of inquiry,

Welcoming the efforts of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and expressing full support to find a negotiated political solution to the Syrian crisis,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic;⁵¹
2. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry, including by granting it immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;
3. *Strongly condemns* the continued gross, systematic and widespread violations of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and affiliated militias, as well as any human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by armed opposition groups;
4. *Stresses* the need to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are held to account, and encourages States to take steps to support and enable current and future accountability efforts;
5. *Strongly condemns* all massacres in the Syrian Arab Republic, including most recently the massacre in the Al Ghouta region, which caused appalling civilian casualties;
6. *Also strongly condemns* the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is prohibited under international law, amounts to a serious crime and has a devastating impact on civilians;
7. *Calls on* all groups in the Syrian Arab Republic to refrain from retaliation and violence, including sexual violence, and urges all parties to the conflict to prevent violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses;
8. *Deplores* the deteriorating humanitarian situation, and urges the international community to provide urgent financial support to enable the host countries to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while emphasizing the principle of burden-sharing;
9. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities facilitate, and all other parties to the conflict do not hinder, the full, immediate and safe access of the United Nations and humanitarian actors, and calls upon all Member States to fully fund the United Nations appeals;
10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*36th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 40 to 1, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Estonia, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Montenegro, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America

Against:

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Philippines]

⁵¹ A/HRC/24/46.

24/23

Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Recalling the commitment to the full and effective implementation of and follow-up to all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies,

Deeply concerned that the practice of child, early and forced marriage is widespread and occurs in all regions of the world, and recognizing that it constitutes a violation, abuse or impairment of human rights, that it prevents individuals from living their lives free from all forms of violence and that it has adverse consequences on the enjoyment of human rights, such as the right to education, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health,

Recalling States' human rights obligations and commitments to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage, which disproportionately affects women and girls,

Deeply concerned by the impact of deep-rooted gender inequalities, norms and stereotypes, and harmful traditional practices, perceptions and customs that are obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights, in particular of women and girls, and are among the primary causes of child, early and forced marriage,

Deeply concerned also that poverty and lack of education are drivers of the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage continues to be an impediment to not only the economic, legal, health and social status of women and girls but to the development of the community as a whole, and that the empowerment of and investment in women and girls, as well as their meaningful participation in decisions that affect them, is a key factor in breaking the cycle of gender inequality and discrimination, violence and poverty and is critical for sustainable development and economic growth,

Recognizing also that the complex and challenging nature of child, early and forced marriage necessitates the collective efforts of Governments, lawmakers, judicial authorities, law enforcement officials, traditional and religious leaders, civil society, media, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to address the root causes of this practice that exists in different economic, social and cultural settings,

Recognizing further that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage contributes to impairing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social cohesion, and that therefore the elimination of child, early and force marriage should be considered in the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda,

1. *Decides* to convene, at its twenty-sixth session, a panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, and requests the Office of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, relevant special procedures, civil society, including relevant children and youth organizations, and national human rights institutions, with a view to ensuring their participation and also requests the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion;

2. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report, in consultation with States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council prior to its twenty-sixth session, and to guide the panel discussion.

37th meeting
27 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/24

Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

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

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly adopted the text entitled “Outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council”, and in particular paragraph 30 of the outcome document, in which the Human Rights Council strongly rejects any act of intimidation or reprisal against individuals and groups who cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, and urges States to prevent and ensure adequate protection against such acts,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 12/2 of 1 October 2009 and 22/6 of 21 March 2013, and Council decision 18/118 of 29 September 2011,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on this question,

Welcoming the holding, on 13 September 2012, of the panel discussion on the issue of intimidation or reprisal against individuals and groups who cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, and taking note with appreciation of the summary thereof,⁵²

Welcoming also the different roles played by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the Human Rights Council in addressing, including in a public manner, acts of intimidation or reprisal against individuals and groups who cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights,

Welcoming further the work done by special procedures and the increased attention given by treaty bodies to preventing and addressing intimidation and reprisals,

Expressing concern at the continued reports of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, and at the seriousness of reported reprisals, including violations of the right of the victim to life, liberty and security of person, and violations of obligations under international law prohibiting torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,

Acknowledging that acts of intimidation or reprisal carried out or tolerated by the State undermine and often violate human rights, and underscoring that States should investigate

⁵² A/HRC/22/34.

any alleged act of intimidation or reprisal, ensure accountability and effective remedies and take steps to prevent further intimidation and reprisals,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and underlining the role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal as part of supporting cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, in particular the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including the Human Rights Council, its special procedures, the universal periodic review mechanism and treaty bodies, as well as regional human rights mechanisms, bearing in mind that free and unhindered access to and communication with individuals and civil society are indeed indispensable to enable the United Nations and its mechanisms to fulfil their mandates;

2. *Strongly calls upon* all States to review legislation, policies and practices that have the effect of undermining unhindered access to and communication with international bodies as set forth in paragraph 1 above, and to avoid adopting any such new legislation;

3. *Urges* all States to prevent and refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who:

(a) Seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, or who have provided testimony or information to them;

(b) Avail or have availed themselves of procedures established under the auspices of the United Nations for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and all those who have provided legal or other assistance to them for this purpose;

(c) Submit or have submitted communications under procedures established by human rights instruments, and all those who have provided legal or other assistance to them for this purpose;

(d) Are relatives of victims of human rights violations or of those who have provided legal or other assistance to victims;

4. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of intimidation or reprisals, including, where necessary, by adopting and consequently implementing specific legislation and policies and by issuing appropriate guidance to national authorities in order to effectively protect those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights from any act of intimidation or reprisal;

5. *Also urges* States to ensure accountability for any acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights by ensuring impartial, prompt and thorough investigations of any alleged acts of intimidation or reprisal in order to bring the perpetrators to justice; to provide access to effective remedies for victims in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments; and to prevent any recurrence;

6. *Encourages* States to provide information, as appropriate, to the Human Rights Council on all measures taken to prevent and address acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including on cases mentioned in the reports of the Secretary-General;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to designate, within the existing structures, a United Nations-wide senior focal point to engage with all stakeholders, in particular Member States, to promote the prevention of, protection against and accountability for reprisals and

intimidation related to cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms and to encourage a prompt and effective unified response to such acts by sensitizing the United Nations system as a whole by facilitating cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, with the overall objective of supporting and promoting cooperation with the United Nations in the field of human rights, including cooperation with civil society;

8. *Encourages* States to address acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals and groups who cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights by considering, inter alia, the establishment of a national focal point;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include, in his next annual report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, information on the activities of the United Nations-wide senior focal point, the different measures hampering cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, and best practices of international, regional and national human rights bodies and institutions that address cases of intimidation or reprisal against those cooperating with them;

10. *Encourages* all stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society and academic institutions, to contribute to the future consideration of this issue by the Human Rights Council;

11. *Requests* all representatives and mechanisms of the United Nations to continue to include in their respective reports to the Human Rights Council or to the General Assembly a reference to credible allegations of intimidation or reprisal against those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, as well as an account of action they have taken in this regard.

37th meeting
27 September 2013

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 31 to 1, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Libya, Maldives, Montenegro, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America

Against:

Gabon⁵³

Abstaining:

Angola, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

24/25 The Social Forum

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions and decisions adopted on the Social Forum by the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as by the Economic and Social Council,

⁵³ The representative of Gabon subsequently stated that there had been an error in its voting and that the State had intended to vote in favour.

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 6/13 of 28 September 2007, 10/4 of 25 March 2009, 10/29 of 27 March 2009, 13/17 of 25 March 2010, 16/26 of 25 March 2011 and 19/24 of 23 March 2012,

Bearing in mind that the reduction of poverty and the elimination of extreme poverty remain an ethical and moral imperative of humankind, based on the respect for human dignity,

Reaffirming the unique nature within the United Nations of the Social Forum, which makes possible a dialogue and an exchange between the representatives of Member States and civil society, including grass-roots organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and stressing that the current reform of the United Nations should take into account the contribution of the Forum as a vital space for open and fruitful dialogue on issues linked with the national and international environment needed for the promotion of the enjoyment of all human rights by all,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairman-Rapporteur of the 2012 Social Forum,⁵⁴ held in Geneva from 1 to 3 October;
2. *Also takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2012 Social Forum, and encourages States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and other relevant actors to take them into account when designing and implementing programmes and strategies;
3. *Reaffirms* the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including the contribution of civil society and grass-roots organizations, and stresses the need to ensure greater participation of grass-roots organizations and of those living in poverty, particularly women, especially from developing countries, in the sessions of the Forum;
4. *Underlines* the importance of coordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels for the promotion of social cohesion based on the principles of social justice, equity and solidarity and of addressing the social dimension and challenges of the ongoing globalization process and the negative impact of the current economic and financial crises;
5. *Stresses* the need for increased and sustained participation and contribution of civil society and all other relevant actors listed in the present resolution to the promotion and effective realization of the right to development;
6. *Decides* that the Social Forum will meet for three working days in 2014, in Geneva, on dates suitable for the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the broadest possible range of other stakeholders, especially from developing countries, and also decides that, at its next meeting, the Forum should focus on the rights of older persons, including best practices in this regard;
7. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint, as early as possible, from candidates nominated by regional groups, the Chairperson-Rapporteur for the 2014 Social Forum, bearing in mind the principle of regional rotation;
8. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make available the most recent and relevant United Nations reports and documents on the human rights of older persons as background documents for the dialogues and debates that will be held at the 2014 Social Forum;
9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to facilitate the participation in the 2014 Social Forum, in order to contribute to interactive dialogues and debate at the Forum and to assist the Chairperson-Rapporteur as resource persons, of up to 10 experts, including representatives from civil society and grass-roots organizations in developing countries;
10. *Decides* that the Social Forum will remain open to the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and all other interested stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, different components of the United Nations system,

⁵⁴ A/HRC/23/54.

especially mandate holders of thematic procedures and mechanisms of the human rights machinery, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies and organizations, as well as representatives designated by human rights national institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and shall also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including newly emerging actors, such as small groups and rural and urban associations from the North and the South, anti-poverty groups, peasants' and farmers' organizations and their national and international associations, voluntary organizations, environmental organizations and activists, youth associations, community organizations, trade unions and associations of workers, as well as representatives of the private sector, on the basis of arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to seek effective means of ensuring consultation and the broadest possible participation of representatives from every region, especially those from developing countries, in the Social Forum, including by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to disseminate information about the Social Forum, to invite relevant individuals and organizations to the Forum and to take all practical measures required for the success of this initiative;

13. *Invites* the 2014 Social Forum to submit a report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-sixth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Social Forum with all the services and facilities necessary to fulfil its activities, and requests the High Commissioner to provide all the support necessary to facilitate the convening and proceedings of the Forum;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue at its twenty-sixth session under the same agenda item.

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/26

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

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/195 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly assigned responsibilities to the relevant United Nations institutions to ensure the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the international level,

Recalling further all previous resolutions by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the comprehensive follow-up to the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the most recent of which is Council resolution 22/30 of 22 March 2013, in which the Council underlined that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference remains a solid basis and the only instructive outcome of the World Conference for the combating of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at all levels,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 22 September 2011,⁵⁵ which reaffirmed the political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the 2009 Durban Review Conference, and their follow-up processes at the national, regional and international levels,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011, by which the Assembly encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with a view to proclaiming in 2013 the Decade for People of African Descent and, within this context, recalling Assembly resolution 67/155 of 20 December 2012,

Emphasizing the opportunity for achieving important synergy in the combat of all scourges of racism through the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in accelerating the universal implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Stressing the importance of a consistent global effort to inform the public about the contribution of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Stressing also the important role of the independent eminent experts in following up on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

Recognizing that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and contribute to the persistence of racist attitudes and practices, which in turn generate more poverty,

Expressing concern that the current economic and financial crisis and its consequences on poverty and unemployment may have further contributed to the rise of extremist political parties, movements and groups and exacerbated identity-related issues, and that, in this period of economic crisis, non-citizens, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are still the main scapegoat of extremist political parties that have a xenophobic and racist agenda and that sometimes incite racial hatred and violence,

Deploring the misuse of print, audio visual and electronic media, including the Internet, and any other means that constitute incitement to acts of national, racial or religious violence, discrimination and hatred, which have targeted and severely affected racial and religious communities and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, emanating from a variety of sources,

Recognizing that the Internet and social media can also be a useful tool for preventing the spread of racist ideologies by extremist political parties, groups and movements, as well as their potential to contribute to development as an international and equal forum, and aware that there are disparities in the use of and access thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and takes note of its report and the recommendations contained therein;⁵⁶

2. *Decides* that the Intergovernmental Working Group should convene its twelfth session from 6 to 17 October 2014;

3. *Welcomes and acknowledges* the importance and significance of the work of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in examining the current situation of people of African descent, in particular its focus on the themes of “Recognition

⁵⁵ General Assembly resolution 66/3.

⁵⁶ A/HRC/23/19.

through education, cultural rights and data collection” at its twelfth session, and, within this context, takes note of its report and the recommendations contained therein;⁵⁷

4. *Welcomes* the unified publication of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 66/3 of 22 September 2011, adopted at the high-level meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and requests that it be printed and disseminated widely to the public, including to non-governmental organizations, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information;

5. *Also welcomes* the launch by the Office of the High Commissioner of a database containing information on practical means to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in accordance with paragraph 191 (d) of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and calls upon States to contribute relevant information to the database;

6. *Underlines* the need for the General Assembly to proclaim the International Decade for People of African Descent and, within that context, to adopt the draft programme of action for the International Decade for People of African Descent elaborated by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, as mandated by the Assembly in its resolution 66/144;

7. *Emphasizes* the imperative need to mobilize the necessary political will to address comprehensively, by all available measures, the various forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to provide adequate remedies;

8. *Recalls* the appointment of the five independent eminent experts on 16 June 2003 by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/266, with the mandate to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to make appropriate recommendations thereon;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resuscitate the work of the independent eminent experts before the end of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, consistent with their mandate, and, in this regard, to recommend further initiatives and actions;

10. *Requests*, in the above context, the independent eminent experts to convene a special meeting before 31 December 2013 to conduct an appraisal of the work undertaken hitherto and the recommendations made in that regard in order to present an update report to this end to the High Commissioner, the Secretary-General and the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fifth session;

11. *Underlines* the imperative need for the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to elaborate complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in accordance with paragraph 199 of the Durban Programme of Action;

12. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts in building support for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

13. *Underlines* the importance of international and regional cooperation, and encourages Member States to enhance and deepen their cooperation in the full and effective implementation of Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

14. *Reiterates* the important role of national human rights institutions and specialized bodies in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and invites the Office of the High Commissioner to cooperate with national human rights institutions and to use their regional networks to sensitize and raise awareness about the significance and importance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its full and effective implementation;

⁵⁷ A/HRC/24/52.

15. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to cooperate with the Inter-Parliamentary Union with a view to mobilizing parliaments and parliamentarians in their role in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the necessary financial support from the United Nations regular budget, as well as extrabudgetary resources, for the effective performance of the Durban follow-up mechanisms and the successful execution of their mandates;

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

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 to 2, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Czech Republic, United States of America

Abstaining:

Austria, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland]

24/27

Technical assistance and capacity-building for human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling also Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 7/20 of 27 March 2008 and S-8/1 of 1 December 2008,

Recalling further Council resolutions 10/33 of 27 March 2009, 13/22 of 26 March 2010, 16/35 of 25 March 2011 and 19/27 of 23 March 2012, in which the Council called upon the international community to support the national efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its institutions with a view to improving the human rights situation, and to respond to its requests for technical assistance,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as obligations under the international covenants on human rights and other relevant instruments to which they are parties,

Encouraging the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to put an end to impunity for crimes under international law by strengthening its justice system and international judicial cooperation,

Welcoming the creation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, by the President, of the National Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement), signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013, while also encouraging all those concerned at national level to work harder to ensure protection for civilians and to promote security,

Noting the convening, under Presidential Order No. 13/078 of 26 June 2013, of national consultations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and their actual start, while also

encouraging all those involved in the process to work in an inclusive and constructive manner to improve the context for the promotion of civil rights and the integrated development of the country,

Taking note of the joint communiqué of 30 March 2013 between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, which established reciprocal commitments and was followed up by a joint workplan to address sexual violence,

Acknowledging the joint role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the human rights section of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in improving the human rights situation in the country,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the full cooperation of the Government, of its international intervention brigade to hasten the return of peace and security to the east of the country,

Stressing the important role played by the international community, the United Nations, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the European Union, in enhancing the rule of law and improving the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Expressing its serious concern at the wave of violence and serious crimes, including acts of sexual violence, perpetrated in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, principally by the rebel group known as M23, as well as other armed groups operating in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, causing death, large-scale displacement and distress among the civilian population, particularly women and children,

Considering the determination of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to protect and promote human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the midterm report on the implementation of the national action plan on follow-up to recommendations relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, and the political will of the national authorities to continue implementing the current measures within the framework of the reform of the army, the Congolese national police and the security services, in accordance with resolution 19/27 of the Human Rights Council;
2. *Also takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights and the activities of her Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;⁵⁸
3. *Further takes note* of the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council;
4. *Congratulates* the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the Paris Principles), and encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to make the Commission operational in the near future;
5. *Welcomes* the review by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of Act No. 10/013 of 28 July 2010 on the organization and functioning of the Independent National Electoral Commission, which has made it possible to expand the membership of the Commission, under the chairmanship of a representative of civil society, and encourages the Commission to propose a realistic timetable for elections as soon as possible;
6. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure the smooth functioning, both at national level and in the provinces, of the mechanism for consensus-building and cooperation known as the *entité de liaison des droits de l'homme*,

⁵⁸ A/HRC/24/33.

and of the unit for the protection of human rights defenders, including through the allocation of budget funds under the Finance Act;

7. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the support of the international community, to redouble its efforts to put an end to impunity, primarily for perpetrators of sexual violence, and to all human rights violations, and also urges it to bring the perpetrators to justice and to ensure that the victims receive compensation;

8. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement the national action plan, signed on 4 October 2012, to prevent and put an end to the recruitment and use of children, as well as to sexual violence committed against children;

9. *Takes note with interest* of the initiatives taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to promote human rights, the administration of justice and the consolidation of security, notably through the promulgation of the organic law on the organization, functioning and competence of courts of the Judicial Order, which gives courts of appeal jurisdiction over crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts made to date by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reform the army, the police and the security services, and encourages the Government to maintain this trend;

11. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide greater protection for human rights defenders and journalists, and to ensure that anyone detained arbitrarily is released without delay;

12. *Welcomes* the adoption by Parliament of the Act authorizing ratification by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to ratify international and regional instruments relating to human rights and international humanitarian law;

13. *Takes note* of the presentation by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 11 July 2013, of the country's sixth and seventh periodic reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵⁹ and encourages it to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;⁶⁰

14. *Is seriously concerned* at the still very high number of cases of sexual violence, which is also used as a weapon of war in the provinces in conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and takes note of the efforts being made to bring the perpetrators to justice;

15. *Decides* to hold, at its twenty-fifth session, a high-level dialogue on the lessons learned and the continuing challenges in combating sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to allow countries in conflict and post-conflict situations to share their experiences in the area;

16. *Encourages* the States in the region who are parties to the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement of 24 February 2013 to continue implementing the obligations arising from it and to work for the return of peace and security to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region;

17. *Urges* the international community to support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in increasing and enhancing its technical assistance programmes and activities to improve the human rights situation in the country, and invites the Office to report thereon to the Council at its twenty-seventh regular session;

18. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at its twenty-seventh regular session.

⁵⁹ CEDAW/C/COD/6-7.

⁶⁰ CEDAW/C/COD/CO/6-7.

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/28

Technical assistance for the Sudan in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

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

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

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Noting the developments taking place in the Sudan, and the record of the Government of the Sudan in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Noting also the challenges still facing the Sudan in conflict-affected areas, and calling upon all parties to stop the abuses and violations of human rights, in particular in the States of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 18/16 of 29 September 2011 and 21/27 of 28 September 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session;⁶¹
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Independent Expert for his work and his recommendations;
3. *Notes* that the Independent Expert commended the continued cooperation and support provided by the Government of the Sudan in the implementation of his mandate, including giving him access to all parts of the country, and encourages continuation of that cooperation;
4. *Notes with appreciation* the submission by the Government of the Sudan of its mid-term report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the universal periodic review and the cooperation between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the accepted universal periodic review recommendations, which should be continued;
5. *Encourages* the Government of the Sudan to open an inclusive dialogue, to pursue the constitutional and political process transparently and also to ensure an atmosphere of fair and peaceful political participation in the preparation for the next elections;
6. *Takes note* of the adoption and launch by the Government of the Sudan of a national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, and the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission in Darfur;
7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the National Human Rights Commission;
8. *Acknowledges* the steps taken by the Government of the Sudan to implement the recommendations accepted as highlighted by the Independent Expert in his report, and reminds all groups of their legal obligations and due diligence to protect human rights;

⁶¹ A/HRC/24/31.

9. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to rebuild a lasting climate of confidence and trust with civil society organizations and the international community, and to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights in the country;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Government of the Sudan to strengthen cooperation with the Government of South Sudan, as indicated in the outcome of the most recent summit between the Presidents of the two States;

11. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to support the national efforts of the Government of the Sudan in accordance with the present resolution with a view to further improving the situation of human rights in the country, and to respond to its request for technical assistance;

12. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan, with the support of relevant Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, to further its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular to ensure freedom of association and peaceful assembly, including activities of civil society organizations, freedom of expression, including the press, freedom of religion, freedom from arbitrary arrests and detention, compliance by all parties with human rights and international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of civilians, timely and full access for humanitarian agencies, the rights of women and children, and access to justice for all Sudanese, including in conflict-affected areas, as recommended by the Independent Expert;

13. *Notes with concern* the humanitarian situation in the States of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur, and calls upon all parties to make every effort to immediately end violence and halt clashes, to facilitate access for humanitarian assistance, to take action to strengthen respect for the rule of law in the three States and to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Sudan with the necessary technical support and training;

15. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to continue its cooperation with the Independent Expert, including by giving him access to the entire country, in particular the States of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, in order to assess and verify the situation of human rights, to determine the technical assistance needs and to report on his findings;

16. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan under agenda item 10 for a period of one year, requests the Independent Expert to continue his engagement with the Government of the Sudan, considering a full range of information with a view to implementing the projects that will further help the Sudan to fulfil its human rights obligations, and to submit a report to the Human Rights Council for consideration at its twenty-seventh session;

17. *Requests* the Independent Expert to also assist the Government of the Sudan in its strategy to implement the remaining accepted universal periodic review recommendations;

18. *Decides* to consider this issue further, in accordance with its programme of work under agenda item 10.

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/29

Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as reaffirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in accordance with their

respective obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling also Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his/her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling further Council resolution 18/25 of 30 September 2011 and other relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights,⁶²

Recognizing that the tragic history of Cambodia requires special measures to ensure the protection of human rights and the non-return to the policies and practices of the past, as stipulated in the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,

Taking note of the new developments in Cambodia, especially those associated with recent progress and efforts by the Government of Cambodia to promote and protect human rights, especially in the achievements and improvements of social, economic, political and cultural fields over recent years through its relevant national plans, strategies and frameworks:

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia as an independent and impartial body, and believes it will significantly contribute to eradicating impunity and establishing the rule of law by, inter alia, exploiting its potential as a model court of Cambodia;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made with regard to the Extraordinary Chambers, including the handing down of its judgement in case 001 against Kaing Guek Eav, on 3 February 2012, and the conclusion of the trial hearings in case 002/01 on 23 July 2013, and supports the position of the Government of Cambodia and the United Nations to proceed with the tribunal in a fair, efficient and expeditious manner, given the advanced age and frail health of the persons charged and the long overdue justice for the people of Cambodia;
3. *Expresses grave concern* over the financial situation of the Extraordinary Chambers, urges the Government of Cambodia to work with the United Nations and the States providing assistance to ensure the highest standards of administration of the Extraordinary Chambers, and stresses the need for the Government and the international community to provide all appropriate assistance to the Extraordinary Chambers;
4. *Welcomes* the positive engagement of the Government of Cambodia in the universal periodic review process as well as its acceptance of all the recommendations thereon and the progress so far on their implementation;
5. *Also welcomes* the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia⁶³ and the recommendations contained therein, and takes note of the need to maintain close and respectful consultations between the Government of Cambodia and the Special Rapporteur towards further improvements in the situation of human rights in the country and for the continued technical cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government;
6. *Reaffirms* the need for the Government of Cambodia to strengthen efforts to consolidate the rule of law, including through the adoption and further implementation of essential laws and codes for establishing a democratic society;
7. *Welcomes* the efforts and progress made by the Government of Cambodia in promoting legal reform under the leadership of the Council of Legal and Judicial Reform,

⁶² A/HRC/24/32.

⁶³ A/HRC/21/63 and A/HRC/24/36.

including adopting and/or enforcing basic laws, such as the civil procedure code, the civil code, the criminal procedure code and the penal code;

8. *Encourages* the Government of Cambodia to submit three basic draft laws to the National Assembly, namely the draft law on the status of judges and prosecutors, the draft law on the organization and functioning of the courts, and the draft amendment to the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy, and urges the Government to further continue its efforts at judicial reform, including through the swift adoption and implementation of these three basic laws in order to ensure the independence, impartiality, transparency and effectiveness of the judicial system as well as the transfer of knowledge of court officials at the Extraordinary Chambers and the sharing of good practices at the Court;

9. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Cambodia to continue to enhance its efforts to investigate urgently and to prosecute, in accordance with due process of law and its obligations under international human rights treaties, all those who have perpetrated serious crimes, including violations of human rights;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Government of Cambodia in combating corruption, including the implementation of the penal code and the anti-corruption law, as well as the activities of the Anti-Corruption Unit, and encourages the Government to continue such efforts;

11. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the Government of Cambodia in combating crimes, such as trafficking in persons, the exploitation of labour and the sexual exploitation of women and children, and urges the Government to make further efforts to this end, in concert with the international community, to combat outstanding key problems in this area;

12. *Takes note with concern* of the latest findings regarding gender-based violence in Cambodia, and encourages the Government of Cambodia to strengthen its efforts against gender-based violence, including by effectively enforcing existing laws and regulations;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Government of Cambodia to resolve land issues through, inter alia, the implementation of relevant laws and regulations, including a moratorium on economic land concessions, expresses concern at the outstanding issues in this area, and urges the Government to continue and enhance its efforts to resolve them equitably and expeditiously in a fair and open manner, taking into consideration the rights of and the actual consequences for the parties concerned and in accordance with relevant laws and regulations such as the 2001 Land law, the Law on Expropriation, the Circular on the Settlement of Illegal Temporary Building in Cities and Urban Areas and the National Housing Policy, as well as by strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of relevant institutions, such as the National Authority for Land Dispute Resolution and cadastral committees at the national, provincial and district levels;

14. *Also welcomes* the commitments made and the progress achieved by the Government of Cambodia to implement its obligations under international human rights treaties and conventions to which it is a party with regard to its commitment to establish a national human rights institution and to encourage that this be done upon sufficient consultation with relevant stakeholders; its efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced disappearance, in June 2013, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in December 2012; and urges the Government to continue to take steps to meet its obligations under those treaties and conventions to which it is a party and, to this end, to strengthen its cooperation with United Nations agencies, including the Office of the High Commissioner, through enhanced dialogue and the development of joint activities;

15. *Further welcomes* the efforts made by the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, especially in resolving complaints from individuals;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts and progress made by the Government of Cambodia in promoting decentralization and deconcentration reform, with the aim of achieving democratic development by strengthening subnational and grass-roots institutions;

17. *Also welcomes* the fact that the elections for the National Assembly, on 28 July 2013, were held in a generally smooth and peaceful manner, while taking note of the protests following the elections as well as the joint announcement between ruling and opposition parties on 16 September concerning the electoral reform, and urges the Government of Cambodia to make additional and continuous efforts to promote an environment conducive to the conduct of legitimate political activities by all political parties, and to make further efforts to improve its electoral system in accordance with international standards so that its election process as a whole will be satisfactory and acceptable to all parties concerned;

18. *Stresses* the need for further progress and efforts by the Government of Cambodia to promote a pluralistic and democratic process in Cambodia through parliamentary debate according to the Constitution and, to this end, encourages the Government to work with the legislature with a view to promoting the latter's independence and effectiveness, including by ensuring the meaningful participation of parliamentarians from various political parties in its deliberations;

19. *Urges* the Government of Cambodia to take appropriate measures to encourage and enable civil society and the media to play a constructive role in consolidating democratic development in Cambodia, including by ensuring and promoting their activities, and in promoting equal access to the media by all parties;

20. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Cambodia to continue to take action to promote the rights and dignity of all Cambodians by protecting civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion and expression, and, to this end, to ensure that relevant laws, inter alia, the penal code, are interpreted and applied in a judicious manner so as to promote economic, social and cultural rights, in accordance with the rule of law;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General, agencies of the United Nations system present in Cambodia and the international community, including civil society, to continue to work with the Government of Cambodia in strengthening democracy as well as ensuring the protection and promotion of the human rights of all people in Cambodia, including by providing assistance in, inter alia, the fields of:

(a) Drafting laws and assisting the establishment of an independent national human rights institution;

(b) Capacity-building to strengthen legal institutions, including by improving the quality of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and court staff, and drawing on the expertise gained by Cambodian nationals working in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia;

(c) Capacity-building to strengthen national institutions for criminal investigations and law enforcement, as well as providing the equipment necessary for these ends;

(d) Implementation of universal periodic review recommendations;

(e) Assisting the assessment of progress in human rights issues;

22. *Decides* to extend by two years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, and requests the Special Rapporteur to report on the implementation of his mandate to the Council at its twenty-seventh and thirtieth sessions and to engage in a constructive manner with the Government of Cambodia for the further improvement of the situation of human rights in the country;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh and thirtieth sessions on the role and achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights;

24. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Cambodia at its thirtieth session.

37th meeting
27 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/30

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and 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 previous Human Rights Council resolutions on Somalia,

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

Recognizing the urgent need for a step-up in the scale, coherence and quality of all capacity development of and technical assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights,

Recognizing also the role women have played and will continue to play in community mobilization and peacebuilding in Somali society, and the importance of promoting their economic empowerment and participation in political and public decision-making processes, including within parliament,

1. *Expresses concern* at the reports of violations of human rights in Somalia, and underscores the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and hold accountable those who commit any such related crimes;

2. *Also expresses concern* at the abuses and violations perpetrated against women, including sexual violence, and emphasizes the need for accountability for all such abuses and violations;

3. *Expresses deep concern* at the continuing violations and abuses committed against children, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and at the continued displacement of children as a result of armed conflict;

4. *Also expresses deep concern* at the continuing attacks and abuses against journalists in Somalia, urges all parties to refrain from violence against and harassment of journalists and to respect freedom of expression, and underscores the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and hold accountable those who commit any such related crimes;

5. *Strongly condemns* the grave and systematic human rights abuses perpetrated against the civilian population, including women, children, journalists and human rights defenders, by Al-Shabaab and its affiliates, and calls for their immediate cessation;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to improving human rights in Somalia and, in this respect, also welcomes:

(a) The adoption of the Post-Transition Human Rights Road Map for Somalia on 27 August 2013, its continuing development and realization;

(b) The justice, police and armed forces reform plans presented at the Somalia Conference on 7 May 2013;

(c) The continuing institutionalization of the promotion and protection of human rights in Somalia, including efforts to incorporate civilian protection and to promote human rights in security and justice sector reform plans;

(d) The commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to establish a national human rights commission in due course;

(e) The joint communiqué, signed by the United Nations and the Federal Government of Somalia on 7 May 2013, on tackling the root causes of sexual violence in a sustainable manner;

(f) The continued commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to the universal periodic review process;

(g) The accession of Somalia to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and its commitment to the implementation of the Convention with the technical support of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and bilateral assistance provided by Member States;

7. *Underscores* the importance of coordinated international assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights and, in this respect, welcomes:

(a) The endorsement of the Somali Compact on 16 September 2013;

(b) The establishment of a high-level task force in March 2013 consisting of the Federal Government of Somalia and representatives of the Somali Federal Parliament, Somali civil society, the United Nations and the donor community, to guide and support the implementation of the Compact on the basis of mutual accountability;

(c) The holding of the Somalia Conference on 7 May 2013 in London, and the communiqué thereof, noting especially the commitments to create sustainable and accountable security forces that respect human rights, to ensure the protection of women and children in conflict, to ensure equal access for all to a robust, impartial and effective justice system, and to ensure press and media safety and freedom;

(d) The sustained and vital commitment of the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of international assistance to Somalia, and stresses that the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights in Somalia rests with the Federal Government of Somalia at the national and subnational levels;

9. *Encourages* States to provide timely and tangible bilateral assistance and to enhance cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia at the national and subnational levels;

10. *Calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia, with support from the international community:

(a) To promote reconciliation and dialogue at both the local and national levels, recognizing the importance of assistance provided by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development;

(b) To finalize and adopt a federal Constitution by December 2015;

(c) To prepare for and hold credible elections in 2016;

(d) To ensure the equitable participation of women, youth, minority groups and other marginalized groups in national political processes;

(e) To hold public hearings on the draft law on the establishment of a national human rights commission, with the guiding intention of ensuring an independent institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) with a broad mandate and enforcement capability at the national and subnational levels;

(f) To ensure the inclusion of human rights compliance mechanisms in instruments and institutions at both the national and subnational levels, and to recognize the importance of promoting and protecting human rights;

(g) To harmonize national and subnational political policies and legal frameworks with applicable human rights obligations and their other commitments, including those referenced in the provisional Constitution and the migration and human rights agenda at the national and subnational levels, in order to achieve effective and consistent application of human rights for all and, in this regard, calls upon States Members of the United Nations to ensure timely and tangible assistance, taking into consideration the potential benefits of a political dividend;

- (h) To establish independent, accountable and efficient judicial institutions;
 - (i) To seek tangible and timely assistance from, inter alia, regional bodies, to reform the Somali judiciary system, to select and enhance the capacity of Somali judges inside the country, with a particular focus on the promotion and protection of human rights and, in this regard, calls upon Member States to provide timely and tangible assistance;
 - (j) To ensure accountability of State institutions and security forces, and those serving within them;
 - (k) To increase awareness and training among the Somali security forces at the national and subnational levels on human rights, including the protection of civilians, with the timely and tangible support of the international community;
 - (l) To ensure that comprehensive vetting procedures are put in place for personnel in the security forces and security institutions;
 - (m) To issue clear and public orders that the Somali National Armed Forces, Somali National Police Force and allied militias should comply with applicable human rights obligations;
 - (n) To guarantee a minimum level of protection for children, and to implement the action plan to end the recruitment and use of children in the Somalia National Armed Forces;
 - (o) To implement, in a clear and accessible manner, a zero-tolerance policy on gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and to include prevention of sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse;
 - (p) To ensure that individuals found to be responsible for and complicit in sexual violence, regardless of their status or rank, are held to account;
 - (q) To initiate effective and impartial investigations into the killings of journalists, to prosecute all those responsible in a manner consistent with applicable domestic and international legal obligations, and to create security and space for a free press to operate;
 - (r) To treat disengaged combatants in accordance with applicable obligations under domestic and international law, in particular international human rights law;
 - (s) To ensure the protection and well-being of all internally displaced persons, including from sexual violence and exploitation, paying particular attention to ensuring that the human rights of internally displaced persons in Mogadishu are respected in relation to relocations, and to ensure a fully consultative process, providing prior notice and ensuring safe, sanitary new sites that have basic services, as well as unfettered access for humanitarian organizations;
 - (t) To facilitate full humanitarian access to people in need wherever they are in Somalia, and to safeguard the neutrality, impartiality and independence of humanitarian actors from political, economic and military interference, while paying particular attention to the rights, freedoms and needs of ethnic and religious minorities who require humanitarian assistance;
11. *Strongly commends* the engagement of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia and his latest report submitted to the Human Rights Council;⁶⁴
 12. *Stresses* the importance of technical assistance in building credible and impartial domestic capacity to undertake monitoring, investigations and public reporting to identify human rights concerns, inform appropriate remedies by duty-bearers and ascertain technical assistance needs;
 13. *Also stresses* the important role of joint monitoring and reporting of the situation of human rights in Somalia by domestic and international experts, and the 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;

⁶⁴ A/HRC/24/40.

14. *Underlines* the importance of the realization by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia of its mandate throughout Somalia and the need to ensure synergy with the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights;

15. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, under agenda item 10, for a period of two years;

16. *Requests* the Independent Expert to continue his engagement with the Government of Somalia at the national and subnational levels, civil society and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia with a view to assist Somalia in the implementation of:

(a) Its domestic and international human rights obligations;

(b) Human Rights Council resolutions;

(c) Accepted universal periodic review recommendations;

(d) Other human rights commitments, including the Post-Transition Human Rights Road Map and the process to establish an independent human rights commission in due course;

17. *Also requests* the Independent Expert to report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session;

18. *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 his mandate;

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

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/31

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 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 obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to prevent human rights violations and comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Recalling the mandate of the Human Rights Council to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of States concerned, and provisions in 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,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 16/15 of 24 March 2011, in which the Council underlined the importance of international cooperation for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as resolutions 18/18 of 29 September 2011 and 21/21 of 27 September 2012,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 19/26 of 23 March 2012 on the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing Countries in the work of the Human Rights Council,

1. *Encourages* Members and observers of the Human Rights Council to use, where relevant, the general debate under agenda item 10 as a platform to share experiences, challenges and information on assistance needed in the implementation of their human rights obligations and voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations, as well as their achievements and good practices in the area of technical cooperation in the field of human rights;
2. *Emphasizes* that the discussion to promote technical cooperation and capacity-building in the Human Rights Council should be based on consultation with and the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their needs, as well as the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and aim to make a concrete impact on the ground;
3. *Affirms* that technical cooperation should be an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies and civil societies, at all stages;
4. *Reaffirms* the need for enhanced voluntary contributions for the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, and encourages States to make contribution to these funds, especially those who have not yet done so;
5. *Welcomes* the panel discussion held under agenda item 10 at the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council on the theme “Promoting technical cooperation for strengthening of the judiciary system and administration of justice in order to ensure human rights and rule of law”, underlining the importance of technical assistance provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant United Nations agencies to strengthen the administration of justice of States, the impartiality and integrity of the judicial system as prerequisite of the rule of law, and challenges regarding pretrial detention, reduction of prison overcrowding, specific provisions for juvenile justice and equal access to justice for all, in particular women and children, and other groups marginalized by age, gender, physical and mental disabilities, as well as encouraging greater coordination within the United Nations system on the delivery of technical assistance to States so as to respond to the support needed and to create public confidence in a justice system that is accessible for all;
6. *Acknowledges* the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, who make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world’s population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and may not only be subject to multiple discrimination but also remain largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals;
7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the thematic study of the Office of the High Commissioner on the structure and roles of national mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶⁵ and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”;⁶⁶
8. *Notes* the discussion held at the sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which noted the potential contribution of disability-inclusive development in the post-2015 development agenda while

⁶⁵ A/HRC/13/29.

⁶⁶ A/68/95.

recognizing the potential of persons with disabilities can contribute to the fulfilment of human rights;

9. *Welcomes* regional consultations in preparation for, and the outcome document of, the high-level meeting held at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, which recognize the need to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts and to provide a comprehensive reference for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that disability-inclusive development is taken into consideration in the realization of internationally agreed development goals;

11. *Encourages* States parties to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including, where appropriate, through harmonization of domestic legislation and policies with their obligations under the Convention, and, where appropriate, to consider requesting technical cooperation and capacity-building from the Office of the High Commissioner and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in such efforts, and encourages both the Office and the Committee to respond favourably to such requests;

12. *Encourages* all actors, with the participation of persons with disabilities and in cooperation with civil society organizations and organization of persons with disabilities, including through tripartite and South-South cooperation and public-private partnerships, to reinforce local, regional and international cooperation in support of national efforts for the adoption and implementation of appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to enhance the contribution of persons with disabilities in socioeconomic development;

13. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Human Rights Council resolution 18/18, that the theme for the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10 to be held during the twenty-sixth session of the Council shall be “Technical cooperation and capacity-building in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities through legal and institutional frameworks, including public-private partnerships”, and that the discussion shall be fully accessible to persons with disabilities;

14. *Encourages* organizations of persons with disabilities, national monitoring bodies and human rights institutions to participate actively in the session referred to in paragraph 13 above;

15. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the activities undertaken by the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and, where applicable, regional organizations to support efforts by States to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in their national legislation, policies and programmes, including to mainstream disability in development efforts, and requests that the report be made available in accessible, easy-to-read format on the website of the Office, for submission to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-sixth session, to serve as a basis for the thematic panel discussion, and to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, relevant special procedures and other stakeholders, including, where applicable, those involved in technical cooperation projects that demonstrate best practices, constructive engagement and positive impact on the ground, with a view to ensuring their participation in the thematic panel discussion.

37th meeting
27 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/32

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

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

Recalling Security Council resolutions 2014 (2011) of 21 October 2011 and 2051 (2012) of 12 June 2012 and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/19 of 29 September 2011, 19/29 of 23 March 2012 and 21/22 of 27 September 2012,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights are key factors in ensuring a fair and equitable justice system and, ultimately, reconciliation and stability for the country,

Welcoming the progress in the political transition process based on the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism that has started in Yemen, and looking forward to a successful conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference and to subsequent stages of the transition,

Welcoming also the ongoing implementation of the confidence-building measures contained in the 20 and 11 recommendation points contained in the reports on the preparation and the first phase of the National Dialogue Conference, in particular the measures to address the grievances of the citizens of Southern Yemen and Sada'a,

Welcoming further the commitment of the Government of Yemen to fully promote and protect human rights,

Welcoming the Cabinet approval of the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and noting the intention of the Cabinet to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Yemen⁶⁷ and of the debate held during the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, as well as the statement and comments by the Government of Yemen on the report and its willingness to cooperate with the United Nations and Office of the High Commissioner;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Government of Yemen to implement Human Rights Council resolutions 18/19, 19/29 and 21/22;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of a field presence of the Office of the High Commissioner, and notes the active cooperation of the Government with the Office and the steps taken towards the establishment of an independent national human rights institution;

4. *Looks forward* to steps by the Government of Yemen, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 19/29, towards the implementation of Republican Decree No. 140 of 2012, which establishes a committee to investigate allegations of violations of human rights in 2011 and which states that investigations shall be transparent and independent and adhere to international standards, and invites the Government of Yemen to provide soon a time frame for the early appointment of members of that committee;

5. *Also looks forward* to the early adoption of a law on transitional justice and national reconciliation that, while taking into account the recommendations of the National Dialogue Conference, is in accordance with the international obligations and commitments of Yemen and consistent with best practices;

6. *Calls upon* all parties to release persons arbitrarily detained by them and to end any practice of unlawful detention of persons, and recalls Cabinet decision No. 180 (2012) to release all those imprisoned for their participation in the events of 2011;

7. *Welcomes* the measures of the Government of Yemen to end the recruitment and use of children, and looks forward to the implementation of those measures without further delay;

8. *Demands* that armed groups end the recruitment and use of children and release those who have already been recruited, and calls upon all parties to cooperate with the United Nations and other qualified groups for their reintegration into their communities, taking into

⁶⁷ A/HRC/24/34.

consideration the relevant recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on children and armed conflict;⁶⁸

9. *Calls upon* the Government of Yemen to investigate cases of violence against journalists, in accordance with its international obligations to respect the freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the considerable representation of women in the National Dialogue Conference, and encourages the Government of Yemen to continue its efforts to ensure that women are represented at all levels of the political process and that they are able to participate in public life, free of discrimination and intimidation;

11. *Encourages* the Government of Yemen to continue to implement the accepted recommendations contained in the reports of the High Commissioner⁶⁹ with the support of her Office, and calls upon the Government to address the recommendations contained in the report of the High Commissioner submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session;⁶⁷

12. *Reiterates* the commitments and obligations of the Government of Yemen to promote and protect human rights;

13. *Looks forward* to the Government continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights;

14. *Calls on* the Government of Yemen to ensure, in the framework of scrupulous respect for due process-related rights, fair trial guarantees, including in cases involving the death penalty, and to ensure that the death penalty is not applied to minors, in conformity with commitments undertaken by the Government, including during its universal periodic review in 2009, and notes in this connection the establishment of the Specialized Forensic Technical Committee and the accelerated efforts of the Government to improve birth registration with international assistance;

15. *Encourages and supports* the efforts by the Government of Yemen to promote and protect the rights of children, and calls for early progress in ensuring that appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child, early and forced marriages;

16. *Invites* all bodies of the United Nations system, including the Office of the High Commissioner, and Member States, to assist the transitional process in Yemen, including by supporting the mobilization of resources to tackle 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;

17. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial support for the Yemen humanitarian response plan of 2013;

18. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance and to work with the Government of Yemen, as needed, to identify additional areas of assistance to enable Yemen to fulfil its human rights obligations;

19. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to present to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-seventh session, a progress report on the situation of human rights in Yemen and on the follow-up to the present resolution and Council resolutions 18/19, 19/29 and 21/22.

37th meeting
27 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

⁶⁸ A/67/845-S/2013/245.

⁶⁹ A/HRC/18/21, A/HRC/19/51 and A/HRC/21/37.

24/33

Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism

The Human Rights Council,

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

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Reaffirming also that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling the fundamental principle of equality and non-discrimination that underlies the Charter and international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming the right to health and education as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties,

Taking note of the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Bearing in mind Human Rights Council resolution 23/13 of 13 June 2013,

Expressing grave concern at the attacks against persons with albinism, including against women and children, which are often committed with impunity,

Welcoming the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism, and public awareness-raising campaigns;

Noting with appreciation the preliminary report on persons with albinism submitted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/13,

Inviting the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to the situation of human rights of persons with albinism,

Calling upon States to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, and to bring to justice those responsible, as well as to ensure that victims and family members have access to appropriate remedies,

Convinced of the need for effective action to combat and eliminate attacks against persons with albinism and to adopt specific measures to protect and preserve the rights to life and to security of persons with albinism, as well as their right not to be subject to torture and ill-treatment,

1. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism and to submit a report thereon to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session;

2. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the matter under the same agenda item at its twenty-eighth session.

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/34**Technical assistance to the Central African Republic in the field of human rights**

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 23/18 of 13 June 2013,

Bearing in mind the situation in the Central African Republic since 24 March 2013,

Reaffirming that all States are under an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments to which they are party,

In view of the Bamako Declaration adopted on 3 November 2000 by the French-speaking States and Governments, which condemns all coups d'état and any seizure of power through violence, arms or other illegal means,

In view also of the final communiqué of the special meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States, held in N'Djamena on 21 December 2012, and the political agreement signed in Libreville on 11 January 2013,

Taking into account the efforts undertaken by States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, including those of the chair of the follow-up committee of the Economic Community of Central African States on the situation in the Central African Republic,

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic,

Concerned about the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, as well as the risk of clashes between communities and religions,

Deeply concerned about all human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law following the events of 24 March 2013, including those involving summary executions, rape and other forms of sexual abuse, torture, looting and the destruction of property,

Recalling that such violence has led to the mass displacement of people,

Bearing in mind the establishment of a National Transitional Council and the appointment by this Council of a Head of State to oversee the transition,

Bearing in mind also the deployment of the Central African Multinational Force set up by the Economic Community of Central African States in the context of an operation to disarm the militias, train the Central African Armed Forces and secure the electoral process,

1. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the conclusions of the fourth special summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States, held in N'Djamena on 18 April 2013, and those of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic at its meeting on 3 May 2013 in Brazzaville;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;⁷⁰

3. *Condemns* all human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving summary executions, arbitrary arrest and detention, rape and

⁷⁰ A/HRC/24/59.

other forms of sexual abuse, the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, looting and the destruction of property;

4. *Calls for* an immediate halt to all such human rights violations and acts of violence, and for the strict observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
5. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Economic Community of Central African States to resolve the Central African crisis, including the decision taken at its special summits in N'Djamena on 3 and 18 April 2013 to set up an institutional transition mechanism in the Central African Republic for a period of up to 18 months;
6. *Supports* current efforts by the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States to resolve the crisis in the Central African Republic and to bring about a definitive return to constitutional order, peace and security in that country;
7. *Encourages* the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union, the United Nations and the partners of the Central African Republic in the stabilization process, which led to the adoption of a road map on a transition lasting 18 months, a Government of national unity, a National Transitional Council, a Transition Charter and a Transitional Constitutional Court;
8. *Encourages* the transitional authorities to guarantee freedom of expression, and invites them to organize a free and transparent general election, as called for in the N'Djamena Agreement of 18 April 2013, and ensure adherence to its provisions that prohibit members of the transitional Government from running for office, and that the election be organized with a view to creating conditions conducive to a return to constitutional order, to a lasting and inclusive reconciliation of the different components of the Central African population and to the consolidation of peace, while ensuring that women participate fully in the election and reconciliation processes;
9. *Requests* the support of all stakeholders and all international partners to meet the need for significant financial, humanitarian and technical assistance and for measures identified as urgent priorities by the Central African Republic;
10. *Calls upon* the transitional authorities to take all necessary steps to put an immediate stop, throughout the national territory, to all acts of violence against the civilian population, in strict compliance with the provisions of applicable international human rights law;
11. *Also calls upon* the transitional authorities to ensure respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of all population groups and to take all necessary steps to ensure there is no impunity for the perpetrators of crimes, acts of violence or any other human rights violations;
12. *Emphasizes* the need for all parties to the conflict to facilitate humanitarian access for United Nations and other humanitarian organizations for all persons in need of assistance, and for humanitarian organizations to continue to deliver appropriate humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons and to respond to the challenges associated with the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic;
13. *Decides* to appoint an Independent Expert, for a period of one year, to monitor the situation of human rights in the Central Africa Republic, to make recommendations concerning technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
14. *Requests* the Independent Expert to present a preliminary report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-sixth session;
15. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide the Independent Expert with the necessary financial and human resources to accomplish his/her mandate;
16. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/35

Impact of arms transfers on human rights in armed conflicts*The Human Rights Council,**Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*Reaffirming* that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and is entitled to a social and international order, in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,*Recalling* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977, other international human rights law and international humanitarian law instruments and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 and decision 5/101 of 18 June 2007, and resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011,*Recalling in particular* that the Human Rights Council has the mandate to, inter alia, serve as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights,*Acknowledging* that millions of people around the world are affected by systematic human rights violations and abuses in armed conflicts,*Acknowledging also* that human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,*Recalling* the principles and provisions related to international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and to the promotion of responsible action by States, as contained in the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the General Assembly on 2 April 2013,⁷¹ as well as in other relevant instruments,*Reaffirming* that all efforts should be made to ensure the cessation of all violations and abuses of, and the full respect for, international human rights law and international humanitarian law in armed conflicts,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the fact that arms transfers to those involved in armed conflicts may seriously undermine the human rights of civilians, especially women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups;

2. *Notes with alarm* that such arms transfers can have a seriously negative impact on the human rights of women and girls, who may be disproportionately affected by the widespread availability of arms, as it may increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, and may also contribute to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts;

3. *Urges* all States to refrain from transferring arms to those involved in armed conflicts when said States assess, in accordance with their applicable national procedures and international obligations and standards, that such arms are sufficiently likely to be used to commit or facilitate serious violations or abuses of international human rights law or international humanitarian law;

4. *Invites* all relevant special procedures, commissions of inquiry and human rights treaty bodies to bear the present resolution in mind, within the framework of their respective mandates, when considering the situation of human rights in armed conflicts.

*37th meeting
27 September 2013*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 42 to 1, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

⁷¹ Resolution 67/234 B.

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Montenegro, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Kuwait, Mauritania, Qatar, United Arab Emirates]

II. Decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session

24/101

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Turkmenistan

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Turkmenistan on 22 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Turkmenistan, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/3), the views of Turkmenistan 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 (A/HRC/24/3/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

*19th meeting
18 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/102

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Burkina Faso

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Burkina Faso on 22 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Burkina Faso, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/4), the views of Burkina Faso 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 (A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

*19th meeting
18 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/103

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Cape Verde

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Cape Verde on 23 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Cape Verde, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/5), the views of Cape Verde 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 (A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

*19th meeting
18 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/104

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Tuvalu

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Tuvalu on 24 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Tuvalu, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/8), the views of Tuvalu 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 (A/HRC/24/8/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

*20th meeting
19 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/105.

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Colombia

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Colombia on 23 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Colombia, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/6), the views of Colombia 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 (A/HRC/24/6/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

20th meeting
19 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/106.

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Uzbekistan

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Uzbekistan on 24 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Uzbekistan, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/7), the views of Uzbekistan 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 (A/HRC/24/7/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

20th meeting
19 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/107

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Germany

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Germany on 25 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Germany, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/9), the views of Germany 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 (A/HRC/24/9/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

22nd meeting
19 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/108

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Djibouti

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Djibouti on 25 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Djibouti, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/10), the views of Djibouti 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 (A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

22nd meeting
19 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/109

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Canada

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Canada on 26 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Canada, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/11), the views of Canada 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 (A/HRC/24/11/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

22nd meeting
19 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/110.

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Bangladesh

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007

and 16/21 of 21 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 Bangladesh on 29 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Bangladesh, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/12), the views of Bangladesh 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 (A/HRC/24/12/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

*23rd meeting
20 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/111

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Azerbaijan

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Azerbaijan on 30 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Azerbaijan, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/13), the views of Azerbaijan 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 (A/HRC/24/13/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

*23rd meeting
20 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/112

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Russian Federation

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Russian Federation on 29 April 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of the Russian Federation, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/14), the views of the Russian Federation 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 (A/HRC/24/14/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

24th meeting
20 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/113

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Cameroon

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Cameroon on 1 May 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Cameroon, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/15), the views of Cameroon 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 (A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

24th meeting
20 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/114

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Cuba

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 21 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 Cuba on 1 May 2013 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Decides to adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Cuba, comprising the report thereon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/16), the views of Cuba 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 (A/HRC/24/16/Add.1 and A/HRC/24/2, chap. VI).

24th meeting
20 September 2013

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/115**Postponement of renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

At its 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the Human Rights Council, recalling Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and General Assembly resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011, in an effort to synchronize schedules for resolutions, mandates and presentation of reports by the special procedures, decided to postpone the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context to its twenty-fifth session, and, for that reason, to extend, on an exceptional basis, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur until that session.

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/116**Panel discussion on the safety of journalists**

At its 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the Human Rights Council decided to adopt the text below:

“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,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 21/12 of 27 September 2012 on the safety of journalists,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, in particular Council resolution 12/16 of 2 October 2009 and all other resolutions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Council resolution 13/24 of 26 March 2010 on the protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict, and Council resolution 20/8 of 5 July 2012, on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,

Recalling further all relevant reports by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council with regard to the safety of journalists, in particular the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression⁷² and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,⁷³ presented to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session, and the interactive dialogue thereon,

Deeply concerned at the frequent violations and abuses of the human rights of journalists, including through killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, expulsion, intimidation, harassment, threats and acts of other forms of violence, as well as through measures, such as surveillance, search and seizure, when aimed at hampering the work of journalists,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the safety of journalists⁷⁴ presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

Acknowledging in particular the recommendation made in the report to continue to promote the issue of safety of journalists through the Human Rights Council and related panel discussions,

⁷² A/HRC/20/17 and Add.1–3.

⁷³ A/HRC/20/22, Corr.1 and Add.1–4.

⁷⁴ A/HRC/24/23.

1. *Decides* to convene, at its twenty-sixth session, a panel discussion on the issue of the safety of journalists, with a particular focus on discussing the findings made in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁷⁴ identifying challenges and further developing good practices for ensuring the safety of journalist by sharing information on initiatives undertaken to protect them;

2. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the panel discussion from within existing resources, in consultation with States, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, treaty bodies, special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with civil society, non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;

3. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare and submit a summary report on the panel discussion to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session.”

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/117

High-level panel on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation

At its 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the Human Rights Council decided to adopt the following text:

“The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming 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 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/146 of 20 December 2012 on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation, further to the decision of the African Union, taken in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned at the fact that, despite the intensification of efforts at the national, regional and international levels, and the emphasis placed on the abandonment of female genital mutilation, this practice persists in all regions of the world,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation,⁷⁵

Recalling, in particular, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 at the World Conference on Human Rights,⁷⁶ the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action,⁷⁷ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁷⁸ and the related follow-up meetings,

⁷⁵ E/CN.6/2012/8.

⁷⁶ A/CONF.157/24 (part I), chap. III.

⁷⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development*, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution I, annex.

⁷⁸ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

Recognizing and underscoring the importance of the issue and the possibility of organizing international discussions on female genital mutilation, as recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 67/146,

1. *Decides* to organize a high-level panel discussion at its twenty-sixth session on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation so that an exchange of views may take place concerning the progress made, good practices, and challenges and obstacles encountered in the effort to combat female genital mutilation, as well as the initiatives undertaken at the national, regional and international levels with a view to its eradication;
2. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize a high-level panel discussion on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation and to consult with States, institutions, the treaty bodies, special procedures mandate holders, the relevant regional human rights mechanisms, parliamentarians, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;
3. *Also calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the high-level panel discussion.”

[Adopted without a vote.]

24/118

Establishment of a special fund for the participation of civil society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights

At its 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the Human Rights Council decided to adopt the text below:

“The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 6/13 of 28 September 2007 and all subsequent Council resolutions on the Social Forum, Council resolution 6/15 of 28 September 2007 and all subsequent Council resolutions on the Forum on Minority Issues, and Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011 and all subsequent Council resolutions on the Forum on Business and Human Rights,

Acknowledging that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, play an important role at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Noting the insufficiency of funding for the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights to ensure broad participation, particularly from relevant parts of civil society that may not be able to finance their own travel,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a special fund for the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights, to be administered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the General Assembly, which would be used to support the participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and

Human Rights in accordance with the mandates of these forums, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to report thereon;

2. *Decides* that the Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights should aim to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders, and to give priority to the participation of local or national-level non-governmental organizations active in the relevant fields, with particular attention being paid to participants from least developed countries, and that the resources of the Special Fund should be utilized in such a manner as to ensure equal or adequate levels of support for each of the forums;

3. *Calls upon* States to support the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights and, to that end, to make voluntary contributions to the Special Fund;

4. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities to make voluntary contributions to the Special Fund.”

[Adopted without a vote.]

III. President’s statements made at the twenty-fourth session

PRST/24/1

Reports of the Advisory Committee

At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the President of the Human Rights Council read out the following statement:

“The Human Rights Council takes note of the reports of the Advisory Committee on its tenth and eleventh sessions (A/HRC/AC/10/3 and A/HRC/AC/11/2) and the recommendation contained in action 11/1, paragraph 4.

It is my understanding that, after consulting with Member States, the present statement does not set any precedent with regard to future reports of the Advisory Committee, which will be dealt with in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21.”

Part Two

Summary of proceedings

I. Organizational and procedural matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Human Rights Council held its twenty-fourth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 9 to 27 September 2013. The President of the Human Rights Council opened the session.
2. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, as contained in part VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the organizational meeting of the twenty-fourth session was held on 29 August 2013.
3. The twenty-fourth session consisted of 37 meetings over 15 days.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States of the Council, observers for non-Member States of the United Nations and other observers, and observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (see annex I).

C. Agenda and programme of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 9 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted the agenda and programme of work of the twenty-fourth session.

D. Organization of work

6. At the 1st meeting, the President outlined the modalities for general debates, which would be three minutes for member States and two minutes for observer States and other observers.
7. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 September 2013, the President outlined the modalities for the individual interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders under agenda items 3 and 10, which would be 10 minutes for the initial presentation by the mandate holder of the report, three minutes for Member States, two minutes for observer States and other observers (total time for non-governmental organizations is 10 minutes) and five minutes for the mandate holder's concluding remarks.
8. At the 4th meeting, on 10 September 2013, the President outlined the modalities for the clustered interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders under agenda item 3, which would be 10 minutes for the initial presentation of a report by the mandate holder, five minutes for Member States, three minutes for observer States and other observers (total time for non-governmental organizations is 20 minutes in a cluster of two mandate holders), and five minutes for the mandate holder's concluding remarks.
9. At the 5th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the President outlined the modalities for panel discussions, which were summarized in the concept notes, which would be five or seven minutes for panellists and two minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and other observers.
10. At the 10th meeting, the President announced that no objection had been made to the proposal of the Bureau for a new system for the inscription on the list of speakers for

interactive dialogues and panel discussions to be installed in Room XX. The Council adopted the proposal.

11. At the 17th meeting, the President referred to the note verbale received from the Permanent Mission of the Central African Republic on 10 September 2013, in which it made a request for the Human Rights Council to hold an interactive debate during the twenty-fourth session on the situation of human rights in the country. The Council decided to hold an interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic on 25 September 2013.

12. At the 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the President outlined the modalities for the consideration of the outcomes of the universal periodic review under agenda item 6, which would be 20 minutes for the State concerned to present its views; where appropriate, two minutes for the national human rights institution with “A” status of the State concerned; up to 20 minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and United Nations agencies to express their views on the outcome of the review, with varying speaking times according to the number of speakers in accordance with the modalities set out in the appendix to resolution 16/21; and up to 20 minutes for stakeholders to make general comments on the outcome of the review.

E. Meetings and documentation

13. The Human Rights Council held 37 fully serviced meetings during its twenty-fourth session.

14. The texts of the resolutions, decisions and President’s statements adopted by the Human Rights Council are contained in part one of the present report.

F. Visits

15. At the 1st meeting, on 9 September 2013, the Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras, Ana Pineda, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

16. At the same meeting, the Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

17. At the 7th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Maia Panjikidze, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

18. At the 11th meeting, on 13 September 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Wunna Maung Lwin, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

19. At the same meeting, the Minister for Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights of Lesotho, Haae Phoofolo, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

20. At the 15th meeting, on 17 September 2013, the Minister for Justice of Namibia, Utoni Nujoma, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

21. At the 26th meeting, on 23 September 2013, the Commissioner for Human Rights of Mauritania, Mohamed Abdallahi Ould Khattrra, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

G. Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

22. At its 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the Human Rights Council elected, pursuant to its resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, six experts to the Advisory Committee. The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/HRC/24/17 and Add.1) containing the nomination of candidates for election, in accordance with Council decision 6/102, and the biographical data of the candidates.

23. The candidates were as follows:

<i>Nominating Member State</i>	<i>Expert nominated</i>
African States	
Egypt	Hoda Elsadda
Uganda	Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora
Asia-Pacific States	
China	Yishan Zhang
Japan	Kaoru Obata
Eastern European States	
Russian Federation	Mikhail Alexandrovich Lebedev
Western European and other States	
Spain	Fernando M. Mariño Menendez
Switzerland	Jean Ziegler

24. One seat for a member of the Advisory Committee from the Latin American and Caribbean States remained vacant given that no nomination was received from the region.

25. The number of candidates for three regional groups, namely, the Group of Asia-Pacific States, the Group of African States and the Group of Eastern European States, corresponded to the number of seats available in each of these groups. The practice of holding a secret ballot, pursuant to paragraph 70 of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, was dispensed with and Hoda Elsadda, Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora, Yishan Zhang, Kaoru Obata and Mikhail Alexandrovich Lebedev were elected as members of the Advisory Committee by consensus.

26. At the same meeting, the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and the United States of America both made a statement in relation to the election.

27. Also at the same meeting, following a vote by secret ballot, Jean Ziegler was elected as member of the Advisory Committee for the Group of Western European and other States.

H. Adoption of the report on the session

28. At the 36th meeting, on 27 September 2013, after action on all draft proposals was completed, the representatives of Bahrain (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, the Russian Federation, Singapore, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) each made a statement as observer States with regard to the resolutions adopted.

29. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur and Vice-President of the Human Rights Council made a statement in connection with the draft report of the Council (A/HRC/24/2) and the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly (A/68/53 and Add.1).

30. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted ad referendum the draft report on the session (A/HRC/24/2) and entrusted the Rapporteur with its finalization.

31. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, the Human Rights House Foundation, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the International Commission of Jurists, Amnesty International, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation and Conectas Direitos Humanos) made statements in connection with the session.

32. At the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a closing statement.

I. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Postponement of the renewal of the mandate of Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

33. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Germany introduced draft decision A/HRC/24/L.4, sponsored by Germany and Finland. Subsequently, Japan joined the sponsors.

34. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution. The Chief of Finance and Budget Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) made a statement in relation to the budgetary implications of the draft decision.

35. At the same meeting, the draft decision was adopted without a vote (for the text of the decision, see part one, chap. III, decision 24/115).

II. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

A. Update by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

36. At the 1st meeting, on 9 September 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement providing an update of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner.

37. During the ensuing general debate, at the 1st and 2nd meetings, on the same day, and at the 3rd meeting, on 10 September 2013, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)* (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Iceland, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan* (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay), Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark (also on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Greece, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canners International Permanent Committee, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Human Rights Watch, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Institute for Non-aligned Studies, International Institute for Peace, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (also on behalf of the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism), Liberation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, Women's Human Rights International Association, World Environment and Resources Council, World Muslim Congress.

38. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 September 2013, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Bahrain and Egypt.

39. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 September 2013, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of Iraq.

* Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

B. Reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

40. At the 10th meeting, on 13 September 2013, the Deputy High Commissioner presented the thematic reports prepared by OHCHR and the Secretary-General.

41. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on the same day, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on the thematic reports presented by the Deputy High Commissioner (see paras. 93-94 below).

42. At the 32nd meeting, on 25 September 2013, the Deputy High Commissioner presented the country-specific reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General submitted under agenda item 2.

43. At its 32nd meeting, on the same day, and the 33rd meeting, on 26 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on the country-specific reports presented by the Deputy High Commissioner (see paras. 972-975 below).

III. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

A. Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

44. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 September 2013, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, presented an oral update of her annual report (A/HRC/24/45).

45. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 September 2013, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Cuba* (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Maldives, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovenia* (also on behalf of Austria and Croatia), Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Chad, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for the Holy See;

(d) Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(e) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(f) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(g) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Canners International Permanent Committee, European Union of Public Relations, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's World Summit Foundation, World Environment and Resources Council.

46. At the 4th meeting, on 10 September 2013, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

47. Also at the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Libya.

B. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders

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

48. At the 4th meeting, on 10 September 2013, the Chairperson of 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, Anton Katz, presented the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/24/45 and Add.1-2).

49. At the same meeting, the representatives of Honduras and Somalia both made a statement as the States concerned.

50. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 4th meeting, on the same day, and the 6th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the following made statements and asked the Chairperson of the Working Group questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ecuador, Indonesia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, State of Palestine;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, International Commission of Jurists, Servas International.

Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

51. At the 4th meeting, on 10 September 2013, the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Alfred de Zayas, presented his report (A/HRC/24/38).

52. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 4th meeting on the same day, and the 6th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Romania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Morocco, Serbia, State of Palestine;
- (c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Centre Europe – Tiers Monde – Europe-Third World Centre, African Technology Development Link, United Schools International, Servas International, Indian Council of South America (CISA) (also on behalf of Centre international des formations en droits humains, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDE), Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE Internationale), International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDE) (also on behalf of the International Catholic Child Bureau, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers), Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

53. At the 6th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

54. At the 6th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Marc Pallemarts, presented his report (A/HRC/24/39 and Add.1).

55. At the same meeting, the representative of Hungary made a statement as the State concerned.

56. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 6th and 7th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Benin, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba* (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ecuador, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Sierra Leone, Spain, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, China, Djibouti, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uruguay, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Franciscans International (also on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas), Human Rights Now, United Nations Watch.

57. At the 7th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

58. At the 6th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque, presented her report (A/HRC/24/44 and Add.1–3).

59. At the same meeting, the representative of Thailand made a statement as a State concerned.

60. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 6th and 7th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Brazil, Cuba* (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ecuador, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Switzerland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Latvia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Togo, Uruguay;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Franciscans International (also on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas), United Nations Watch, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization.

61. At the 7th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

62. At the 9th meeting, on 12 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, presented his report (A/HRC/24/42 and Add.1).

63. At the same meeting, the representative of Tunisia made a statement as the State concerned.

64. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 9th meeting, on the same day, and the 10th meeting, on 13 September 2013, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina, Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba* (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Czech Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Maldives, Morocco* (on behalf of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Republic of Korea, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, Nepal, Netherlands, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Togo;

(c) Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) (by video message), Colombian Commission of Jurists, Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN), Human Rights Now, International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

65. At the 10th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences

66. At the 9th meeting, on 12 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Gulnara Shahinian, presented her report (A/HRC/24/43, Corr.1 and Add.1-2).

67. At the same meeting, the representatives of Kazakhstan and Madagascar made statements as the States concerned.

68. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 9th meeting, on the same day, and the 10th meeting, on 13 September 2013, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba* (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Spain, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Colombia, Egypt, France, Greece, Latvia, Lebanon, Nepal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for the Holy See;

(d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(e) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(f) Observer for a non-governmental organization: International Humanist and Ethical Union.

69. At the 10th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

70. At the 11th meeting, on 13 September 2013, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Mauritania.

Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

71. At the 17th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, presented his report (A/HRC/24/41 and Add.1–4).

72. At the same meeting, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Wilton Littlechild, presented the reports of the Expert Mechanism (A/HRC/24/49, 50 and 51).

73. At the same meeting, a representative of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations made a statement.

74. At the same meeting, the representatives of both El Salvador and Namibia made a statement as the States concerned.

75. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, the following made statements and asked questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Chile, Congo, Ecuador, Estonia, Guatemala, Malaysia, Peru, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sweden;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Colombian Commission of Jurists, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Indian Council of South America, International Indian Treaty Council, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

76. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

77. At the same meeting, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Expert Mechanism answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

C. Panel discussions

Panel discussion on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed

78. At its 5th meeting, on 11 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held, in accordance with Council resolution 22/11, a half-day panel discussion on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed.

79. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel on behalf of the High Commissioner. The Director of the Research and Right to Development Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights read a statement on behalf of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais. The Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Bertrand de Crombrughe, moderated the discussion.

80. At the same meeting, the panellists Jorge Cardona Llorens, Sandra Jones, Francis Ssuubi and Nisreen Zerikat made statements.

81. The ensuing panel discussion was divided into two parts, which were held at the same meeting, on the same day. During the first speaking part, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Argentina, Cuba* (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean

* Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

States), Ireland, Italy, Pakistan (also on behalf of Bahrain, Botswana, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen), Spain;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, France, Norway, Sweden;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Penal Reform International, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik and Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) (also on behalf of Defence for Children International and the International Catholic Child Bureau).

82. At the end of the first speaking part, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

83. The following made statements during the second speaking part:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belgium, Egypt, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental institution: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International and Servas International.

84. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made concluding remarks.

Panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples

85. At its 16th meeting, on 17 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held, in accordance with Council resolution 18/8, a half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples.

86. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made, on behalf of the High Commissioner, an opening statement for the panel. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations at Geneva, Ulises Canchola Gutierrez, made introductory remarks and moderated the discussion.

87. At the same meeting, the panellists John Henriksen, International Chief Wilton Littlechild, Soyata Maiga, Tania Pariona and Raja Devasish Roy made statements.

88. The ensuing panel discussion was divided into two parts, which were held at the same meeting, on the same day. During the first speaking part, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Congo, Cuba* (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ireland, Malaysia, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Finland, Norway, Paraguay, Russian Federation;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Canners International Permanent Committee, European Disability Forum.

89. At the end of the first speaking part, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

90. The following made statements during the second speaking part:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Chile, Ecuador, Estonia, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Denmark, New Zealand;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: International Labour Organization (ILO);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union, International Development Law Organization;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Indian Law Resource Centre, International Indian Treaty Council, New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council.

91. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made concluding remarks.

D. General debate on agenda item 3

92. At the 10th meeting, on 13 September 2013, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, Tamara Kunanayakam, presented the report of the Working Group on its fourteenth session (A/HRC/24/37).

93. At its 10th and 11th meeting, on the same day, and its 12th meeting, on 16 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on thematic reports under agenda items 2 and 3, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania* (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Germany, Spain and Thailand), Argentina, Austria (also on behalf of Albania, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, State of Palestine), Bahrain* (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Benin, Chile, Cuba* (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ecuador (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, the Group of African States, the Group of Arab States, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany (also on behalf of Austria, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Iran (Islamic Republic of)* (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Ireland, Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Malaysia, Montenegro, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe), Poland, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay* (also on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Belgium, China, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for the Holy See and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organization: UNICEF;

(e) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: African Union, Council of Europe, International Organization of la Francophonie;

(f) Observer for a national human rights institution: Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) (by video message);

(g) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development (also on behalf of the Federation for Women and Family Planning), Agence internationale pour le développement, Amnesty International, Asian Legal Resource Centre, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), the Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Franciscans International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers, Edmund Rice International Limited, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Catholic Migration Commission, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, New Humanity, VIVAT International), Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Civicus – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (CIRAC), Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, European Union of Public Relations, Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN), France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, Human Rights House Foundation, Indian Law Resource Centre (also on behalf of the Bank Information Center, the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Human Rights Watch and the Democracy Center), Institute for Women's Studies and Research, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Commission of Jurists, International Educational Development, Inc., International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Muslim Women's Union, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Service for Human Rights, Iranian Elite Research Center, Islamic Women's Institute of Iran, Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Liberation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE Internationale, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (also on behalf of the Islamic Women's Institute of Iran), Presse Embleme Campagne, Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH), Reporters Sans Frontières International – Reporters Without Borders International, Save the Children International (also on behalf of World Vision International), Society for Threatened Peoples, Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc) (also on behalf of the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development), Soka Gakkai International (also on behalf of Al-Hakim Foundation, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the Foundation for GAIA and Human Rights Education Associates (HREA), International Federation of University Women, International Longevity Center Global Alliance, Ltd., International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation), Teresian Association, Under the Same Sun Fund, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, World Environment and Resources Council (WERC).

94. At the 12th meeting, on 16 September 2013, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China and of Mauritania.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Promoting human rights and through sport and the Olympic ideal

95. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.1, sponsored by Brazil, the Congo, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, Guatemala, Honduras,

Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, the Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States). Subsequently, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, El Salvador, France, India, Jamaica, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

96. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

97. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/1).

Local government and human rights

98. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of the Republic of Korea introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.2, sponsored by Chile, Egypt, the Republic of Korea and Romania and co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Subsequently, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, the United States of America, Uruguay and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

99. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

100. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/2).

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences

101. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.3, sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

102. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

103. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/3).

The right to development

104. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.6, sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Subsequently, Brazil, China, El Salvador, Uruguay and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

105. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, orally revised the draft resolution.

106. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

107. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

108. At the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Japan and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

109. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 46 votes to 1.

110. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/4.

The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

111. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representatives of Mexico and the United States of America introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.7, sponsored by the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States of America and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Angola, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Guatemala, Libya, New Zealand, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

112. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally revised the draft resolution.

113. Also at the same meeting, the President announced that the amendments A/HRC/24/L.55 and A/HRC/24/L.56 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.7 had been withdrawn, as notified to the Secretariat.

114. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

115. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/5).

116. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September, the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

117. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Brazil introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.8, sponsored by Brazil and co-sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Libya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Iceland, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sierra

Leone, South Africa, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

118. At the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

119. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

120. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/6).

Arbitrary detention

121. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of France introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.15, sponsored by France and co-sponsored by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Botswana, El Salvador, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

122. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

123. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/7).

Equal political participation

124. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of the Czech Republic introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.18/Rev.1, sponsored by Botswana, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, the Netherlands and Peru and co-sponsored by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Benin, Canada, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Japan, Liechtenstein, Namibia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Ukraine, the United States of America and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

125. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

126. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

127. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/8).

Human rights and indigenous peoples: mandate of the Special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

128. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.21, sponsored by Guatemala and Mexico and co-sponsored by Austria, the Congo, Cuba (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain and Sweden. Subsequently, Angola, Australia, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Iceland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Namibia, Poland, Senegal, Slovenia, Togo and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

129. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

130. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/9).

Human rights and indigenous peoples

131. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Guatemala introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.22, sponsored by Guatemala and Mexico and co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, the Congo, Cuba (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway and Spain. Subsequently, Angola, Benin, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Iceland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

132. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

133. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

134. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/10).

Preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern

135. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representatives of Ireland and Botswana introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.27, sponsored by Austria, Botswana, Ireland, Mongolia and Uruguay and co-sponsored by Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Benin, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Yemen. Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand, Togo, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

136. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

137. At the same meeting, the representatives of Japan and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

138. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/11).

Human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice

139. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.28, sponsored by Austria and co-sponsored by Andorra, Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay. Subsequently, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Libya, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Monaco, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

140. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

141. At the same meeting, the representatives of Japan and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

142. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/12).

The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

143. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.29, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Pakistan, Panama, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Botswana, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Nicaragua, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

144. At the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

145. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Estonia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Switzerland and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

146. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by 31 votes to 15, with one abstention.

147. For the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/13.

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

148. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.5/Rev.1, sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned States), and co-sponsored by the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States). Subsequently, Brazil joined the sponsors.

149. At the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

150. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

151. At the same meeting, the representative of Estonia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

152. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Estonia, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by 31 votes to 15, with 1 abstention.

153. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/14.

World Programme for Human Rights Education

154. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Costa Rica introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.12/Rev.1, sponsored by Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and Switzerland and co-sponsored by Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Albania, Chile, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Montenegro, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

155. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision.

156. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America, made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

157. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/15).

The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights

158. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Ukraine introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.14/Rev.1, sponsored by Hungary, Maldives, Morocco, Ukraine and Uruguay and co-sponsored by Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the United States of America. Subsequently, Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Togo and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

159. At the same meeting the representative of Ukraine orally revised the draft resolution.

160. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

161. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/16).

Conscientious objection to military service

162. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Croatia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.23, sponsored by Costa Rica, Croatia and Poland and co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Panama, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

163. At the same meeting, the representative of Croatia orally revised the draft resolution.
164. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea made statements in explanation of the vote before the vote.
165. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/17).
166. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September, the representative of Chile made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

167. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representatives of Germany and Spain introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.31, sponsored by Germany and Spain and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Armenia, El Salvador, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine joined the sponsors.
168. At the same meeting, the representatives of Ecuador and Brazil made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.
169. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution, disassociating the delegation from the consensus on the fifteenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.
170. At the same meeting, the representative of Argentina made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.
171. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/18).

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

172. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Belgium introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.35, sponsored by Armenia, Belgium, Mexico, Senegal and Thailand and co-sponsored by Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay. Subsequently, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Indonesia, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia joined the sponsors.
173. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.
174. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.
175. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution, disassociating the delegation from the consensus on the draft resolution.
176. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/19).

The human rights of older persons

177. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Argentina introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.37/Rev.1, sponsored by Argentina and Brazil and co-sponsored by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Djibouti, Ethiopia and Turkey. Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

178. At the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, and Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

179. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

180. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Japan and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

181. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/20).

Civil society space: creating and maintaining, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment

182. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Ireland, Japan and Tunisia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.24, sponsored by Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Guatemala, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Slovakia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

183. At the same meeting, the representative of Ireland orally revised the draft resolution.

184. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Cuba announced that amendment A/HRC/24/L.50 had been withdrawn.

185. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced amendments A/HRC/24/L.51 and L.52 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.24. Amendment A/HRC/24/L.51 was sponsored by Algeria, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Amendment A/HRC/24/L.52 was sponsored by Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

186. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan announced that amendment A/HRC/24/L.53 had been withdrawn.

187. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan introduced amendment A/HRC/24/L.54 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.24. Amendment A/HRC/24/L.54 was sponsored by Algeria, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

188. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and amendments.

189. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution and the amendments.

190. At the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.51. The amendment was rejected by 12 votes to 28, with 7 abstentions.

191. Also at the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.52. The amendment was rejected by 11 votes to 28, with 8 abstentions.

192. At the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.54. The amendment was rejected by 14 votes to 27, with 6 abstentions.

193. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and Qatar made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.24 as orally revised. Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and Qatar made general comments, disassociating themselves from the consensus on the draft resolution.

194. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/21).

195. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September, the representative of Malaysia made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps

196. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Sierra Leone introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.34/Rev.1, sponsored by Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Maldives, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and Uruguay and co-sponsored by Albania, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Yemen and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, France, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined the sponsors.

197. At the same meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone orally revised the draft resolution.

198. Also at the same meeting, the representative of India made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

199. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

200. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/23).

Impact of arms transfers on human rights in armed conflict

201. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representatives of Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.32/Rev.1, sponsored by Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru and co-sponsored by Angola, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Libya, Mexico, Panama, Switzerland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Argentina, Brazil, the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, Togo and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

202. At the same meeting, the representatives of Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru orally revised the draft resolution.

203. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

204. At the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

205. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 42 votes to one, with 4 abstentions. For the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/35.

Panel discussion on the safety of journalists

206. At the 34th meeting, on 26 September 2013, the representative of Austria introduced draft decision A/HRC/24/L.13, sponsored by Austria, Brazil, Morocco, Tunisia and Switzerland and co-sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Yemen. Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Kenya, Namibia, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

207. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision.

208. At the same meeting, the draft decision was adopted without a vote (for the text of the decision, see part one, chap. II, decision 24/116).

High-level panel on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation

209. At the 35th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Gabon, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft decision A/HRC/24/L.11, sponsored by Chile, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States) and Guatemala. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

210. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision.

211. At the same meeting, the draft decision was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, decision 24/117).

IV. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

A. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

212. At the 12th meeting, on 16 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/26, the report he submitted to the General Assembly on the situation of internally displaced persons in the Syrian Arab Republic in terms of safety and their basic rights and livelihood, in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/262 (A/67/931; see A/HRC/24/58).

B. Interactive dialogue with the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

213. At the 12th meeting, on 16 September 2013, the Chairperson of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Paulo Pinheiro, presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/1, the report of the commission of inquiry (A/HRC/24/46).

214. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

215. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 12th and 13th meetings, on the same day, and at the 14th meeting, on 17 September 2013, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain* (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Cuba* (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for the Holy See;

(d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organization: UNICEF;

(e) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Center for Inquiry, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Fédération syriaque internationale, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Commission of Jurists, Presse Embleme Campagne, Syriac Universal Alliance, Union of Arab Jurists, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

216. At the 14th meeting, the Chairperson of the commission of inquiry answered questions and made concluding remarks. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons made his concluding remarks.

* Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

C. Interactive dialogue with the commission of inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

217. At the 14th meeting, on 17 September 2013, the Chairperson of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Michael Kirby, presented pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/13, an oral update to the Council.

218. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a statement as the State concerned.

219. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 14th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Watch, Jubilee Campaign, United Nations Watch.

220. Also at the 14th meeting, the Chairperson of the commission of inquiry answered questions and made concluding remarks.

D. General debate on agenda item 4

221. At its 15th meeting, on 17 September 2013, and at its 21st meeting, on 19 September, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 4, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Agence internationale pour le développement, Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme, Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asian Legal Resource Centre, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Auspice Stella, Baha'i International Community, British Humanist Association, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Center for Inquiry, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (CIRAC), Franciscans International (also on behalf of VIVAT International), General Arab Women Federation, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Human Rights House Foundation, Human Rights Law Centre, Human Rights Watch, Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, Institute for Women's Studies and Research, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Committee for the Indians of the Americas (Switzerland), International Commission of Jurists, International Educational Development Inc., International Federation for Human

Rights Leagues, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Lesbian and Gay Association, International Muslim Women's Union, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Islamic Women's Institute of Iran, Jubilee Campaign, Liberal International (World Liberal Union), Liberation, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE Internationale, Presse Embleme Campagne, Prevention Association of Social Harms, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Reporters Sans Frontiers International – Reporters Without Borders International, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment, Sudanese Women General Union, Transparency International, United Nations Watch, Union of Arab Jurists, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, World Barua Organization, Women's Human Rights International Association, World Muslim Congress, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

222. At the 21st meeting, on 19 September 2013, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Nepal, Iraq, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

223. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

224. At the 36th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of the United States of America introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.38, sponsored by France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Hungary, Luxembourg, Maldives, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Subsequently, Andorra, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tunisia joined the sponsors.

225. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally revised the draft resolution.

226. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, Estonia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Indonesia and Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

227. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

228. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Ecuador, India, Pakistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

229. At the request of the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 40 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions.

230. For the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/22.

V. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

A. Complaint procedure

231. At its 26th meeting, on 23 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a closed meeting of the complaint procedure.

232. At the 28th meeting, on 24 September 2013, the President made a statement on the outcome of the meetings, stating that the Human Rights Council had examined, in a closed meeting, the report of the Working Group on Situations on its twelfth session, under the complaint procedure established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1. The Working Group on Situations did not refer any cases to the Council for action at its twenty-fourth session.

B. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

233. At the 17th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Wilton Littlechild, presented the reports of the Expert Mechanism (A/HRC/24/49, 50 and Corr.1, and 51).

234. At the same meeting, and at its 18th meeting, on the same day, the Human Rights Council held an interactive dialogue on the human rights of indigenous peoples.

C. Interactive dialogue with the Advisory Committee

235. At the 18th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, Wolfgang Heinz, presented the Committee's reports (A/HRC/24/47 and 48).

236. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Maldives, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Djibouti, Morocco;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental institution: European Union.

237. At the 18th meeting, the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee answered questions and made concluding remarks.

D. General debate on agenda item 5

238. At its 18th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 5, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ireland, Italy, Latvia* (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Sierra Leone, Switzerland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: China, Cuba, Hungary, South Africa;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental institution: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights, Defenders Project, European Union of Public Relations, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Helios Life Association, Indian Council of South America, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Commission of Jurists, International Service for Human Rights, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Liberation, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, United Schools International, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization (WBO), World Environment and Resources Council (WERC).

239. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Argentina and Malaysia.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights

240. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Hungary introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1, sponsored by Hungary and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Andorra, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Togo and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

241. At the same meeting, the representative of Hungary orally revised the draft resolution.

242. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation announced that amendments A/HRC/24/L.42 and L.49 had been withdrawn.

243. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced amendment A/HRC/24/L.40 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Malaysia joined the sponsors.

244. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela introduced amendments A/HRC/24/L.41 and L.43 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Malaysia joined the sponsors.

245. At the same meeting, the representative of China introduced amendment A/HRC/24/L.44 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Malaysia joined the sponsors.

246. Also at the same meeting, the representative of India announced that amendment A/HRC/24/L.45 had been withdrawn.

247. At the same meeting, the representative of India introduced amendments A/HRC/24/L.46 and L.48 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1. Amendment A/HRC/24/L.46 was sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Malaysia joined the sponsors. Amendment A/HRC/24/L.48 was sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Malaysia joined the sponsors.

248. Also at the same meeting, the representative of India orally revised draft amendment A/HRC/24/L.46.

249. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan introduced amendment A/HRC/24/L.47 to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Malaysia joined the sponsors.

250. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Austria, Costa Rica, Germany, Ethiopia, Maldives and Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and the amendments thereto.

251. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution and the amendments.

252. At the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.40. The amendment was rejected by 15 votes to 30, with 2 abstentions.

253. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/24/L.41.

254. At the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.41. The amendment was rejected by 15 votes to 28, with 4 abstentions.

255. Also at the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.43. The amendment was rejected by 15 votes to 28, with 4 abstentions.

256. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/24/L.44

257. Also at the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.44. The amendment was rejected by 17 votes to 27, with 3 abstentions.

258. At the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.46 as orally revised. The amendment as orally revised was rejected by 16 votes to 27, with 4 abstentions.

259. Also at the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.47. The amendment was rejected by 16 votes to 27, with 4 abstentions.

260. At the same meeting, at the request of Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/24/L.48. The amendment was rejected by 16 votes to 27, with 4 abstentions.

261. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.24/Rev.1 as orally revised.

262. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of India, a separate vote on the deletion of paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.17/Rev.1 as orally revised was

taken. The motion to delete paragraph 8 from the draft resolution as orally revised was rejected by 30 votes to 15 against, with 2 abstentions.

263. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 31 votes to 1, with 15 abstentions.**

264. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 24/24.

The Social Forum

265. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.30, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Qatar, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Bangladesh, Botswana, Colombia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Uruguay, Viet Nam and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

266. At the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

267. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are also members of the Council), Japan, Montenegro and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution, disassociating their delegations from the consensus on it.

268. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/25).

Establishment of a special fund for the participation of civil society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights

269. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representatives of Austria, Cuba and Norway introduced draft decision A/HRC/24/L.16, sponsored by Austria, Cuba and Norway and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Spain and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Albania, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

270. At the same meeting, the draft decision was adopted without a vote (for the text of the decision, see part one, chap. II, decision 24/118).

Reports of the Advisory Committee

271. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced draft President's statement A/HRC/24/L.57.

272. At the same meeting, the President's Statement was adopted without a vote (for the text of the statement, see part one, chap. III, PRST 24/1).

** The representative of Gabon subsequently stated that there had been an error in its vote and that the State had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

VI. Universal periodic review

273. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, Human Rights Council decision 17/119 and President's statements PRST/8/1 and PRST/9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, the Human Rights Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the thirteenth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held from 21 May to 4 June 2012.

A. Consideration of universal periodic review outcomes

274. The section below contains, in accordance with paragraph 4.3 of President's statement 8/1, a summary of the views expressed on the outcome by States under review and by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council, and general comments made by other stakeholders before the adoption of the outcome by the Council in plenary session.

Turkmenistan

275. The review of Turkmenistan was held on 22 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Turkmenistan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/TKM/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/TKM/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/TKM/3).

276. At its 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Turkmenistan (see sect. C below).

277. The outcome of the review of Turkmenistan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/3), the views of State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/3/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

278. The delegation of Turkmenistan, led by the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva, reiterated its sincere appreciation to all delegations engaged in the constructive dialogue during the session of the Working Group. It also expressed special gratitude to the members of the troika – Botswana, Ecuador and the Philippines – and to the secretariat.

279. Turkmenistan attached great importance to the work of the Human Rights Council in the promotion and protection of human rights, and expressed its support. The universal periodic review strengthened its commitment to genuine progress in the field of human rights.

280. During its review, Turkmenistan had received 183 recommendations, of which 85 it accepted at the session of the Working Group and taken 90 for consultations and further consideration. In Turkmenistan, the inter-agency commission on the implementation of international obligations on human rights and international humanitarian law, relevant government agencies, the national human rights institution and national non-governmental organizations were actively engaged in the consideration of the outstanding recommendations.

281. After the deliberations and consultations, the Government had decided to accept 166 recommendations and partially accept one. It did not support 16 recommendations.

282. The majority of the recommendations were in line with the human rights agenda of Turkmenistan, and related to the ratification of international treaties and the implementation of the international human rights instruments that it had ratified; raising awareness of human rights issues by means of training for the judiciary and law enforcement bodies on human rights and the prevention of torture; gender equality and the protection of women, children and minorities; the fight against trafficking; the realization of the rights of freedom of expression and access to information; the creation of an independent national human Rights institution; and invitations to the special procedures.

283. Of the recommendations that did not enjoy the State's support, some were not supported because of the lack of evidence cited in the recommendations, while others ran counter to the State's legal and cultural foundations.

284. The recommendations on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court would require careful consideration and analysis by the Government and the legislature before any action could be taken on them.

285. The delegation subsequently highlighted some of the main recommendations that the State had accepted.

286. Turkmenistan would consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was being explored. The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure was also being considered.

287. The recommendations on establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles had been accepted, as had others on considering extending invitations to the special procedures.

288. Turkmenistan had accepted the recommendations calling for strengthening the protection of the rights of women. The State provided for equal rights for men and women to enjoy the civil and political rights stipulated in the international instruments ratified by it.

289. The law on combating human trafficking was aimed at providing guarantees of individual freedom and protection of society against human trafficking, including the trafficking of women. Work on the adoption of new laws on gender equality, women's participation in public affairs and domestic violence would continue.

290. Turkmenistan had accepted recommendations 113.70 to 113.72, and the competent authorities would verify all complaints of human rights violations.

291. Recommendations 113.76 to 113.79 had been accepted. Under the Constitution, citizens had the right to form political parties and associations within the framework of the law.

292. According to the Constitution, citizens had the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to obtain information, on the condition that it does not relate to a State secret or other secret protected by law.

293. The law on media adopted in 2012 guaranteed the freedom of the media. No one could prevent the media from the dissemination of information of public interest, except when in accordance with the law. Citizens had the right to use any form of media to express an opinion, while the freedom to seek, receive and disseminate information could not be restricted, except when in accordance with the law. The law also provided for unhindered access to reports of foreign media.

294. Turkmenistan accepted the recommendation on creating real space for a multi-party parliamentary election. The law on political parties adopted in 2012 governed the rights of citizen to form political parties.

295. Turkmenistan, whose priority was to create favourable conditions for the realization of the rights and freedoms of every citizen, would, in cooperation with United Nations human rights bodies and stakeholders, including national non-governmental organizations, ensure the implementation of the recommendations made during the second cycle of the universal periodic review.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

296. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Turkmenistan, 14 delegations made statements.***

297. Uzbekistan welcomed the constructive approach of Turkmenistan to the universal periodic review process, and its steps taken to secure human rights and freedoms in the framework of its international obligations and national legislation. It noted the acceptance of both recommendations made by Uzbekistan on improving access to quality services in the field of health and education and continuing efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It was convinced that the commitment of the Government to its international obligations would strengthen the system of human rights protection. It wished Turkmenistan success in its implementation of the recommendations.

298. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela thanked the delegation of Turkmenistan for its presentation. The Government of Turkmenistan had dedicated itself to full and open cooperation with the universal periodic review. It approved the Government's responses, especially in relation to its successful social programmes, which were allocated more than 75 per cent of the national budget. Turkmenistan had successfully completed its second review, as shown by its efforts in economic, social and cultural rights and raising the quality of life, especially for the most vulnerable.

299. Viet Nam was encouraged to see that Turkmenistan had maintained its momentum in the protection and promotion of human rights since the previous session and had implemented all recommendations accepted, including two made by Viet Nam on fundamental rights and gender equality, and on the welfare system for vulnerable groups. Turkmenistan had maintained a constructive, open and responsible participation in the process. It urged the Human Rights Council to adopt the report of the Working Group, and wished Turkmenistan success in the implementation of the recommendations.

300. Afghanistan recognized the positive engagement of Turkmenistan with the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review process, and commended it for having accepted most of the recommendations, including those made by Afghanistan. It endorsed the adoption of the report of the Working Group and wished the Government of Turkmenistan success in the implementation and follow-up phase.

301. Algeria stated that the acceptance of the majority of the recommendations made reflected the excellent cooperation of the State and its open attitude to the universal periodic review. It welcomed the acceptance by Turkmenistan of its recommendation on pursuing efforts to increase the participation of women in political and public life, thereby strengthening inclusion and combating discrimination. It also welcomed the acceptance of its recommendation on setting up a national human rights institution.

302. Belarus greatly appreciated the efforts made by Turkmenistan to encourage the protection of human rights, such as the legislative measures taken to democratize State and public life. It noted with satisfaction that Turkmenistan had accepted most of the recommendations. It was convinced that their implementation would allow the Government to achieve further success in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It welcomed the State's accession to new international agreements and its submission of periodic reports to the treaty bodies. It noted that the recommendations accepted included some on accession to other treaties.

*** The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are posted, if available, on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

303. China appreciated the response from Turkmenistan, and commended the State for its constructive participation in the universal periodic review and its commitments to implement the recommendations accepted. It welcomed the acceptance of the recommendations made by China on education and health, strengthening the building of a social security system, and eliminating poverty. It commended the State's achievements in sustainable economic and social development, and supported the adoption of the report of the Working Group.

304. Cuba thanked the delegation for its presentation and additional comments. Turkmenistan had demonstrated a positive attitude during the review. It recognized the State's progress in the framework of the new Constitution, the dissemination of human rights instruments, the protection and promotion of the rights of children and women, and its achievements in preventing HIV/AIDS and in the education system. It welcomed the State's acceptance of most of the recommendations, including its own. Cuba recommended that the report of the Working Group be adopted, and wished Turkmenistan success in its implementation of the recommendations accepted.

305. Djibouti noted that the thorough report of the Working Group gave a very complete picture of the situation of human rights in Turkmenistan. It commended the State for having taken advantage of the favourable economic situation and for maintaining its efforts, even during the economic crisis, which demonstrated the Government's willingness to improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of its citizens and to further the achievement of their rights. It referred to the State's process of harmonizing legislation and its accession to a number of international human rights instruments, and its demonstrated commitment to implement the recommendations.

306. The Islamic Republic of Iran thanked Turkmenistan for its informative report. It praised the State's active participation in the universal periodic review, which had demonstrated its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. It noted the detailed information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the first cycle. The Islamic Republic of Iran had made four recommendations, all accepted by Turkmenistan; It was confident that they would be faithfully implemented. It recommended that the report of the Working Group be adopted, and wished the Government success in its implementation of the recommendations accepted.

307. Malaysia appreciated the commitment, transparency and forthcoming engagement of Turkmenistan in the process, and was pleased with the updates and responses provided by the delegation during the review. It commended Turkmenistan for the implementation of the strategic and long-term national programmes and activities in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights. It noted that the recommendations made by Malaysia had been duly considered and accepted. It recommended that the report of the Working Group be adopted, and wished Turkmenistan the best for its implementation of the recommendations accepted.

308. Maldives welcomed the ongoing commitment of Turkmenistan to engage positively in the universal periodic review. It appreciated the State's progress in fulfilling its commitments to implement review recommendations. Turkmenistan had taken important measures to protect the rights of and to combat trafficking in women and children, among other issues. It applauded Turkmenistan for making full use of the review, and called for the adoption of the report of the Working Group. It wished Turkmenistan well in its implementation of the recommendations accepted.

309. Morocco thanked the delegation for its detailed presentation. It commended Turkmenistan for its positive and constructive cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism, as shown by its acceptance of most of the recommendations. It took note of the information on the recommendations pending, and thanked Turkmenistan for the acceptance of its two recommendations: one on continuing efforts to train the judiciary and bodies implementing laws in the area of human rights and increasing awareness in this area, and the other on setting up a national human rights institution.

310. Nigeria thanked Turkmenistan for its active participation in the process, and commended its cooperation with the Human Rights Council. It noted with admiration the collaboration with OHCHR in the monitoring of the implementation of its obligations under the relevant international instruments, and urged Turkmenistan to maintain and strengthen it. It also noted with satisfaction that Turkmenistan had accepted the recommendations made by

Nigeria urging that legislation under consideration for adoption be consistent with international law and the State's international obligations.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

311. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Turkmenistan, five other stakeholders made statements.

312. Human Rights Watch was deeply disappointed that the Government had rejected many of the recommendations that cut to the core of its repressive policies, and that it continued to deny the existence of widely-recognized problems, including the long-standing use of imprisonment as a tool for political retaliation. Given that human rights defenders could not work openly, and the lack of external scrutiny, it was impossible to estimate the number of political prisoners. It regretted the rejection of recommendations that would have had a real impact on freedom of expression, including protection for journalists and media workers, and of the recommendation on decriminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex. It called for an end to the blocking of websites offering a plurality of views, and the creation of a country-specific mechanism by the Human Rights Council.

313. Amnesty International welcomed the acceptance of the recommendation on guaranteeing freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and improvements in national legislation, although it was concerned that there had been no genuine attempt to guarantee these rights in practice. Journalists, human rights defenders and other activists continued to be subjected to harassment, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and imprisonment after unfair trials. Turkmenistan had also failed to reform the registration process for non-governmental organizations and not allowed them to work freely. It was deeply disappointed that recommendations on providing information on the whereabouts of prisoners had been rejected, and that there were people who had had no news of their relatives for 10 years. While it welcomed the acceptance of the recommendations relating to torture, it noted that impunity for perpetrators of torture continued.

314. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation was concerned that calls to release conscience objectors to military service had been rejected. It called for the creation of appropriate alternatives to military service and for the release of the nine objectors currently imprisoned, all of whom were willing to perform an alternative service. It was also disturbed at the rejection of the recommendation on releasing all prisoners of conscience. It expected an explanation from the delegation of the Government's assertion that there were no laws restricting the activities of religious organizations, and wished to know how this could be reconciled with the recently adopted code on administrative offences. It hoped that this issue would be addressed by the State in its closing remarks.

315. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme commended Turkmenistan for having accepted most of the recommendations, and took note of its openness to human rights mechanisms since the first cycle of the universal periodic review. It welcomed the ratification of a number of international instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the measures taken to criminalize trafficking in persons. It hoped that the reflection on the issuing of invitations to the special procedures would result in effective cooperation. It urged the authorities to create favourable conditions for an inclusive dialogue on better protection of ethnic and religious minorities. Efforts should be made in the promotion of pluralism in the media and to implement the law on freedom of the press (2013).

316. Sudwind regretted that an English-language version of the addendum submitted by Turkmenistan had not been made available. It welcomed the State's accession to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and it had supported recommendations on increasing efforts to implement it. It urged Turkmenistan to offer human rights education to border guards in order to prevent incidents, such as the killing in 2012 of an Iranian Turkmen fisherman who had lost his way because of bad weather and poor equipment. It noted that previous agreements to allow Turkmen from the Islamic Republic of Iran to visit relatives had been replaced with more restrictive

measures, under which they were regarded as tourists and could be fined if they did not stay in a hotel.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

317. The delegation of Turkmenistan thanked all the delegations and organizations that had taken part in discussions on the State's review. It was especially grateful to the delegates for their acknowledgement of the State's achievements and progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. The second review and the interactive session would undoubtedly have a positive impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in Turkmenistan.

318. The State continued to tackle the issue of creating the economic conditions and opportunities necessary to allow people to enjoy fully their right to a dignified and prosperous life. Turkmenistan was convinced that the progress made in this area would bring about continued progress in the realization of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights. Its drive to bring its national legislation into line with its international obligations would lay a firm legal foundation for the enjoyment of human rights.

319. The delegation of Turkmenistan reiterated the State's commitment to and support for the universal periodic review.

Burkina Faso

320. The review of Burkina Faso was held on 22 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Burkina Faso in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/BFA/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/BFA/2 and Corr.1);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/BFA/3).

321. At its 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Burkina Faso (see sect. C below).

322. The outcome of the review of Burkina Faso comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/4), the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

323. The Minister for Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Responsibility, Julie Prudence Somda-Nigna, thanked the delegations that had contributed to the interactive dialogue on Burkina Faso, and also the President of the Human Rights Council, the High Commissioner, the members of the troika (Benin, Indonesia and Ireland), the secretariat and also civil society organizations for their reports.

324. Burkina Faso had already accepted most of the recommendations made during the session of the Working Group. The recommendations that it had accepted could not be easily made to comply with the current cultural and socioeconomic realities of Burkina Faso. The delegation reiterated its readiness to continue efforts to ensure the realization of human rights and to cooperate with the mechanisms of the Council.

325. Burkina Faso had already taken the steps necessary to implement the recommendations that it accepted. The Government had begun a campaign to convey the results of the universal periodic review to public and private actors throughout the country. The Government had organized communications sessions for its partners, the press and for the staff of the Ministry for Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Responsibility. It had

also planned communications sessions for ministerial departments, institutions, civil society organizations and members of the national committee for follow-up on the implementation of review recommendations. The recommendations had been regrouped and distributed to the ministries directly concerned for integration into their plans of action with a view to their implementation. A drafting committee placed under the authority of the national committee for follow-up would then undertake a review of the national plans of plan for the implementation of review recommendations in view of the new recommendations made during the second review cycle.

326. The delegation provided further information on the 18 recommendations that the State had not accepted, in particular, those on two important questions: the abolition of the death penalty by ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the repeal of provisions on the death penalty under the Criminal Code; and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

327. With regard to the abolition of the death penalty, the Government had worked tirelessly thereon to earn the support of different sectors of society, which did not, however, always see the merits of abolition. The Ministry for Human Rights and the Promotion of Civil Responsibility continued its advocacy on the matter with other ministerial departments, the Parliament and other national institutions. The recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty could not, unfortunately, be accepted by Burkina Faso. The question would continue to be the subject of consultations in the hope of a favourable outcome within the next few months, with the support of civil society organizations.

328. With regard to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Government was currently studying the possibility of proceeding on this matter. Burkina Faso had already made to ensure full enjoyment of the rights of the child, in spite of the constraints faced; nonetheless, the Government could not currently support the recommendation, given the risk of not being able to fulfil significantly the treaty obligations stemming therefrom.

329. Burkina Faso hoped that, with the assistance of the international community, it would be able to address the persistent constraints outlined in its national report.

330. Burkina Faso had made many achievements since its first review. It would spare no effort to make a contribution, however modest, to allow the review mechanism to tackle the challenges it must face.

331. Burkina Faso reaffirmed its readiness to implement all the recommendations it had accepted. In spite of the efforts of the Government, however, certain factors caused a serious hindrance to the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights for the majority of the population. The delegation referred specifically to persistent poverty, a lack of resources, climate change and sociocultural burdens. There were major challenges in the strategic areas of education, literacy and health, including maternal and child health. For those reasons, Burkina Faso would appreciate any cooperation in implementing the recommendations made at its second review.

332. Burkina Faso remained convinced that the universal periodic review would contribute considerably to progress in human rights throughout the world, and strengthen their universality.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

333. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Burkina Faso, 14 delegations made statements.***

*** The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are posted, if available, on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

334. Maldives appreciated the large number of recommendations accepted by Burkina Faso. It had also noted the myriad of activities under way to strengthen national institutions, harmonize domestic legislation and implement national policies. Such initiatives would undoubtedly be greatly enhanced by the State's initiative to bring its reporting obligations up to date. Maldives hoped that Burkina Faso would continue its constructive and friendly engagement with the Human Rights Council.

335. Morocco commended Burkina Faso for its commitment to human rights and its involvement with the universal periodic review, having accepted 85 per cent of the recommendations made. Morocco supported the State's reforms to establish a legislative and political environment favourable to development and the enjoyment of human rights. National policies on human rights and justice were important steps in consolidating human rights. Morocco welcomed the strategy for accelerating growth and sustainable development. The State's economic policy constituted a broad platform for the enjoyment of economic and social rights and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Morocco also commended Burkina Faso for its efforts to incorporate human rights education at different school levels. Morocco was confident that Burkina Faso would succeed in the human rights challenges it faced.

336. Nigeria expressed admiration for the commitment of Burkina Faso to submitting an interim report to the Human Rights Council in 2015 on the progress made in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, which also reflected the State's commitment to cooperate with the Council and its determination to continue to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens. Nigeria urged Burkina Faso to build on its considerable progress in the field of human rights.

337. The Philippines applauded Burkina Faso for having supported the recommendations on the ratification of several international human rights conventions and continuing to implement anti-corruption measures and policies in order to improve the delivery of social services to its people. The Philippines appreciated the State's acceptance of its recommendation on creating an enabling environment for women and girls and gender equality, and on addressing the problem of social exclusion, which hindered the full realization of women's rights. The Philippines believed that the State's acceptance of its recommendations would strengthened the programmes launched to combat child trafficking and child labour.

338. The Sudan thanked the delegation for its positive reaction to the recommendations made. Burkina Faso had accepted 133 recommendations, which reflected its determination to work for human rights and to uphold its review commitments. The Sudan appreciated the acceptance of the two recommendations that it made, and the fact that the universal periodic review was an excellent opportunity to assess progress.

339. Togo congratulated Burkina Faso on its commitment to the universal periodic review process and its support for the universal values of human rights. The progress achieved in the adoption of policies and strategies to improve the promotion of all human rights was welcome. Togo particularly commended the State's decision to submit an interim report in 2015 on the progress made in implementing review recommendations. It thanked Burkina Faso for having accepted the recommendations it made, and invited the international community to continue to give support and assistance to Burkina Faso.

340. The United Arab Emirates commended Burkina Faso for its report. It supported the State's efforts to promote a culture of human rights and fundamental freedoms through the measures taken in all areas for the promotion of human dignity, achieving social equality and promoting the rule of law. It also welcomed the State's commitment to work with international institutions and the international community.

341. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the efforts made by Burkina Faso to address structural inequalities. It referred to significant achievements, such as the rise in the primary education schooling rate from 46.5 per cent in 2001 to 79.1 per cent in 2012. It expressed its appreciation of the willingness of the Government of Burkina Faso to implement the recommendations accepted at its first review, despite the socioeconomic challenges that it faced. Lastly, it encouraged the Government to continue to deepen social

policies in order to ensure the inclusion of the neediest sectors of the population, for which the support and solidarity of the international community was needed.

342. Viet Nam greatly appreciated the determination shown by Burkina Faso to promote human rights, and how it placed the enjoyment of human rights at the centre of its development, despite persisting socioeconomic constraints. The progress made in various areas was welcomed, including education for girls and access to drinking water and sanitation. Viet Nam welcomed the State's acceptance of many recommendations, including those it had made.

343. Algeria stated that the commitment of Burkina Faso to human rights had been reflected at the normative level in its recent accession to a number of international instruments and adoption of national laws aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. Tangible efforts made in several human rights areas had been identified, including the creation of the Ministry for Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Responsibility, a national human rights commission, a national council to combat female circumcision and a national council for the advancement of women. Algeria appreciated the State's acceptance of the recommendations it had made, and reiterated its appeal to the international community to provide Burkina Faso with the technical assistance and capacity-building necessary for it to tackle the challenges posed in the promotion and protection of human rights.

344. Benin appreciated the quality of the report submitted by Burkina Faso, which reflected the State's determination to honour its commitments through the implementation of international instruments to which it was a party, and through the progress made in education, health and gender promotion, and in the protection of the rights of children and persons with disabilities. Benin encouraged the authorities of Burkina Faso to continue on that path, and the international community to assist in those efforts.

345. Botswana appreciated the efforts made by Burkina Faso to eradicate female genital mutilation, and commended the State for its acceptance of many recommendations to eradicate it and other harmful traditional practices. Botswana also welcomed the voluntary pledge to submit an interim report in 2015 on the progress made in the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations, which clearly demonstrated the State's commitment to the review process and human rights in general.

346. Djibouti welcomed the progress made by Burkina Faso since its second review in April. Burkina Faso had accepted most of the recommendations made, some of which had already been implemented, such as the recommendation on the establishment of a comprehensive job creation programme for young people. It also referred to reform to ensure the independence of the judiciary and access to justice, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

347. Equatorial Guinea pointed out the commitment made by Burkina Faso to implement the recommendations made during the second review cycle, and the considerable progress made at different levels. The Government had strengthened its legal framework by ratifying international human rights treaties and promoting human rights laws at the national level. Burkina Faso had established a number of public sector policies and strategies, which had contributed to the effectiveness of action on human rights. In addition, significant progress had been made in reducing inequalities between men and women, including through a review of the Constitution. It congratulated Burkina Faso on its cooperation with human rights mechanisms. Burkina Faso closely had in fact collaborated with special procedures as a member of the Human Rights Council and with the High Commissioner with a view to strengthening capacities.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

348. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Burkina Faso, four delegations made statements.

349. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues and its member organization, Mouvement burkinabé des droits de l'homme et des peuples (MBDHP), welcomed the State's acceptance of important recommendations, particularly on criminalizing all forms of violence against women, stepping up efforts to put an end to female genital mutilation, and

the adoption of a children's code in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They denounced, however, the ongoing attacks on freedom of press and opinion, and recommended the decriminalization of press offences and the outright repeal of Act No. 026-2008/AN of 8 May 2008 on the suppression of acts of vandalism during demonstrations. They remained concerned about the independence of the judiciary, and stated that the authorities should investigate complaints of torture and ill-treatment by State officials. They called upon the Government to bring its practice into line with its commitments by improving detention conditions, including in matters of infrastructure, food and health care, and the application of the rules on the separation of prisoners. Lastly, they encouraged Burkina Faso to issue a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders and to review its position on the recommendations in this regard made during the review.

350. Franciscans International welcomed the acceptance by Burkina Faso of the recommendations on the equitable distribution of safe drinking water and on making the right to water a national priority. Despite those efforts, Franciscans International found that poor wastewater management, combined with pollution from mining, had affected rivers and water tables, causing waterborne diseases, which, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Hydrology, was a major cause of infant mortality. Franciscans International encouraged the Government to take effective measures to implement the recommendations accepted. In particular, it recommended that the Government improve access to services by providing equitable access, specifically in rural and peri-urban areas; ensure the participation of local communities in decision-making relating to the establishment of water infrastructure, and ensure a key role for women in those processes; and adopt criminal, civil and administrative provisions, in an appropriate manner, to punish those responsible for the pollution of clean sources of water and for poor wastewater management.

351. Save the Children International spoke also on behalf of the Coalition au Burkina Faso pour les droits de l'enfant (COBUFADE). It welcomed the efforts made by the Government to protect the rights of the child and for its acceptance of review recommendations on the adoption of a children's code and on strengthening efforts to combat all forms of violence and the exploitation of children. It drew, however, attention to two issues. Obtaining reliable data on child protection was difficult, despite the importance of such information for the implementation of policies, legislation and adequate measures to respond to violations. It urged the Government to establish and make operational a permanent system of monitoring and collecting information on the situation of children, and to allocate sufficient resources to its realization by increasing the budget of the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity by 15 per cent by the end of 2017. It expressed concern at the rejection of the recommendation on the total and explicit abolition of corporal punishment. According to a national study on violence against children, 80.2 per cent of children surveyed had been victims of violence. The violence was committed in places where children should feel safe; instead, 86.6 per cent of acts of violence were perpetrated in the home and 53.8 per cent at school. The Government must enact legislation prohibiting and punishing all forms of violence against children everywhere, including in the family.

352. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO) commended Burkina Faso for its cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism and its willingness to implement many recommendations. It appreciated the positive role that Burkina Faso played in contributing to peace and stability in western Africa. It encouraged the State to continue on that path of peace and constructive engagement with all neighbouring States. It was concerned, however, by the continuous violence and acts of discrimination against women, including domestic violence and the abhorrent practice of female genital mutilation. It called upon the Government not only to redouble its efforts to address female genital mutilation but also to promote education and an increase understanding of that harmful practice in both rural and urban areas. It also called upon Burkina Faso to make every effort to combat child trafficking and child labour, and encouraged it to increase public awareness in human rights campaigns, including by providing training to national law enforcement forces.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

353. The delegation of Burkina Faso thanked all speakers, particularly for the encouraging remarks on the efforts made by the State to ensure the enjoyment of human rights and for the comments made in a spirit of dialogue with a view to improving the situation of human rights in general.

354. Burkina Faso reaffirmed its commitment to cooperation, and hoped to receive assistance from all relevant international and national bodies in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

355. With regard to the observations made, the delegation highlighted that it had already provided information on freedom of the press. On the issue of its reporting obligations to the treaty bodies, Burkina Faso was submitting reports on migrant workers and combating racial discrimination, and a report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

356. The delegation noted the reported lack of statistics concerning the rights of the child and detention, and would take steps to investigate the matter.

357. Regarding violence against women, a law would soon be adopted against it. On female genital mutilation, the Government actively supported the adoption of a resolution by the United Nations system to combat that practice.

Cape Verde

358. The review of Cape Verde was held on 23 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Cape Verde in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CPV/1 and Corr.1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 26/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CPV/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 26/21, paragraph 5 (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CPV/3).

359. At its 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Cape Verde (see sect. C below).

360. The outcome of the review of Cape Verde comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/5), the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

361. The Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the United Nations at Geneva, José Luis Monteiro, presented additional information on the review to the Human Rights Council. The report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Cape Verde reflected faithfully and in detail the substance of the work conducted in April. That work was supported by substantive documents, in particular the national report.

362. Cape Verde reiterated its gratitude to the Secretariat and to the members of the troika – Burkina Faso, Guatemala and Kazakhstan – for their support.

363. The exchanges during the session of the Working Group demonstrated that the State had come a long way in the promotion and protection of human rights, and that it was determined to continue along that path.

364. Cape Verde had accepted all recommendations made during the session of the Working Group. It pointed out this fact with satisfaction, because it demonstrated that the concerns of its partners were very similar to its own. The implementation of the recommendations nonetheless posed a significant challenge for the institutional capacities of

the State's administration and, in certain cases, also placed a burden on its economic resources. Progress in the areas of organization and systematization were particularly important in this quest for efficiency. Such progress was therefore a priority.

365. Relevant national departments were already carrying out their part of the implementation of recommendations, and contributing to the formulation of a global plan of action for their implementation, together with procedures to monitor, coordinate and motivate at the operational and political levels. The formulation of a global human rights plan should provide a more inclusive and integrated framework for the implementation of national action, and also stimulate the preparation of other plans of action in more specific areas requiring attention.

366. Coordination between institutions was also important in the task of bringing the submission of national reports to the treaty bodies up to date. The procedures of coordination were being examined with a view to adopting a decision thereon in the near future.

367. The establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris principles was an urgent matter. Relevant draft legislation already existed; however, the consultations that preceded placing the draft on Parliament's agenda had led to the conclusion a better understanding of relations on all levels between Parliament and the Office of the Ombudsman was needed.

368. The institutional issues raised were considered to be priority areas for the Government, particularly with regard to technical assistance. Cape Verde planned to approach OHCHR to request its support.

369. During the session of the Working Group, the Minister for Justice had extended a standing invitation to the special procedures to visit the country. A written invitation would be issued soon.

370. Cape Verde reiterated its support for the report of the Working Group, which could guide efforts, in partnership with the international community, in the promotion of human rights in the country and serve as a framework for monitoring the implementation of efforts.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

371. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Cape Verde, 14 delegations made statements.

372. Cuba thanked Cape Verde for the timely information provided to the Human Rights Council with regard to the recommendations made. During the review, the progress seen with regard to equal access to different levels of education, the efforts to develop a legal framework for the protection of the rights of the child, and the measures taken to achieve the full implementation of public policies for the promotion of gender equality and against violence had been acknowledged. It thanked the State for its acceptance of so many recommendations, in particular those made by Cuba. It recommended the adoption of the report.

373. Gabon welcomed the fact that Cape Verde had ratified numerous universal human rights instruments, and encouraged it to continue efforts to eliminate gender stereotypes through the implementation of awareness-raising programmes on gender equality. While applauding the remarkable progress made in the area of education, Gabon recommended that Cape Verde continue to take measures to provide education free of charge in order to provide access to preschool education for children from underprivileged families. Gabon wished Cape Verde every success in the implementation of the recommendations accepted.

374. Maldives welcomed the delegation of Cape Verde, a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States. It applauded the Government's commitment to the universal periodic review, as shown by its acceptance of all the recommendations made during the session of the Working Group. Maldives noted with appreciation that Cape Verde would soon issue a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, as it had recommended at the first review. It encouraged Cape Verde to work with OHCHR and other stakeholders to fulfil its

obligations under international human rights treaties and to seek the assistance of OHCHR, if necessary.

375. Morocco supported the commitment of Cape Verde to creating a legislative and political environment conducive to the enjoyment of the rule of law and human rights. It congratulated the national commission for human rights and citizenship on its key role in the implementation of public policies in these areas, and on the drafting of new statutes in accordance with the Paris principles. It congratulated the authorities on the reform of the education system to ensure universal and mandatory education up to the tenth year of schooling, and noted the progress made in schooling rates for girls in the primary system. Morocco supported the State's request for technical assistance.

376. Mozambique noted with satisfaction the State's successful implementation of the recommendations made during the first review cycle. Cape Verde had shown remarkable improvements since its first report in 2008. As an important member of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries, Cape Verde had been an example of political commitment to the promotion of the human rights of its citizens. It recalled the State's ratification of nine core United Nations human rights treaties, and praised its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review and its decision to accept all the recommendations made.

377. Nigeria commended Cape Verde for its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and with OHCHR in monitoring the implementation of its obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments. It urged Cape Verde to continue its cooperation with the Council and its commitment to the promotion of the human rights of its citizens.

378. The Philippines noted the State's significant resource constraints, which hampered its implementation of human rights programmes. It welcomed the State's acceptance of its recommendation to continue its cooperative engagement with regional and international partners and to ensure adequate resources for implementing human rights policies and programmes. It also welcomed the acceptance by Cape Verde of recommendations on creating a national commission on human rights and citizenship in accordance with the Paris principles. It noted the great importance accorded by Cape Verde to human rights, as shown by its acceptance of all recommendations made.

379. Togo welcomed the State's commitment to issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It thanked Cape Verde for its readiness to implement the recommendations made by Togo, and supported the State's call to the international community to support it in the implementation of the recommendations received by means of economic, social and environmental policies that favour sustainable development and the strengthening of human rights.

380. Viet Nam understood the difficulties faced by a small island developing State, poor in natural resources, and thus welcomed the progress made in the promotion of human rights, particularly in the implementation of the recommendations accepted. It noted the results made in such areas as equality between men and women and education. It also welcomed the acceptance of so many recommendations, including those made by Viet Nam, on the rule of law and the Millennium Development Goals. It supported the adoption of the report.

381. Algeria stated that Cape Verde has shown great openness and cooperation during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, as shown by its acceptance of all recommendations made. Algeria congratulated Cape Verde on having accepted the two recommendations it had made on continuing efforts aimed at supporting the national commission on human rights and citizenship to bring it into conformity with the Paris Principles and on strengthening cooperation with the treaty bodies. The implementation of these measures would undeniably have a positive impact on the protection of human rights in the country.

382. Angola was pleased with the continuing commitment of Cape Verde to the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. Cape Verde was an example for Africa, particularly in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. It welcomed the State's decision to accept all recommendations made by Member States. Angola called upon the international community and the Council to take into account the situation in the country and to provide

technical assistance to support the implementation of the recommendations that the State had accepted.

383. Benin noted with satisfaction that Cape Verde had undertaken several legislative reforms and ratified several human rights instruments, particularly in the areas of education, health and housing. It encouraged Cape Verde to continue its reforms and invited the international community to support them.

384. Botswana thanked Cape Verde for the comprehensive information that it had provided. It appreciated the State's initiatives in ensuring gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence. It noted the development of a national plan for combating gender-based violence and the support network for victims of domestic violence, and the programme of action for the promotion of gender equality and the action of the Cape Verde association of women jurists.

385. China commended the efforts and achievements made by Cape Verde in human rights, and expressed its appreciation for having accepted the recommendations it had made. It appreciated the efforts made to continue to promote economic, social and cultural rights and to strengthen the social protection system. It appealed to the international community to understand that, as a developing country, Cape Verde faced challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights. The international community should continue to provide constructive assistance to Cape Verde.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

386. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Cape Verde, three other stakeholders made statements.

387. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO) stated that, despite being at a geographical disadvantage, Cape Verde could set a good example to other developing countries in Africa in its fight against poverty and in developing its economy. It expressed concern about the prevalence of violence against women and children, and the persistence of widespread discrimination against women. Existing discriminatory stereotypes against women had led to an increase in discrimination in both public and private life. It was also concerned about violence against children, and called upon the Government to make efforts by enacting measures to combat violence and to raise awareness on this issue. Conditions in prisons were alarming; it therefore called upon the Government to take all measures necessary to improve them. It also encouraged the Government to introduce apprenticeship programmes to reduce early withdrawal from school by disadvantaged children.

388. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation noted that, although the issue of conscription had not featured in the review, Cape Verde should be commended for including in its Constitution an article allowing conscientious objectors and those unfit for military service to perform civic service. It noted, however, that in its declaration on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Cape Verde indicated that it had a system of "voluntary recruitment" that was available with parental consent for children aged 17. It urged Cape Verde to join the growing global consensus that 18 years should be the minimum age for military service in all circumstances. It called upon Cape Verde to support the active engagement of its civil society with the universal periodic review process.

389. The Commission to Study the Organization of Peace noted that Cape Verde was a socially and politically stable country that had received the second-highest ranking for governance performance in the 2012 Ibrahim Index of African Governance. While government authorization was required in order to publish newspapers, there was freedom of the press. It referred to a report that there were no reported incidents of religious intolerance; however, given that the majority of the population belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, it enjoyed a somewhat privileged status. It also noted the legal guarantees of freedom of assembly and the right to unionize, and the fact that approximately a quarter of the workforce was unionized, even though collective bargaining was reportedly rare.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

390. Cape Verde thanked participants for their comments, which had been extremely encouraging and constructive.

391. With regard to the few critical observations made, Cape Verde would examine them, even though the Government did not agree entirely with some of them. For example, with regard to the concern raised regarding discrimination against women in public life, certain challenges did continue to exist, such as violence against women, as the delegation had acknowledged during the review. It was, however, not true that discrimination was a public practice. On the issue of conditions in prisons and detention centres, to describe them as “alarming” was a great exaggeration.

392. In conclusion, Cape Verde thanked all those who had participated in the dialogue, noting the many statements of encouragement received. They would not be interpreted as a “blank cheque”, given that the Government was committed to doing its utmost to implement the recommendations and to continue the process aimed at improving the situation of human rights in the country.

Tuvalu

393. The review of Tuvalu, held on 24 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Tuvalu in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/TUV/1 and Corr.1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/TUV/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/TUV/3).

394. At its 20th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Tuvalu (see sect. C below).

395. The outcome of the review of Tuvalu comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/8), the views of Tuvalu concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/8/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

396. The delegation of Tuvalu, chaired by the Attorney General of Tuvalu, Ese Apinelu, delivered its statement via video conference recorded at the OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific, in Suva. Owing to pressing national commitments, the delegation of Tuvalu could not be present at the session of the Human Rights Council.

397. Tuvalu was committed to fulfilling its obligations with regard to the universal periodic review. The Attorney General outlined the new developments since the review of the State in April 2013, and gave an update on action taken for the recommendations that the State had accepted.

398. Tuvalu was conducting a high-level dialogue on the Government’s road map of action, which included measures that required immediate attention. The new Government had been sworn into office in August 2013.

399. Concerning the recommendations that did not enjoy the State’s support, 18 were now core components of the road map. They included issues relating to the ratification of international human rights treaties, amendments to the Constitution to prohibit gender discrimination, and a review of religious laws. Tuvalu would continue to consider recommendations that did not have its support.

400. Tuvalu had examined recommendations made by Uruguay and Slovakia, and would give its responses to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session. The Attorney General announced that both recommendations enjoyed the support of Tuvalu.

401. The Attorney General explained that, in accordance with the law in Tuvalu, any child born in its territory was eligible for citizenship, and that any child born in the country or abroad with either parent a citizen of Tuvalu could acquire citizenship. Although current law already provided for the acquisition of citizenship, the two recommendations mentioned previously had been supported, given that they had a positive approach to children's issues. She called upon the international community and the United Nations to help Tuvalu to implement those recommendations.

402. Some of the recommendations that enjoyed the support of the State had been implemented fully, while others were in progress of implementation. The lack of human, financial and technical resources was, however, a major challenge to the State's ability to implement the recommendations.

403. With regard to the recommendation made by the United States of America on organizing a by-election for the electoral district of Nukufetau, one had been held on 28 June, and that the new candidate had been sworn into office. Similarly, another by-election for the constituency of Nui had been held on 10 September; owing, however, to transportation problems, the new Member of Parliament had yet to be sworn in.

404. With regard to the recommendation made by France, Maldives, New Zealand, Azerbaijan and Italy on continuing efforts to raise awareness on the family protection and domestic violence bill and to enact it, the Department of Women, in association with the office of the Attorney General, had conducted its first community consultation in the capital on 5 June. At the consultation, the women representatives had accepted the protection given to families in a domestic household, as indicated in the bill, although student representatives had pointed out that it did not offer protection to children in boarding schools, and that the definition of household did not extend to educational institutions, such as boarding schools.

405. The second round of consultations in the outer islands had been carried out from 23 to 25 June, but had covered only three islands owing to a fuel shortage and the lack of transportation. Thanks to the assistance of the South Pacific Community, the consultation in the northern islands was completed. The recommendations and views of the community would therefore be presented to the Cabinet.

406. Most islands lacked basic food items, and the shortage of fuel compounded health issues, given that the outer islands relied on diesel generators for their health clinics. In such a situation, the consultations on the bill became secondary to satisfying the immediate need of fuel and basic food items for all people.

407. With regard to the recommendation made by Australia and New Zealand on the full implementation of the Police Powers and Duties Act, the police department, with the assistance of the New Zealand police force, had progressed in its implementation through police training and awareness-raising.

408. Most police officers on the outer islands were not aware of the Police Powers and Duties Act; the Police Department therefore had the objective of travelling to the islands concerned to train police officers on their powers under the Act. Once again, transportation was a challenge.

409. With regard to the recommendations on ratifying international human rights agreements, the Government of Tuvalu had arranged for a high-level dialogue with its partners to fulfil its goals under the national strategy for sustainable development, which included the ratification of international human rights agreements.

410. The delegate of Tuvalu called upon the international community to provide technical, financial and bilateral assistance so that Tuvalu could successfully implement the recommendations that it had accepted. Specific assistance was required to raise the awareness of citizens of human rights and of their own rights, and to train government officials and leaders on human rights so that they understood the need to promote and protect human rights.

411. The Attorney General called upon the international community to assist Tuvalu in fighting the severe effects of climate change and to commit to reduce emission levels. Lastly, she called upon those countries that had laws addressing statelessness to provide Tuvalu with legal and technical assistance to enable it to amend its own laws on citizenship and statelessness.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

412. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Tuvalu, nine delegations made statements.

413. Algeria stressed the importance that Tuvalu attributed to the universal periodic review, and congratulated it on having accepted most of the recommendations, a fact that reflected the cooperative nature of the mechanism. It appreciated in particular the fact that Tuvalu had accepted two recommendations made by Algeria on the adoption of a national plan for children and early childhood, and on efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality, with particular attention to women's access to justice and their participation in public life. Implementation of the two recommendations would contribute to the protection of human rights. Algeria invited the international community and the High Commissioner to facilitate the participation of small countries in the universal periodic review, and recommended that the outcome document on Tuvalu be adopted.

414. Cuba noted that, as a developing country, Tuvalu faced shortages and financial constraints. These challenges had nevertheless not been an obstacle to the protection and promotion of human rights for the Government of Tuvalu. During the review, Cuba highlighted the measures taken by Tuvalu to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and of those living with HIV/AIDS, to improve access to health services and to address domestic violence. It congratulated Tuvalu on having accepted most of the recommendations and wished the State every success in their implementation, particularly with regard to the measures on education and health. Cuba recommended that the outcome document on Tuvalu be adopted.

415. Djibouti congratulated Tuvalu on its commitment to the universal periodic review, and stressed that, despite the constraints it faced, Tuvalu had initiated a process of harmonizing its legislation through national consultations. It highlighted the difficulties faced by Tuvalu caused by climate change, and called upon the international community to support the State in its efforts to improve human rights. International cooperation was a key element of the universal periodic review. Djibouti also noted the utility of the review mechanism in strengthening human rights worldwide. It welcomed the initiatives already taken by Tuvalu, such as the fight against violence against women and violence at schools, and the dialogue on freedom of religion. It commended the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Djibouti encouraged Tuvalu to continue to implement the recommendations accepted and to continue its efforts to ratify international instruments, such as the Rome Statute.

416. Estonia welcomed the State's openness and transparency with regard to the second cycle of the universal periodic review, and commended it for its real commitment to improve human rights protection, despite the environmental challenges it faced. It noted the State's strong commitment to justice and the rule of law, and that it had endorsed its accession to the Rome Statute. It recognized that, owing to the lack of resources, Tuvalu had postponed the implementation of a number of recommendations on accession to core human rights treaties; Estonia appreciated, however, the State's decision to review first the legislation before accepting new obligations deriving from the treaties. Estonia encouraged Tuvalu to move on with its obligations by requesting technical assistance and financial support. It wished the State all the best in the implementation of recommendations.

417. Maldives noted the State's decision to ratify core human rights instruments, despite its capacity constraints. It was pleased that Tuvalu had accepted two of the four recommendations made by Maldives. It encouraged the Government to raise awareness and to advocate the promotion of human rights, particularly the rights of women. Maldives looked

forward to the adoption of the draft water act. It commended Tuvalu for its efforts to protect its population from the negative effects of climate change.

418. Morocco congratulated Tuvalu on its open and constructive approach towards the universal periodic review. Despite the challenges posed by climate change, Tuvalu continued to work towards the harmonization of its domestic legislation with international human rights instruments and the establishment of an institutional framework that fully guaranteed the enjoyment of human rights. It congratulated Tuvalu on having accepted most of the recommendations, three of them made by Morocco. It reiterated its support for the efforts made by Tuvalu to improve the situation of human rights, and wished the State every success in implementing the recommendations it had accepted.

419. New Zealand welcomed the State's constructive engagement with the universal periodic review, particularly the fact that it had been actively considering all recommendations, including those that it previously was unable to accept. It welcomed the State's acceptance of the recommendation made by New Zealand on enacting the family protection and domestic violence bill, and encouraged the State to raise public awareness in the outer islands. It also encouraged Tuvalu to make progress in the area of financial governance, and emphasized the need to manage public expenditure and to undertake reforms to ensure greater accountability and the effective use of resources. New Zealand encouraged all States to support the implementation efforts made by Tuvalu, and reiterated its commitment to support the State in addressing challenges through development assistance.

420. The Philippines was aware that Tuvalu was vulnerable to resource, natural, geographic, economic and climate constraints. It commended the State's efforts to overcome those challenges in advancing human rights and its engagement on climate change. The international community should respond to the appeal for technical and financial assistance made by Tuvalu to protect human rights. The Philippines was pleased that Tuvalu had accepted its recommendation on mobilizing resources to implement its human rights programmes. It wished Tuvalu well in protecting human rights.

421. Viet Nam commended Tuvalu for its engagement with the universal periodic review, despite the challenges it faced. It noted the State's seriousness in implementing the recommendations accepted, including two made by Viet Nam on strengthening national priorities for vulnerable groups and on participation in international human rights mechanisms and treaties. It recommended that the report of the Working Group be adopted. Viet Nam was ready to cooperate with Tuvalu, and wished the State success in its efforts to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights and freedoms.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

422. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Tuvalu, one stakeholder made a statement.

423. Franciscans International, Edmund Rice International and Earthjustice appreciated the commitment shown by Tuvalu to address the situation of human rights, and welcomed its acceptance of recommendations related to climate change. They commended the national plan of action to monitor the impact of climate change, and endorsed the view of the Human Rights Council that climate change had adverse implications for the enjoyment of human rights. They noted that small island States, like Tuvalu, which had contributed least to global greenhouse gas emissions, would be the worst affected by global warming. They commended the delegation of Costa Rica that had explicitly recognized its global responsibility towards the situation of Tuvalu and announced that it would become carbon neutral. They recommended that Tuvalu and the States Members of the Council take action on climate change by establishing a special procedure mandate on climate change and human rights. They encouraged Tuvalu to involve civil society, particularly women, children and people from outer islands, in the discussion on mitigation policy, and to liaise with the delegation of Costa Rica in order to develop collaboration further.

Colombia

424. The review of Colombia, held on 23 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Colombia in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/COL/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/COL/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/COL/3).

425. At its 20th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Colombia (see sect. C below).

426. The outcome of the review of Colombia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/6), the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/6/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

427. The delegation of Colombia recalled that the State had determined its position on all recommendations during the session of the Working Group, and submitted an addendum on the day of the adoption of the report. Colombia would continue to follow up on the recommendations made and its voluntary commitments through the national system for human rights and international humanitarian law, which would allow the State to submit a follow-up annual report.

428. The delegation presented information regarding the main issues addressed in the 126 accepted recommendations and the seven voluntary commitments made.

429. The victims of the internal armed conflict and land restitution were two of the main issues being addressed by the Government. The implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law had benefited hundreds of thousands of people affected by violence. The implementation of the act had also been accompanied by protection programmes.

430. The protection of human rights defenders was another priority for the Government. The establishment of the national protection unit and the amendments made to protection programme legislation were a first step. Some 7,700 people had benefited from protective measures.

431. In March 2013, the Government had launched a comprehensive plan to guarantee women a life free of violence. The plan, designed in consultation with women's organizations and with the support of the international community, set out actions that would help to overcome violence against women. The inter-agency strategy to promote integrated care for women victims of violence aimed at reducing impunity and providing care to victims.

432. Forced recruitment was a complex phenomenon that required the action of the different levels of the Government. The armed forces had proscribed the recruitment of children under 18 years of age since 1997. Illegal armed groups had, however, resorted to force and intimidation to recruit children. The State had taken preventive measures, such as the Family Welfare Institute specialized care programme, which had assisted, since 1999, more than 5,000 children. In addition, a special law recognized children demobilized from illegal armed groups as victims.

433. The fight against poverty and inequality was a major concern for the State. In 2011, the Government had established an office to address social inclusion and reconciliation issues. One of its priorities was the implementation of programmes to reduce poverty. More than 2.8 million families had benefited from the More Families in Action programme. The

Youth in Action programme had enrolled more than 27,000 young people. The Women Savers in Action programme had funded more than 187,000 women, while the Food Security Network had assisted some 158,000 families. Over the past two years, 1.7 million people have overcome poverty. These strategies had allowed Colombia to the second fastest rate of inequity reduction in the region.

434. The first Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights was held in Medellin from 28 to 30 August, with the participation of some 400 representatives of businesses, Governments, international organizations, civil society, national human rights institutions and unions. The aim of the Forum was to provide training opportunities for stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Guiding Principles. The results provided important input for the second Global Forum on Business and Human Rights, to be held in December 2013.

435. The third World Summit of Mayors and Government Leaders from Africa and of African Descent concluded on 18 September in Colombia. Some 2,000 world leaders had participated in the event, which sought to develop political dialogue and international cooperation in the African diaspora.

436. The delegation referred to another series of recommendations on which some progress had been made.

437. On 19 November 2012, Congress had passed law No. 1588/2012 approving the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Constitutional Court was reviewing the law, after which the process of ratification would be concluded.

438. With regard to primary education, since 2011 the State had implemented universal free education at the primary level and for some targeted vulnerable populations at the secondary level. Since 2012, resources had been allocated to guarantee free education in all public institutions for all 11 grades of basic education, benefiting more than 8.5 million students.

439. With regard to human rights training for security forces, the armed forces and the national police had specific curricular and extracurricular training activities; for instance, in the first quarter of 2013, some 50,000 members of the army had received human rights training.

440. The delegation acknowledged the support for the peace process received from more than 20 countries. The Government remained committed to completing the process successfully, and the twenty-fourth round of talks was being held in Havana at the time of the adoption of the Working Group report by the Human Rights Council.

441. On 18 July 2013, the Government reached an agreement with OHCHR to extend the current mandate of its Office in Colombia for one year as of 1 November. In this regard, the President of Colombia hoped that the Office could participate actively in the third phase of the agreement, which he hoped to sign with the FARC, and that the role of the Office would become a proactive one so that transitional justice, truth, justice and reparation would become effective. The delegation acknowledged the work of the Office in Colombia over the past 16 years, which had been instrumental in advancing human rights, institution-building and in other areas of joint work.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

442. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Colombia, 14 delegations made statements.

443. Algeria acknowledged that Colombia had accepted most of the recommendations made at its second review, which reflected its openness and cooperation with the mechanism. Algeria particularly noted that Colombia had accepted the two recommendations it made on a national strategy in favour of children, and on the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

444. China appreciated the efforts of the Government of Colombia to study the recommendations made, and that the State had accepted most of them. It congratulated Colombia on its success in promoting gender equality, protecting elderly persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. China believed that, in implementing the recommendations accepted, Colombia would continue to promote socioeconomic development and its people would better enjoy their rights.

445. Cuba noted the progress made in the implementation of the national development plan and the measures taken in the areas of food security, employment, housing, education, health and social, cultural and environmental protection. It welcomed the fact that Colombia had accepted most of the recommendations made, including those made by Cuba. Cuba would continue to support the peace negotiations held on the island.

446. Djibouti congratulated Colombia on having accepted most of the recommendations made during the interactive dialogue, particularly those by Djibouti. It encouraged Colombia to continue its efforts to improve the situation of human rights by favouring dialogue and national reconciliation. It also encouraged Colombia to pursue its cooperation with OHCHR.

447. Ecuador acknowledged the effort made by Colombia to cooperate with the universal periodic review as a mechanism for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. It appreciated the commitments made during the review, including the ratification of international instruments, such as the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Ecuador extended its best wishes to Colombia to reach peace.

448. Gabon noted that Colombia was party to an important number of international human rights instruments. It praised the full cooperation of the Government with the procedures and mechanisms of the United Nations system of promotion and protection of human rights. Gabon encouraged Colombia to continue its efforts to reach the full respect of human rights and to establish an effective justice system to consolidate peace and reduce impunity.

449. Maldives appreciated the ongoing commitment of Colombia to its follow-up on the pledges made and the recommendations agreed upon during the previous cycle of the review. It recognized the progress made in a number of important areas, such as the rights of indigenous peoples and labour rights, and for addressing the issue of victims of armed conflict comprehensively. The security situation had improved remarkably; the State was to be commended for its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

450. Morocco acknowledged the engagement of Colombia in the area of human rights, as reflected in the important measures taken, in particular in political and institutional reform. It noted the constructive interaction of Colombia with the universal periodic review, as seen in the large number of recommendations it had accepted, the interest shown in following them up, and the voluntary commitments made to fight impunity and human trafficking. Despite the context of armed conflict, it was moving towards the consolidation of peace.

451. Nigeria noted with admiration the many voluntary commitments made by Colombia, including a pledge to continue to follow up on the universal periodic review in the framework of its national system for human rights and international humanitarian law. Nigeria noted that Colombia had accepted its recommendation. It welcomed the State's cooperation with OHCHR, and urged it to continue its progress in the field of human rights.

452. The Philippines appreciated the fact that Colombia had accepted its recommendation on allocating more resources to anti-trafficking programmes. It acknowledged the State's voluntary commitment to design a public policy for human rights education and culture. It welcomed the legal framework for preventing torture, and hoped that, in the future, Colombia would accept its recommendation on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

453. South Africa commended the importance attached by Colombia to the universal periodic review, as shown by the presence of the Vice-President during the State's review. It appreciated the State's acceptance of the recommendation made by South Africa.

454. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the work that the Government had done to address human rights issues. It remained concerned, however, about the situation facing human rights defenders. Although the United Kingdom had asked

the Government regularly to publish information and statistics on investigations into alleged human rights abuses by military personnel, this did not emerge during the session of the Working Group. It would therefore welcome a commitment by the Government to do so.

455. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recalled that Colombia had attained universal school coverage at the primary and secondary levels and had narrowed the gap between urban and rural areas. It praised the reduction of poverty in Colombia made possible by income redistribution that considered those most in need. It reiterated its strong support for the peace process in Colombia in the hope that its people would resume their journey towards the coexistence necessary to achieve their hopes and aspirations.

456. Viet Nam acknowledged that Colombia had shown great determination in implementing the recommendations accepted at its previous review, including the recommendations made by Viet Nam on strengthening national mechanisms on human rights to enhance the rights of women, children, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in the country.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

457. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Colombia, 11 other stakeholders made statements.***

458. In a pre-recorded video message, the Ombudsman recalled that Colombia had endured an internal conflict for more than five decades. Progress had nonetheless been made in the implementation of human rights policies focusing on the fight against illegal armed groups formed after the demobilization of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) and that had been responsible for the greatest number of human rights violations. It also expressed concern at conditions of detention in prisons. The rate of overcrowding had reached 56 per cent, and there were serious problems in health services. The Office of the Ombudsman had suggested that the Government declare prisons a social emergency.

459. The Association for the Prevention of Torture regretted the fact that Colombia had not accepted the recommendations on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, purportedly because mechanisms to protect the rights of detainees were already in place. Colombia was the only country in Latin America to oppose the ratification of the Optional Protocol. The prisons in the country were overcrowded and faced a crisis situation. The report submitted by the State referred to a plan to establish a national protection mechanism. The Association urged the Government to establish the mechanism as a party to the Optional Protocol.

460. The jubilee campaign indicated that, while many Colombians exercised their right to freedom of religion, the reality was different for many Christians. Those living in conflict zones were often targeted because of their religion. Some 200 churches had been closed for security reasons, while between 20 and 30 church leaders were murdered by the armed groups every year. It requested Colombia to initiate investigations into human rights violations against church leaders and to consider adding church leaders to the category of vulnerable groups, alongside trade unionists, human rights defenders and journalists, affording them the same degree of security.

461. Plan International, on behalf of Alianza por la Niñez Colombiana, recognized the efforts made by the Government to protect the rights of children. The Government should, however, establish mechanisms to implement the victims law so that child victims of the armed conflict were considered a priority. With regard to the forced recruitment of children, there were 5,000 confirmed cases, but there had been only three convictions for this crime. The implementation of the system of juvenile penal responsibility should be a priority. It urged the Government to convene the advisory commission on system reform.

462. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom regretted the fact that Congress had adopted a law regarding military courts that strengthened impunity for crimes

*** The statements of stakeholders unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are, if available, posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

committed by the armed forces. It also noted that Colombia had rejected a recommendation on including women in the peace negotiations. It called upon the Government to enforce the decisions of the Constitutional Court on the prevention of sexual violence against women, and to implement the review recommendation on the protection and integration of LGBTI persons. It also invited the Government to implement the recommendations that it had not accepted.

463. Action Canada for Population and Development, on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative, noted the legal restrictions in force on abortion and cases of sexual violence against and murder of women, especially lesbians and trans-women. It urged the Government to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances, guaranteeing access to safe abortion services, on demand and free of charge, for women and adolescents; to ensure that violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including that perpetrated by law enforcement personnel, is rigorously investigated; and to define femicide as an offence and to establish special mechanisms to ensure justice for victims.

464. The Colombian Commission of Jurists stated that, during the review of Colombia, the Government announced that it would extend the mandate of OHCHR for three years; in July, it was, however, renewed for only one year. It noted that Colombia did not take the universal periodic review seriously because it had accepted only six recommendations unconditionally, while 75 per cent of the recommendations made were considered to have been implemented or under implementation. It regretted the fact that the Government had rejected the recommendations on the human rights violations committed by security forces and the rights of victims of paramilitary groups. It added that civil society had not been consulted for the preparation of the national report.

465. Franciscans International considered that the Government of Colombia should conduct its mining policy in accordance with the review recommendations it had accepted, including more than 20 on development. It expressed concern at the Government's intention to allow mining in the moorland of Santurban, a fragile yet important ecosystem that supplied water to more than 2 million people. It recommended that the State ensure the delimitation of the moor, take concrete measures to ensure the sustainability of the water supply for the people who depended on the moor, and not issue a mining license in moorland of Santurban.

466. Amnesty International stated that the peace talks had raised hopes that the armed conflict could be coming to an end. Real peace would, however, require a commitment from all parties to end human rights abuses and a strategy to bring to justice all those responsible for them. It highlighted the State's failure to protect civilians caught in the conflict from human rights abuses by the parties involved. OHCHR had played a pivotal role in Colombia, and would be critical when a peace agreement was in place.

467. The International Commission of Jurists welcomed the State's pledge to implement the recommendations made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, but regretted the caveats attached to it. It noted that the State had accepted that reforms to the Constitution and laws must reduce rather than contribute to impunity, and its commitment to better protect indigenous people's rights, including through prior consultation and protection of land rights. It regretted that Colombia had not agreed to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture or the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights on the hearing of communications.

468. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation recalled that the Constitutional Court considered that the right to conscientious objection to military service was guaranteed by the Constitution. During the review, however, no reference was made to this issue. Legislation referring to the right to conscientious objection to military service was stalled in Parliament and military recruitment continued to rely too heavily on irregular round-ups in the street, which afforded no protection to conscientious objectors or anyone else who should not be recruited. It called upon Colombia to give greater urgency to addressing these two issues.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

469. The delegation of Colombia expressed its gratitude for the wide recognition of the State's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. This encouraged the

Government to continue to work in the pursuit of peace, reparation for victims of the armed conflict and land restitution.

470. Colombia had examined carefully the recommendations made during its second review and the Government's capacity to implement them. The Human Rights Council could rest assured of the Government's commitment to the implementation of the recommendations. Civil society played an essential role in this regard.

471. The delegation reiterated its determination to continue to contribute to the purposes of the Human Rights Council and the strengthening of its mechanisms and procedures.

Uzbekistan

472. The review of Uzbekistan, held on 24 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/UZB/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/UZB/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/UZB/3).

473. At its 20th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Uzbekistan (see sect. C below).

474. The outcome of the review of Uzbekistan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/7), the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/7/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

475. The delegation of Uzbekistan, led by the Director of the National Human Rights Centre, Akmal Saidov, thanked all the representatives of the States, the troika and the secretariat for their constructive approach and support during the review of Uzbekistan, held in April 2013. Uzbekistan had received a total of 203 recommendations, of which 101 had been accepted during the session of the Working Group, 30 had already been implemented or were being implemented, and 58 had not been accepted because they either did not comply with the international obligations of Uzbekistan or did not correspond to reality.

476. The delegation informed the Human Rights Council that Uzbekistan had also accepted 14 recommendations, to which it had committed to provide responses before the twenty-fourth session. The outcomes of the review had been approved by Parliament. They had been discussed by an interdepartmental working group under the Ministry of Justice, a number of governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. They had also been well covered by the media.

477. A draft national plan of action on the implementation of the review recommendations was being prepared. The priorities of the plan included further development of national legislation on and legal practices in promoting and protecting the human rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.

478. Significant steps had been taken in the field of human rights since the consideration of the second national report of Uzbekistan.

479. In May 2013, a delegation led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Uzbekistan, during which cooperation in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations was also discussed. A preliminary agreement had been reached with OHCHR on the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the National

Human Rights Centre, OHCHR, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and on the implementation of a joint technical project for the period 2014-2017.

480. In June 2103, the third and fourth periodic reports of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two initial reports under the Optional Protocols to Convention had been considered. Work had also been implemented for the fourth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture.

481. The Government of Uzbekistan had adopted a special resolution on the implementation of ILO Conventions, and a national plan of action had been approved. A round table had been organized to discuss the prospects of technical cooperation for the implementation of international commitments to Uzbekistan in the framework of ILO, with the participation of the secretariat of ILO, the International Organization of Employers, the International Trade Unions Confederation and representatives of international organizations and embassies of various States in Uzbekistan.

482. Uzbekistan had continued to cooperate in the field of the human dimension and human rights with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union and the Venice Commission.

483. Uzbekistan had also continued its reforms of the judicial system. The basic elements of the national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture had been established.

484. Large-scale activities had been carried out in order to establish a legal framework necessary for the effective organization of the prevention of trafficking in persons, including women and children.

485. The independence of the judiciary had been strengthened and the system of selection of judges improved. The role of the judiciary in governance had also been enhanced. The social status of judiciary officers was protected.

486. Uzbekistan had achieved the Millennium Development Goal on full access to universal education. According to the World Bank, the literacy rate in Uzbekistan – 99.7 per cent – was one of the highest in the world.

487. Following a decision by Parliament, in 2013, a legal experiment on testing the draft law on the openness of government and management was being conducted in two regions of the country.

488. Efforts were being made to improve further material and technical conditions for the free and active participation of citizens and civil society institutions in addressing the problems of socioeconomic development. In Tashkent, in September 2013, an international conference had been organized for this purpose. In order to improve the organizational framework for the activities of citizens' self-governing bodies, two laws in new edition were adopted: on citizens' self-governance bodies, and on the election of the *aksakal* (chairperson) of citizens' gathering and his advisers.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

489. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Uzbekistan, 16 delegations made statements.***

490. According to Ecuador, the ratification of various international instruments by Uzbekistan had helped to strengthen promotion and protection of human rights. It welcomed the State's acceptance of all of its recommendations and the majority of those made by other States. It appreciated the efforts made by Uzbekistan to fight against discrimination on any ground, and was delighted that Uzbekistan had accepted the recommendations thereon.

491. India took note of the efforts made by Uzbekistan to improve the situation of human rights and the steps it had taken to implement the recommendations made by the treaty bodies,

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including through its national plans of action. It acknowledged the achievements that it had made in advancing women's and children's rights through educational reforms. It appreciated the State's commitment to comply with its human rights obligations and its determination to continue to observe international human rights standards in its national legislation and law enforcement practices.

492. Indonesia took note with appreciation of the State's sustainable economic growth, as shown in the 8 per cent increase in GDP over the past six years, which had enabled it to improve various aspects of the well-being of the population. In accordance with the recommendation it had made, Uzbekistan continued to strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, including by fully operationalizing the interdepartmental working group with a mandate to monitor the consideration and settlement of complaints submitted by citizens, and by considering the establishment of an independent national human rights institution.

493. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the adoption by Uzbekistan of national plans and measures to improve the situation of human rights, including political, legal and judicial reforms, and education and human rights training, and the improvement witnessed in living conditions thanks to increasing wages. It was especially pleased at the State's public health reform and appreciated its accession to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

494. Kazakhstan appreciated the State's acceptance of its three recommendations on strengthening cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms in the field of juvenile rights; supporting cooperation with neighbouring countries in countering illegal migration; and taking steps to implement fully the international treaties that it had ratified. It expected Uzbekistan to take all the measures necessary to implement the recommendations that the State had accepted.

495. Kuwait took note of the measures taken by Uzbekistan, which confirmed the State's determination to respond favourably to the requests of the Human Rights Council. Several reports had been submitted to different treaty bodies. Kuwait noted the State's serious intention to implement the recommendations accepted.

496. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was pleased that Uzbekistan had accepted a large number of recommendations and taken the steps and actions necessary for their implementation. It commended Uzbekistan for the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights, the efforts to provide social protection for the most vulnerable groups and its achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on universal education.

497. Malaysia appreciated the State's commitment, transparency and forthcoming engagement. It was pleased with the updates and responses provided by the State, and applauded it for its continued positive engagement and commitment to implementing the recommendations accepted. It was pleased to note that its recommendations had been given due consideration and been accepted by Uzbekistan.

498. Maldives appreciated the State's commitment to strengthening the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. It looked forward to continuing to work together in the framework of the Human Rights Council on the full range of human rights issues. It hoped that the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations from the first and second review cycles would continue to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in Uzbekistan.

499. Morocco noted with satisfaction the implementation of the national strategy on democratic reforms to guarantee the primacy of and the respect for the law, and to protect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of individuals by, inter alia, maintaining the balance of power, strengthening the legislative branch, reforming the criminal code and improving the penitential system. It also welcomed such initiatives as the declaration of the year of well-being and prosperity, and thanked Uzbekistan for having accepted its two recommendations.

500. Nigeria was pleased that Uzbekistan had accepted its recommendation, and commended it for its continuing efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the protection of human rights and freedoms. It urged Uzbekistan to maintain cooperation with its international

partners on human rights protection, and to continue to build on the considerable progress that it had made in the field of human rights.

501. Oman appreciated the efforts made by Uzbekistan to promote human rights and to guarantee a dignified life for its people. It thanked Uzbekistan for having accepted its recommendations, especially those on stepping up efforts to guarantee universal health care and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and their social integration. It also appreciated State's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

502. Pakistan was encouraged by the fact that Uzbekistan had accepted most of the recommendations, including those that it had made. It appreciated the number of activities undertaken, including the State's adoption of a national plan of action to implement its human rights commitments and the legislative measures taken to ensure the rule of law and the socioeconomic progress.

503. The Philippines was glad that the national plans of action that Uzbekistan had formulated were assured of implementation, in accordance with its recommendation. It recognized the State's relentless efforts to improve quality of life and the standard of living of its people, especially of women, children and young people. The State's acceptance of the recommendation made by the Philippines on strengthening the enabling environment for the protection and promotion of human rights would bode well for its people.

504. Qatar commended Uzbekistan for having accepted most of the recommendations, in particular the two recommendations that it had made. The efforts made by the State to implement the recommendations reflected the great importance that it attached to the promotion and protection of human rights, as reflected in the laws recently adopted to reaffirm the rule of law, the protection of human rights and basic freedoms.

505. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction that Uzbekistan had accepted a large number of the recommendations, which covered a wide range of problems that many States faced. This showed the State's readiness to strengthen potential in the area of promotion and protection of human rights, and to improve the national human rights system.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

506. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Uzbekistan, seven other stakeholders made statements.

507. Human Rights Watch deeply regretted that Uzbekistan had rejected most of the most relevant and urgent recommendations. Uzbekistan had categorically denied the existence of political prisoners, even though it held more than a dozen of them and had sentenced thousands of people on vague and overly broad charges. Many of those imprisoned on politically motivated charges had been subjected to torture. In April 2013, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced its decision to end prison visits to detainees. The well-documented problem of torture in police stations and prisons underlined the urgent need for Uzbekistan to act honestly on the recommendations to immediately allow ICRC to resume operations without interference. It also deeply regretted the fact that Uzbekistan had rejected the recommendations on extending a standing invitation to the special procedures and even to accept pending requests for visits. For more than a decade, Uzbekistan had refused to register local independent human rights organizations and had actively harassed and prosecuted independent rights defenders and journalists. Uzbekistan had forcefully closed numerous international non-governmental organizations and media outlets, including the office of Human Rights Watch in Tashkent. The Human Rights Council should respond to the State's atrocious human rights record and total lack of cooperation by establishing a country-specific monitoring mechanism.

508. Action Canada for Population and Development, on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative, urged Uzbekistan to include, in its commitment to end discrimination against women and its efforts to legislate on domestic violence, judicial redress for violence, support services, and access to sexual and reproductive health services for women subjected to violence, without any form of prejudice or condemnation. Such laws would not, however, be sufficient without the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, including their right to decide on the number and spacing of their children. State-sponsored

programmes for reducing maternal mortality had been reportedly used to conduct coerced and involuntary sterilization of women without their informed consent. It urged Uzbekistan immediately to revise policies that violated women's sexual and reproductive rights, specifically coercive population policies; to increase the awareness and availability of modern and safe contraceptive methods so that women could make informed choices and decisions; to train health-care workers on sexual and reproductive rights; and to uphold its commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by implementing policies that protected the sexual and reproductive rights of women.

509. The International Lesbian and Gay Association stated that Uzbekistan was one of the few countries of the former Soviet Union to continue to criminalize consensual sexual relations between men. It urged Uzbekistan to accept relevant review recommendations and to drop Criminal Code article 120, which criminalized consensual same-sex relations between men, and to take measures to address discrimination against LGBT persons. It called upon Uzbekistan to release men who had been imprisoned under article 120, and to repeal the article itself. Law enforcement agencies were responsible for many of the human rights violations that LGBT persons experienced. It also urged Uzbekistan to take measures to investigate violence against LGBT persons, to punish those responsible for it and to prevent further violence by publicly condemning it.

510. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues deeply regretted the fact that Uzbekistan had rejected recommendations on the freedom of expression and association, human rights defenders, and torture. Grave human rights violations continued, including the enactment of oppressive legislation threatening the personnel of non-governmental organizations and the harassment of human rights defenders through legal proceedings, arbitrary arrests and daily surveillance. In June 2013, Tolekan Ismailova, a Kyrgyz director of a non-governmental organization Director and Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, had been denied entry and deported. Since its previous review, Uzbekistan had taken no measure to combat torture and ill-treatment, which remained a routine practice during investigation. It also deeply regretted that Uzbekistan had rejected recommendations on bring national legislation into line with international standards. ICRC had stopped visiting detainees owing to the lack of constructive dialogue with the authorities. It urged Uzbekistan to release human rights defenders and political prisoners, to allow independent non-governmental organizations to open freely, and to guarantee that they and journalists enjoyed the right to freedom of expression, assembly and association. It also urged Uzbekistan to ratify key instruments, such as the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol thereto.

511. Amnesty International deeply regretted the State's rejection of the recommendations on releasing those detained on politically motivated charges. At least eight human rights defenders convicted in unfair trials were serving long prison terms in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions. Uzbekistan had maintained that some of the recommendations aimed at combating torture had been or were being implemented; reports of widespread torture and other ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners nonetheless continued. Amnesty International was concerned that, with the pretext of fighting terrorism, suspected members of Islamic movements and groups were forcibly returned and subjected to incommunicado detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and long prison sentences, following unfair trials. Uzbekistan had once again stated that the issue of Andijan was "closed", although a thorough, independent and impartial international investigation was crucial. It regretted that Uzbekistan had rejected the recommendations on strengthening and deepening its interaction with international mechanisms, including the special procedures, as "not part of its obligations under internationally agreed human rights standards".

512. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation referred to the recommendation made by Slovakia on conscientious objection to military service, which Uzbekistan had listed among those it considered already implemented or in the course of implementation. It hoped that the State's answer implied that Uzbekistan was currently revising its military recruitment legislation to make the possibility of alternative service available not just to members of a very limited number of registered religious groups, and also that it was addressing the discriminatory length of alternative service. It asked which active measures Uzbekistan was

taking to protect conscientious objectors from reprisals, and looked forward to a follow-up report on all these issues.

513. In a joint statement with the Expert Working Group, based in Tashkent, CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation stated that at least 15 civil society activists were still imprisoned on politically motivated charges after having been sentenced to lengthy prison terms ranging from 10 to 15 years, including Azam Turgunov and Dilmurod Saidov, whose health had deteriorated acutely while in custody. While Uzbekistan had decided to allow ICRC unfettered access to detention and prison facilities, prison authorities had reportedly routinely transferred imprisoned activists to other penal institutions prior to their visits to prevent an objective assessment of their condition. Uzbekistan also continued to persecute human rights activists, including 75-year-old Turaboy Juraev, who had been sentenced to five years in prison on spurious charges of extortion and fraud, and Nadejda Atayeva, who had been sentenced in absentia to seven years for embezzlement. CIVICUS encouraged Uzbekistan to adopt and implement the recommendations on eliminating unjustified restrictions on freedom of association for religious groups, given that from 6,000 to 10,000 religious prisoners were reportedly being held in Uzbekistan. CIVICUS urged Uzbekistan to release all prisoners of conscience detained for peacefully expressing their religious beliefs.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

514. The delegation of Uzbekistan reiterated that the State had accepted 145 recommendations out of the 203 made. It was paying great attention to improving legislation and institutional mechanisms, including national human rights institutions, in accordance with the Paris Principles. Human rights education was another area of priority.

515. Uzbekistan had made the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals a priority and had already achieved the target indicator for education, healthcare and the environment.

516. Uzbekistan had also paid attention to the issues of the rights of the child, the rights of women, and combating human trafficking. The recommendations made during the review would be carried out through the national plan of action. Non-governmental organizations would play an active part, as would the media and international partners. In this way, the national plan of action would become a platform for the 145 recommendations made.

517. Uzbekistan recognized that, although not everything might go well and that it might not be able to uphold all the obligations, it could not accept those unilateral and biased statements made by a number of non-governmental organizations. It did not agree to such terms as “political prisoner” or “persecution for political reasons”. Crimes of this type did not exist in the Criminal Code.

518. With regard to the statement that ICRC had been forced to stop its activities, the delegation affirmed that ICRC had indeed stopped visiting prisons, even though it continued its activities in all other areas. The representative of ICRC himself had stated that ICRC had itself made that decision, not Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan respected ICRC and had nothing to do with their decision.

519. A great deal had been said about the fact that Uzbekistan, for more than 10 years, had not been registering non-governmental organizations. This was not true. When the State became independent, 200 non-governmental organizations were registered; today, the figure was over 6,500. The Government not only supported their activities but also provided them with financial assistance. Uzbekistan had registered Human Rights Watch after the State became independent; recently, however, it had started to violate national legislation on a regular basis. Uzbekistan had therefore decided that, if an organization did not uphold the law and local traditions and did not work constructively, it should be allowed to continue its activities.

520. Uzbekistan would continue to improve the Family Code and other legislation. The statement about monitoring growth of the population was also not true. The population of Uzbekistan exceeded 30 million. 20 years ago, just before the independence, it was 20 million. Therefore, it had increased by 10 million.

521. With regard to torture, the delegation reiterated that it had submitted its fourth report to the Committee against Torture in October 2012. It was also developing the national preventive mechanism. Uzbekistan had ratified the Convention against Torture in 1995. Before criticizing, it was important to look at the facts and the reality of the situation.

522. With regard to the statement by Amnesty International, the matter relating to the events in Andijan had been closed. The Government had carried out an independent investigation, and law enforcement agencies had punished those responsible and involved in the riots.

523. Uzbekistan once again thanked all the delegations that had taken the floor, and expressed its commitments to its international obligations. Uzbekistan would work closely with its national and international partners, OHCHR and UNDP in order to implement all review recommendations.

Germany

524. The review of Germany, held on 25 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Germany in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/DEU/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/DEU/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/DEU/3).

525. At its 22nd meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Germany (see sect. C below).

526. The outcome of the review of Germany comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/9), the views of Germany concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/9/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

527. The delegation, led by Hanns H. Schumacher, the Permanent Representative of Germany, stated that dialogue and cooperation were essential to the protection and promotion of human rights. Germany was trying its best to contribute to this exchange by listening, reaching out and establishing an honest dialogue with all its partners, both in government and in civil society.

528. Germany was firmly committed to the universal periodic review. In its national report, the State had shown how the recommendations accepted at its first review had been implemented. It has also provided an insight into the way the issue of human rights was being discussed in Germany.

529. The delegation expressed its thanks to the German Institute for Human Rights and German civil society for their valuable input and openness with regard to the draft national report during a public hearing, and for agreeing to enter into a shared side event on first impressions immediately after the review of the State, which added value not only to the review but also to the quality of the dialogue with civil society.

530. The 200 recommendations made had been studied carefully. The German Institute for Human Rights and civil society organizations had been invited to comment on and discuss the State's response to all recommendations. Owing to document word limits, it had been impossible to provide substantive replies to many of the recommendations.

531. The fight against racism was at the centre of many questions and recommendations during the review of the State, which had emphasized its firm commitment to fighting racism in all its forms. In this regard, a national plan of action provided for a wide range of measures. Germany had undertaken a series of endeavours to strengthen the prevention of racially motivated criminal offences, including the creation of an adequate statutory basis. The Federal Agency for Civic Education had taken action to prevent extremist, racist and xenophobic attitudes and slogans.

532. Incitement to hatred on national, racial, ethnic or religious grounds was taken very seriously by the State, which prosecuted alleged perpetrators thereof. Under the Penal Code, the racist attitudes of a perpetrator of any criminal offence could constitute an aggravating circumstance.

533. The Federal Government had assigned key importance to combating politically motivated criminal offences against Sinti and Roma, Muslims, members of the Jewish community and Germans of foreign origin. These criminal acts were recorded as hate crimes.

534. The discovery of the “NSU” murder series in November 2011 has profoundly shocked German society. These hate crimes were not only directed against the victims, but also against the whole of German society, in particular its diversity and plurality. Countering right-wing extremism and hate crimes was an ongoing task that enlisted the Government and society as a whole. The aim of the Federal Government was to bundle initiatives by civil society and different levels of government and policymaking in order to detect, prevent and respond to all manifestations of right-wing extremism and hate crimes. The Federal Government had taken a number of measures to tackle the weaknesses in the architecture of German internal security, which had, unfortunately, resulted in the crimes remaining undetected for more than a decade. Those measures included the creation of a joint defence centre against right-wing terrorism and extremism, in December 2011; a joint extremism and counter-terrorism centre, in November 2012; and of a joint database for police and intelligence services on right-wing extremism.

535. The protection of the human rights of migrants was guaranteed in Germany. Even in cases of undocumented migration, the legal system granted migrants the right to education, basic health care and statutory legal protection. In recent years, the situation for children of migrants had fundamentally improved. School attendance had become obligatory, including for children whose deportation had been temporarily suspended and for children involved in asylum procedures. Germany continued to ensure equal opportunity and participation for all persons with a migrant background in the social, economic and cultural fields. With regard to the integration of migrants, integration “summits” had been regularly hosted by the Government since 2006, and since 2007, a national integration plan had been implemented to support the integration of all regular migrants. In January 2012, a national plan of action on integration set targets in 11 fields of action.

536. While much had been achieved in recent decades to make equal rights for men and women a reality, challenges remained in some aspects of life, particularly in the labour market. The national plan of action on human rights for the period 2012–2014 had set the objectives of creating fair-income opportunities for women and men and of increasing the proportion of women in the top management levels of companies in the long term. This would entail increasing the overall employment rate of women and their employment in full-time jobs, and promoting shorter family-related exits and better integration of older women into a changing labour market. It also required specific efforts to, *inter alia*, promote equal pay, reconcile work and family life, and promote job security and insured employment.

537. Since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, a national plan of action had been designed to make the inclusion of persons with disabilities a reality, and to mainstream policy on disability into ministries, federal States (*Länder*) and communities, and into institutions and companies. A new report on inclusion showed the need for more empirical data, and to examine factors that limit participation in society, and those that foster a self-reliant and fulfilled life. The Government’s goal was to further develop the plan of action as a long-term basis for its policy on disability. Studies were being undertaken to identify the remaining gaps in the content and measures of the current plan of action.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

538. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Germany, 13 delegations made statements.***

539. Indonesia commended Germany for having accepted most of the recommendations made. Germany had faced many challenges in its the promotion and protection of human rights arising from its multicultural society. Diversity of culture was a fact of life that should be celebrated and protected. Indonesia welcomed the State's commitment to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and the promotion of equal opportunities for persons with a migrant background. Indonesia hoped that efforts in this regard would be strengthened by the implementation of the recommendations that the State had accepted.

540. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed the hope that the recommendations made at the universal periodic review would be fully implemented. It urged Germany to boost its efforts to address issues such as discrimination against ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees; the use of force and the ill-treatment of minors and foreigners in prisons, psychiatric hospitals and detention centres; and the protection of trafficked children.

541. Maldives was pleased that Germany had accepted the two recommendations it had made during the session of the Working Group, on the inclusion of specific provisions in the Criminal Code to criminalize torture and on increasing public awareness of the General Equality Treatment Act (2006).

542. Morocco welcomed the openness and the constructive approach shown by Germany throughout the consideration of its second national report. It commended Germany for the interest it had shown in issues relating to migrants, in particular their integration into German society. Morocco welcomed the efforts made to have an open dialogue with the Muslim community, and also welcomed all measures taken to combat discriminatory practices based on religion. Morocco noted that Germany had accepted a large number of recommendations.

543. Nigeria noted the numerous voluntary pledges and commitments made by Germany, and that it had accepted most of the recommendations. It was particularly pleased that Germany had taken a declared stand against racism and on the rights of migrant workers. It urged Germany to maintain its commitment to the implementation of obligations under relevant international human rights instruments.

544. The Philippines stated that, even though Germany had not accepted its recommendation on consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, it would continue to constructively engage with Germany on the protection of migrants, including migrant workers. The Philippines welcomed the acceptance, albeit partly, of its recommendation to reconsider its decision to impose criminal sanctions against irregular migrants.

545. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction that Germany had accepted most of the recommendations received, including those that the Russian Federation had made, which demonstrated its aspiration to improve the situation of human rights. The Russian Federation noted that the recommendation on withdrawing reservations to human rights treaties, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, had been accepted in principle. In this connection, the Russian Federation once again called upon Germany, together with civil society, to carefully study the recommendation and to reconsider its approach to its reservations.

546. South Africa welcomed the State's acceptance of the recommendations on racially motivated offences, and urged it to continue to take action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The large number of recommendations accepted by Germany had strengthened its commitment to the universal periodic review. South Africa noted the State's lead on the issues of safe drinking water and sanitation in the

*** The statements of those delegations that were not delivered due to time constraints are, if available, posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

work of the Human Rights Council, and encouraged the State to ensure that all efforts in this regard were aimed at ensuring the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

547. The State of Palestine commended Germany for the proactive manner with which it had engaged with the review process. It congratulated Germany on having accepted most of the recommendations, and pointed out that some of the recommendations had already been implemented. It also noted the measures taken by Germany to promote and protect human rights, including those relating to discrimination, women and migrants.

548. Togo welcomed the State's commitment to the universal principles of human rights as seen in the ratification of international instruments on human rights. It thanked Germany for having accepted most of the recommendations, including its own. Togo welcomed the readiness of Germany to continue to implement the recommendations, and wished Germany every success.

549. Viet Nam noted that Germany remained highly committed to implementing a large number of recommendations, including its recommendation on strengthening social equality, the welfare system for persons with difficulties, migrants, the elderly, women and children. Germany had demonstrated that it was an active, constructive and responsible member of the Human Rights Council.

550. Algeria noted that Germany had accepted most of the recommendations it had received, and welcomed the acceptance of the recommendations calling upon the authorities to adopt a comprehensive strategy to fight against all forms of discrimination. The strategy would contribute to the fight against discrimination, including Islamophobia. Algeria noted that Germany had not accepted the recommendation on ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It hoped that the measures taken in relation to migrant workers would ensure that the rights of this vulnerable section of society were respected.

551. Azerbaijan expressed its disappointment at the rejection of the recommendations on the establishment of a complaints mechanism for the investigation of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by the police and law enforcement officials. It expressed concern that the number and membership of right-wing movements, including neo-Nazi groups, were constantly rising and that their manifestations of racism had not elicited an appropriate response from the Government. It was also disappointed that Germany had fallen victim to unacceptable attitudes against Islam and Muslims. Azerbaijan had listened carefully to the statement on racism by the delegation of Germany, and called upon the State to put follow up the statement with real, practical and substantive action.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

552. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Germany, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

553. The German Institute for Human Rights expressed its disappointment that the Government had not lived up to its pledge to the Working Group to reconsider the problems associated with combating racism effectively, and merely referred to its national plan of action against racism of 2008, leaving aside the recommendations made by Parliament following an enquiry into failures by the police to investigate a series of racist murders. It invited the Government to commit to implementing these recommendations. It deplored the Government's rejection of recommendations on ensuring the independent and effective investigation of allegations of police violence. The Institute expressed its concern at the Government's declaration that certain human rights treaties would only be ratified after the monitoring bodies had rendered their decisions, an approach that could weaken the international human rights protection system. Also, the Government's rejection of certain recommendations because they pertained to issues falling within the remit of federal States (*Länder*) could effectively remove human rights issues from the scrutiny of the universal periodic review. Accepting the Government's explanation that it could not ratify human rights treaties because they were incompatible with national law would undermine global progress in human rights protection. The Government should identify the specific measures

to implement the recommendations accepted, and called for a high-level national mechanism to coordinate it.

554. The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims stated that torture was not explicitly prohibited in the Constitution of Germany. Cases of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by the police were not always investigated promptly, impartially, independently, adequately or effectively. It urged Germany to prevent actions that could lead to the stigmatization of migrants, asylum seekers and ethnic or religious groups by explicitly acknowledging their positive contribution, and to ensure that the principle of “best interests” was taken into consideration in any decision regarding child asylum applicants.

555. Franciscans International and VIVAT International commended Germany for having ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and welcomed the acceptance of the review recommendations on the protection of victims of human trafficking. They noted the adoption of the Act regulating the Legal Status of Prostitutes, and observed that the working conditions of prostitutes, however, remained deplorable. They made recommendations, including on taking steps to formally protect victims of trafficking.

556. Save the Children on behalf of the National Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Germany stated that, in accepting recommendation 124.28, Germany had indicated that all legal regulations and their implementation already complied with international standards. This was not true with regard to the custody of minors pending deportation. They welcomed the acceptance of recommendations 124.116 and 124.193, and noted the Government’s response that improving the educational opportunities for children with migrant backgrounds was a special focus of the education policy. In practice, that focus did not include unaccompanied minors alone in Germany.

557. Amnesty International welcomed the improvement in the State’s consultations with members of civil society, and hoped to see substantial changes in the assessment of human rights challenges. It did not share the Government’s view that many of the accepted recommendations had already been implemented. There were significant gaps in the criminal law that prevented the investigation and prosecution of cases of enforced disappearances. Failure to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights undermined the leading position held by Germany on initiatives on the rights to water, sanitation and adequate housing. It remained concerned about the inadequate procedures in a number of federal States for the most vulnerable asylum seekers, and expressed its regret that the recommendations on the prevention of ill-treatment by the police had been rejected.

558. The Institute for Women’s Studies and Research expressed concern at the absence of provisions adequately criminalizing acts of torture in criminal law, and that immigrant, refugee and minority women may be subjected to multiple forms of discrimination. The choice of schools for children depended increasingly on their social and ethnic background, with segregated education being on the rise. Pupils in classes with a large proportion of migrants were often faced with disadvantages in terms of learning and working conditions. The Institute urged the State to prevent and prosecute trafficking in persons, and to provide a means of redress to victims.

559. The European Disability Forum, on behalf of the German CRPD Alliance, welcomed the State’s acceptance of six recommendations on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and called upon Germany to make them become reality. It was not enough for the Government to refer to the Convention in the Law of Equality of Opportunity for the Disabled. Private entities that offered facilities and services to the public should take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

560. The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches and the German Forum Human Rights jointly stated that, although Germany had accepted most of the 200 recommendations made, such critical issues as migration, asylum seekers, discrimination, racism in State institutions and poverty had not been sufficiently addressed. The Government could do better. They did not share the State’s reasons for not ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

and Members of Their Families. If the human rights of “irregular” migrants were incompatible with German law, then something must be wrong with it.

561. Südwind welcomed the State’s acceptance of the recommendations on improving the situation of asylum seekers and refugees. There was a need for special psychological treatment, especially for those asylum seekers and refugees who had experienced extreme trauma. Asylum seekers were neither afforded the opportunity to learn German or to study, nor were they allowed to work, which led to psychological problems and a large number of suicide attempts.

562. The Canners International Permanent Committee stated that Germany was firmly committed to establishing world peace, respected the values of democracy, development and the freedom of rights, and was a pioneer in the project of European integration. The German democratic model was one that the world could emulate. Germany was nearly free from corruption. The judiciary was independent and the rule of law respected. Freedom of expression was protected by the Constitution and basic laws, which ensured that the right to freedom of expression was not misused.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

563. The delegation of the State under review thanked all colleagues and members of civil society for their remarks, whether kind or critical, which would be taken very seriously.

564. Racism was taken very seriously in Germany; the recommendations of the parliamentary investigation would not go unnoticed.

565. The request made by the German Institute for Human Rights for a domestic mechanism for the implementation of the recommendations, with the participation of civil society, would be taken back to Berlin.

566. The delegation requested the deletion of the mention of recommendation 124.119 from page 4 of document A/HRC/24/9/Add.1. Also, responses to other recommendations were recorded as “accepted in principle” had been “accepted” on the understanding that Germany was ready to implement those recommendations once certain preconditions, which did not depend entirely on Germany, had been fulfilled.

Djibouti

567. The review of Djibouti, held on 25 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Djibouti in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/DJI/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/DJI/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/DJI/3).

568. At its 22th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Djibouti (see sect. C below).

569. The outcome of the review of Djibouti comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/10), the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

570. The Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations thanked all States that had contributed to the review.

571. Djibouti had committed to overcoming the delays in submitting its reports to the treaty bodies, and had also renewed its cooperation agreement with the Regional Office of OHCHR. Djibouti would submit its initial report to the Human Rights Committee on 15 and 16 October 2013, at its 109th session.

572. The parliamentary majority that had emerged from the elections held on 22 February 2013 intended to launch a dialogue with members of the opposition coalition so that they could work to entrench the democratic process and build a strong nation.

573. Djibouti had undertaken various reforms and policies since its first review in February of 2009, to show clearly its determination to work on a daily basis for the promotion and protection of human rights. It had drafted a new law on the establishment of a universal health insurance system to protect the population against the financial risks of sickness and maternity, on the basis of the principles of solidarity, equity and social cohesion. In cooperation with the United Nations, Djibouti had launched a training and awareness-raising workshop aimed at bringing the communities of national Oulémas to take active part in the fight against female genital mutilation.

574. With regard to the recommendations pending from its previous review, Djibouti had grouped them into three main categories: the modifications to the Family Code to prevent discrimination against women; the invitation to special procedures mandate holders; and the legislative framework to ensure freedom of expression.

575. With regard to the Family Code, a small committee appointed by the Ministry of Justice was studying it and was responsible for the reforms necessary.

576. With regard to the recommendations on standing invitations to special procedures, Djibouti would send them to mandate holders in accordance with the priorities that it established.

577. With regard to the creation of a legislative framework to guarantee freedom of expression and the creation of private media, the Constitution of 1992 was already an appropriate framework for fundamental freedoms, including freedom of information, as was the law on freedom of the press and of communication, and the regulatory body being established pursuant to it.

578. With regard to the recommendation on revising the Penal Code on the issue of defamation, although the Government welcomed the idea of consideration of the issue, it was not able to follow up on it at this stage.

579. On the recommendation on ratifying the Convention on Statelessness, Djibouti was considering that possibility, even though relevant dialogue was still ongoing.

580. With regard to the international instruments that Djibouti had not yet ratified, an interministerial committee in charge of activities relating to the protection and promotion of human rights was already studying ways to harmonize the laws on ratification.

581. Fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, were guaranteed under the Constitution of Djibouti. The relevant recommendations were an additional reason to continue efforts to improve the enjoyment and protection of fundamental freedoms.

582. On equal access to courts and equality before the law, Djibouti was establishing first instance tribunals in various regions in order to allow people to have more direct access to justice. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice was organizing sessions in rural areas with the same objective.

583. Djibouti had re-organized its legal aid to exempt persons with a low income from paying legal fees, including those for tribunals, acts, expertise and lawyers. The recent adoption of a relevant decree would afford equal rights for every individual in the exercise of justice.

584. Djibouti had recently adopted important legislative and regulatory measures aimed at fighting discrimination against women more effectively, while special focus had been put on awareness-raising and integrating gender into sectorial policies.

585. During the presentation of the national report to the Working Group in April 2013, Djibouti was represented by the Minister for the Promotion of Women and the Ministry for Justice, a choice that clearly showed that, in Djibouti, political, social and economic development would be pursued on the basis of parity.

586. The review recommendations on discrimination against women and access to education and health were compatible with the proactive policy of the country. The National Union of Women of Djibouti and the Ministry of the Promotion of Women, with the support of the Ministry of Education, had implemented literacy programmes for women and girls who had never attended school or no longer attended it. The programmes had helped to improve the literacy skills of 34,000 women.

587. The Government had carried out large-scale campaigns and was adopting strategies to encourage schooling for girls and to encourage them to stay in school.

588. A gender unit had been created within the Ministry of National Education to implement, measure and follow up on policy developments in this area. With regard to women's and children's health, the Government was working to adopt an integrated approach to community health, based on the protection of the environment, strengthening the role of women and youth, and widespread health education programmes, to improve access to better health services. Various programmes had been set up by the Ministry of Health to improve the reproductive health of women to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality.

589. The afore-mentioned programmes were accompanied by awareness-raising campaigns to institutionalize the fight against traditional practices that harmed the health of women and the community. These initiatives had allowed more systematic prenatal consultations, which concerned more than 80 per cent of new births in 2010. In order to improve these results, in 2008, a mutual fund for health had been established in six localities. In 2009, the mechanism was extended to 14 more sites; by 2010, the fund was available in 33 more sites.

590. Djibouti concluded by reaffirming its commitment to the universal periodic review, and hoped to be able to count on international cooperation to implement the recommendations it had accepted. Djibouti was convinced that human rights were a factor for cohesion, stability and social peace.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

591. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Djibouti, 24 delegations made statements.***

592. Togo welcomed the progress made by Djibouti in submitting its reports to the treaty bodies and in access to justice. It welcomed the fact that Djibouti had accepted the recommendation made by Togo on stepping up efforts to prevent, combat and punish violence against women and children, and on combating traditional practices harmful to women, particularly in rural areas. Togo encouraged Djibouti to continue its implementation of the recommendations accepted, and invited the international community to assist it.

593. The United Arab Emirates hoped that Djibouti would make efforts to protect human rights and take measures for legislative and institutional reforms, in accordance with national needs, to preserve dignity and justice and to ensure equality among its citizens. It welcomed the State's sense of responsibility, which was the basis for the adoption of all the recommendations and its commitments. It was confident that Djibouti would establish the principles of the rule of law and good governance, and encouraged it to continue along these lines.

594. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applauded the State's openness and constructive participation. Djibouti had provided all the information requested during the

*** The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are posted, if available, on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

process, and had given concrete responses to the questions asked. It highlighted the efforts made by Djibouti in the field of social rights. The State had made considerable progress, in particular in establishing universal health coverage and protecting health for the most underprivileged groups. It insisted on the efforts made by Djibouti to promote and protect human rights in spite of the economic difficulties endured, and applauded the Government's determination and commitment to achieve its objectives.

595. Viet Nam noted that Djibouti had accepted a large number of recommendations, including the one made by Viet Nam on stepping up its fight against poverty and on improving access to education while eliminating the disparity among the genders in this area. Viet Nam acknowledged that there was still a need to strengthen achievements and efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights. It reiterated its hope to see the State take concrete measures to implement the results of its second review.

596. Yemen noted the achievements made by Djibouti in the field of human rights. It congratulated Djibouti on the measures it had taken to promote and protect human rights. It commended Djibouti for its amendments to the Constitution and for promulgating laws concerning fundamental rights and freedoms, including a strategic plan of action for children, and its accession to a large number of international conventions. It encouraged the Government to continue along these lines.

597. Algeria welcomed the commitments made by Djibouti during its second review. It praised the State's openness and cooperation during the process, and its acceptance of the two recommendations made by Algeria on strengthening programmes on promoting and protecting children's rights and on public health to reduce maternal and infant mortality. Algeria stressed that the two programmes would have a positive impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

598. Benin commended Djibouti for its second review. It noted with satisfaction that Djibouti had undertaken various reforms at the normative level and ratified various international human rights instruments, in the areas of, inter alia, education, health, housing, sanitation and the promotion of women. Benin encouraged Djibouti to continue its reforms, and invited the international community to assist the State in them.

599. Botswana commended Djibouti for its acceptance of most of the recommendations, which reflected the State's commitment to the universal periodic review and to the promotion and protection of human rights. It noted with appreciation the efforts made by Djibouti to fight poverty and economic hardship. Botswana recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the report on Djibouti, and wished the State well in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

600. China appreciated the active and constructive engagement of Djibouti in the universal periodic review, and welcomed its decision to accept most of the recommendations made. It thanked Djibouti for having accepted the recommendations made by China and for its commitment to increase investment in education and to promote changes in traditional practices and stereotypes of women in order to better protect their physical and psychological integrity. China wished Djibouti success in sustainable economic social development and in its human rights endeavours.

601. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the State's endorsement of a large number of the recommendations made. It encouraged Djibouti to take the measures necessary to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights and the rights of women and children, and to continue its fight against poverty. It reiterated its appeal to the international community to continue to provide Djibouti with the technical, material and financial assistance needed to implement the recommendations accepted.

602. Cuba praised the progress made by Djibouti in reducing poverty and unemployment, empowering women, and in the right to food, and the measures it had taken in the field of health. Cuba welcomed the State's acceptance of most of the recommendations made, especially the ones made by Cuba. Cuba urged Djibouti to continue to implement measures contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights, and wished it every success in its social and economic development plans.

603. Ethiopia commended the commitment of Djibouti to continue to implement the recommendations accepted in the first cycle and those accepted in the second one. It noted with appreciation the decision of Djibouti to accept a significant number of recommendations, including on the ratification of all international human rights instruments, a review of national laws to ensure their conformity with the State's international obligations, and the strengthening of the institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights to boost the capacity of national human rights institutions. Ethiopia wished Djibouti success in its endeavour to implement the recommendations it had accepted.

604. Gabon welcomed the cooperation of Djibouti with international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It encouraged the measures taken by Djibouti to promote the enjoyment of such fundamental freedoms as the right to life, the right to a fair trial, freedom of expression, the right to work, the right to housing and the right to education. Gabon noted with satisfaction that Djibouti had also abolished the death penalty, and recommended that Djibouti embark upon the reforms necessary to improve the living conditions of detained persons.

605. Kuwait valued genuine effort made by Djibouti to promote human rights, especially its efforts in the field of women's rights, children's rights and the right to education. It welcomed the adoption of a basic law that amended the election law of 1992. Djibouti had increased the number of judges and reorganized courts. Kuwait welcomed the efforts that the State had made in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It commended Djibouti for having accepted the recommendations made by Kuwait on continuing efforts in the field of basic education and equal opportunities.

606. Malaysia appreciated the commitment, transparency and forthcoming engagement of Djibouti in the universal periodic review process. It welcomed the updates and responses provided by Djibouti, and applauded the State for its continued positive commitment to implement the recommendations it had accepted. Malaysia was also pleased that Djibouti had accepted its recommendations. Malaysia wished Djibouti all the best in the implementation of the recommendations accepted.

607. Maldives was pleased that its recommendations enjoyed the support of Djibouti. It congratulated Djibouti on its efforts to provide health care, to reduce the child mortality rate, and to address other health issues. It also noted the efforts made in the promotion of the right to education and to eliminate female genital mutilation, and its awareness-raising campaign throughout the country. Maldives appreciated the fact that the work of the national human rights commission was in conformity with the Paris Principles. It extended its best wishes to the delegation of Djibouti.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

608. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Djibouti, three other stakeholders made statements.

609. The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (and Ligue djiboutienne des droits humains raised their concern about the repetitive violations of human rights in Djibouti. They regretted the fact that Djibouti had not implemented the five recommendations it had accepted to ensure freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. They also highlighted the cases of harassment and arrest of independent journalists owing to the lack of freedom of the press in Djibouti. The Project stressed the importance of the effective participation of opposition political parties in elections, and recommended that the State ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture as soon as possible. It referred to alleged cases of torture and violence in police custody, and regretted the lack of follow-up to complaints made by victims. It also referred to the political prisoners still in detention since the legislative elections held on 22 February 2013, and called for the immediate release of all political prisoners, an immediate end to harassment and the arbitrary detention of members of the opposition, human rights defenders and independent journalists, follow-up to complaints of acts of torture and violence, and a stop to the revocation of Djiboutian nationality from political opponents.

610. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues regretted that the recommendations relating to the freedom of press, transparency for free elections and the effectiveness of political and civil rights had been rejected. Since the elections, the authorities had increased the arrest and judicial harassment of militants and leaders of the opposition. It referred to the death of Mohamed Elmi Rayale, a member of the Union pour le Salut National, in Gabode prison on 29 August 2013. It also referred to the increasing number of threats against independent lawyers, journalists and human rights advocates. It stressed the weakening of trade union rights, referring to cases before the complaint procedures of ILO. It urged Djibouti to implement all review recommendations on guaranteeing effectively all the rights enshrined in the international instruments to which Djibouti was a party.

611. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme congratulated Djibouti for on the progress made in its fight against poverty and on the programmes launched to improve the housing situation. It praised the State's active participation in the universal periodic review and in the Durban intergovernmental process. It encouraged Djibouti to take concrete measures at the national level to improve the situation of human rights to create an atmosphere conducive to social dialogue with political parties, non-governmental organizations and civil society. It noted with satisfaction the actions taken by the Government to protect women from sexual violence and discrimination. It advised Djibouti to redouble its efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation, to strengthen freedom of expression and association and to reconsider the recommendations that it had rejected.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

612. The head of the delegation of Djibouti expressed his gratitude to all the delegations that had praised the spirit of transparency and openness of Djibouti in its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. He reiterated the importance of international support for Djibouti in this endeavour.

613. Djibouti highlighted the misrepresentations made by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues with regard to the lack of transparency during the electoral process in Djibouti. He referred to the current consultations and constructive dialogue between parliamentarians and the opposition coalition to build a strong nation.

614. The delegation of Djibouti rejected the allegations of torture. In the unfortunate case of Mr. Elmi Rayale, medical experts had concluded that his death was from natural causes.

615. The delegation referred to the main enemies of Djibouti: poverty, and the Government's titanic task of combating it. Nonetheless, the State's improving economic prospects and its commitments would certainly help the situation of human rights to improve in Djibouti.

Canada

616. The review of Canada, held on 26 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Canada in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CAN/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CAN/2 and Corr.1);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CAN/3).

617. At its 22nd meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Canada (see sect. C below).

618. The outcome of the review of Canada comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/11), the views of Canada concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not

sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/11/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

619. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva presented the State's response to the 162 review recommendations, which had touched on numerous important issues, many of which were a responsibility shared by Governments in Canada or that fell under federal or provincial and territorial jurisdiction. The recommendations had been discussed both within and between Governments, and federal, provincial and territorial Governments had collaborated in the preparation of the State's response. Civil society and aboriginal organizations had also been invited to provide their views on the recommendations.

620. After careful consideration, Canada had accepted 122 recommendations, in full, in part or in principle.

621. Canada had accepted in full or in part the recommendations that federal, provincial and territorial Governments were already implementing by means of existing legislative or administrative measures and that they were committed to continuing.

622. The recommendations that Canada had accepted in principle were those where Governments were taking steps to achieve the objectives and underlying principles of the recommendations, but it had not accepted the specific action proposed.

623. Canada had accepted most of the recommendations on United Nations mechanisms and recommendations. It invited examination of its human rights record. The recommendations made by international human rights treaty bodies, while not legally binding, were given serious consideration and had been discussed both within and between Governments, in various government committees. Canada had also established a process to seek the views of domestic civil society and aboriginal groups on the draft outline of its reports to the international human rights treaty bodies and on the recommendations made by them.

624. Canada had accepted most of the recommendations relating to aboriginal peoples. Canada was already engaged in ongoing and significant measures to improve the social well-being and economic prosperity of aboriginal peoples. Governments were working together and in partnership with aboriginal communities and groups to ensure that they had access to services aligned with those available to other Canadians.

625. Canada had not accepted calls to develop a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration was a non-legally binding aspirational and forward-looking document that called upon States and aboriginal peoples to work together to ensure a better future. Canada was working with aboriginal peoples and in partnership with other levels of government on many of the issues addressed in the Declaration.

626. With regard to calls to continue or to strengthen efforts to address the serious issue of violence against aboriginal women and girls, Canada accepted the majority of these recommendations on the basis of the ongoing efforts to address this issue. Governments in Canada, at all levels, were strongly committed to taking action with aboriginal and non-aboriginal partners, and had undertaken many initiatives demonstrating that commitment, in partnership with aboriginal and non-aboriginal groups, communities and individuals.

627. Canada had also received recommendations on racial and religious discrimination and the situation of vulnerable groups. With a few exceptions, Canada had accepted those recommendations, in full, in part or in principle, as it already guaranteed the right of equality under the law.

628. Canada did not agree with the assertion that it engaged in targeting, racial or religious profiling and harassment. The law enforcement and security intelligence officials of the State investigated threats to national security and criminality without targeting any community, group or faith.

629. Canada had not accepted the recommendations calling for the enactment of provisions against a specific offence of racist violence, because it was redundant. The Criminal Code already criminalized all acts of violence.

630. The Governments in Canada were also committed to guaranteeing the equality of the sexes under the law.

631. Canada had long implemented prevention, intervention and support measures to protect children from violence and exploitation, including sexual exploitation, economic exploitation and exposure to hazardous work.

632. Canada had not accepted the recommendations calling for the establishment of a federal children's ombudsman, given that the functions of a federal commissioner were already being performed through existing domestic implementation mechanisms and international reporting processes.

633. Canada had accepted, in full, in part or in principle, the recommendations received relating to poverty reduction and homelessness, which all Governments were continuing to address through a myriad of programmes and policies. Most provincial and territorial Governments had implemented or were developing strategies and plans of action. These comprehensive strategies addressed many related factors and components, including measures aimed at family support, housing, education, employment and health care, and were better tailored to local community needs than any national plan could ever be.

634. Canada had accepted, in full or in principle, some of the recommendations made on national security and policing in the light of the strong legal protection and oversight mechanisms already in place.

635. The State's counter-terrorism initiatives and system of security certificates complied with its international treaty obligations. External and independent mechanisms reviewed complaints regarding the conduct of law enforcement and corrections personnel in all jurisdictions across Canada.

636. The rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression were entrenched in the Constitution, and the actions of the police were subject to oversight and redress mechanisms. Canada therefore had not accepted the references to violations of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

637. Canada did not use administrative detention lightly. In the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, administrative detention was used only in cases where a flight or security risk was present. Detention and conditions of release were always subject to regular review by an administrative independent tribunal. For that reason, Canada had not accepted the recommendation on its policy in this area.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

638. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Canada, 15 delegations made statements.

639. Cuba regretted the fact that Canada had not accepted the recommendation made by Cuba on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples because it was a non-legally binding instrument. It encouraged Canada to strengthen its measures for the protection of aboriginal peoples.

640. Djibouti acknowledged the State's acceptance of most recommendations, including those made by Djibouti. It encouraged Canada to strengthen its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and racism by adopting a national plan of action for the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

641. Gabon welcomed the implementation by Canada of national policies based on public consultations and with the participation of civil society and aboriginal peoples. It congratulated Canada on the active participation of the Parliament of Canada in the universal periodic review. Gabon recommended that Canada intensify its efforts to increase the education of aboriginal peoples.

642. Indonesia commended the State's ongoing commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, not only at the national but also at the bilateral, regional and global levels, as shown by its acceptance of most of the recommendations.

643. According to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the actual situation of implementation by Canada of the recommendations made was still unclear. A realistic and practical approach to the recommendations was necessary, in particular with regard to the issue of indigenous peoples and the State's refusal to criminalize and punish acts of racist violence and to withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

644. Morocco acknowledged that Canada had accepted most recommendations made at its review. It commended Canada for the progress made in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and the measures taken to promote their political participation. Morocco also welcomed the measures taken to prevent the risk of exploitation of migrant workers.

645. Nigeria noted the numerous voluntary pledges made by Canada to ensure its compliance with the universal periodic review mechanism. Nigeria was encouraged by the State's cooperation with OHCHR and its determination to continue to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens.

646. The Philippines acknowledged the State's acceptance of several recommendations on considering a number of international human rights conventions, while noting that Canada was already a State party to at least seven core international human rights conventions. It noted with appreciation the State's acceptance of recommendations on the protection of children's rights, and acknowledged that Canada was already implementing a myriad of relevant programmes.

647. The Russian Federation expressed its disappointment that a significant number of recommendations had not been accepted by Canada, including two recommendations made by the Russian Federation on investigating facts of unlawful detention and the treatment of individuals arriving on Canadian territory. It once again called for investigation of such cases, especially regarding the beating, in a pretrial detention cell in a Calgary prison, of a Russian student who had been arrested the previous year on fabricated charges.

648. Togo noted with satisfaction the cooperation of Canada with the universal periodic review mechanism, and commended its progress since its second review. It also commended the State's clear commitment to establish a durable relation with aboriginal peoples on the basis of a partnership and substantial investments. Togo welcomed the State's acceptance of most recommendations.

649. Viet Nam welcomed the State's active engagement with the universal periodic review mechanism and the large number of recommendations accepted. It also acknowledge the regional and international initiatives taken in Canada to promote human rights. Viet Nam pointed out, however, that Canada should better address the challenges it faced, in particular discrimination.

650. Algeria noted the non-acceptance of the recommendation made by Algeria and several other States on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

651. According to Belarus, the Canadian authorities had not been sufficiently critical in their assessment of the situation of human rights in the country. It noted that the level of cooperation with special procedures mandate holders remained very low, and encouraged it to step up its cooperation. Canada should have accepted the recommendations on carrying out, together with mandate holders, an independent investigation into cases of disappearance and the killing of indigenous women and girls.

652. Benin noted the progress made by Canada and its efforts to follow up on recommendations on aboriginal peoples, including those on access to drinking water and sanitary installations. Benin encouraged Canada to pursue its efforts to improve human rights with a view to eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia.

653. Botswana commended the State's approach to preventing and reducing violence against women and children. It also commended Canada for its efforts to uplift the social, economic, political and cultural status of aboriginal peoples.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

654. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Canada, 10 other stakeholders made statements. ***

655. The Geneva representative of the International Coordinating Committee, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, pointed out that the Commission had reported on progress made by Canada since its first review, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It outlined a number of areas where progress was still needed, including improvements for the implementation of the Convention, improvements in the mechanisms to implement the State's international commitments, the need to ensure full equality for aboriginal peoples, and the need to accommodate persons with mental disabilities in prisons.

656. Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco welcomed the State's acceptance of several recommendations on the protection of victims of human trafficking. It regretted the State's rejection and partial acceptance of other recommendations, and noted that further efforts were required to ensure that immigrants were protected from the dangers of exploitation. It called upon Canada to provide indicators of human trafficking for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation, and on the use of the definition given in the Palermo Protocol of trafficking; to ensure adequate monitoring of the temporary foreign worker programme; and to adopt a national strategy for poverty eradication.

657. The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims pointed out that Canada had not implemented the recommendations it had accepted at its first review, in 2009, a number of which made particular reference to women. It was concerned about violence afflicting indigenous women. It also noted that a national inquiry in Canada was needed to address the many issues affecting the families of murdered and disappeared aboriginal women and girls. It urged the Human Rights Council to ensure that Canada, at its review in 2013, was held to account for its failure to implement effectively its human rights obligations to women.

658. Action Canada for Population and Development, speaking on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative and Canadians for Choice, remained concerned at the State's failure to implement the recommendations made by international human rights bodies, including those made during the review of Canada during the first cycle of the universal periodic review. It called upon the Council to demand that Canada implement key recommendations that it had rejected, including those relating to the development of national plans of action to implement fundamental human rights obligations. It cited as an example the rejection of recommendations 97 and 99. It also expressed disappointment at the rejection of the recommendation on the investigation of cases of disappearance and murder of aboriginal women and girls.

659. The International Lesbian and Gay Association applauded the State's participation in the universal periodic review process. It saluted the Netherlands for having advised Canada to apply the Yogyakarta Principles. It recalled the Association's submission, in which it pointed out the shortcomings of the recent changes made to the Refugee Act. The provisions of the Act now put asylum seekers from a number of States at risk. It also noted that, in order to provide refugees with genuine support, Canada should ensure that LGBTI families were granted equitable access to its refugee system. The Refugee Protection Act should be amended to recognize same-sex spouses and LGBTI parents, who currently are not recognized by their countries of origin but would, under Canadian law, be recognized.

660. Amnesty International was very disappointing that, despite the human rights concerns acknowledged in Canada, the Government preferred to continue the status quo. The State's refusal to adopt plans to address violence against indigenous women, poverty and homelessness, food insecurity, racism, and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations accepted at the previous review was troubling. The State's

acceptance of recommendation 128.30, while not containing any specific commitment, was an acknowledgement of the importance of the federal, provincial and territorial Governments working together to resolve human rights problems. It urged Canada to reconsider its rejection of national strategies and plans of action, and not to use the relationship between levels of government as an excuse for not adopting those plans.

661. The International Commission of Jurists reiterated its concern at the human rights impact of Canadian business enterprises in countries where they operate. Canada should provide for effective and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The Commission regretted the fact that Canada had not accepted the recommendations on becoming a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of the Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

662. The Institute for Women's Studies and Research urged Canada to ensure that aboriginal children in the child welfare system were able to preserve their identity and claim their rights, including with regard to names, culture and language. The situation of indigenous peoples and minorities was still the most pressing human rights issue. It urged Canada to affirm its commitment to the implementation of the spirit and intent, obligations and socioeconomic objectives of land claims agreements entered into with indigenous peoples and minorities.

663. The International Indian Treaty Council noted that 26 delegations had made recommendations regarding gender-based violence and the crisis of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada. The Government of Canada had responded that it had a 7-point strategy launched in 2010 to address the issue. Today, 2013, the crisis was still ongoing. The leaders of provinces and territories across Canada had called for an inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. Without an inquiry, the roots of the problem could not be identified. The Council also referred to recommendations made on access to justice, the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples and the development of relevant national plans of action. It strongly supported such action with a focus on indigenous legal order and traditional forms of justice.

664. The Association for Progressive Communications welcomed the State's acceptance of recommendations on expanding measures to address violence against indigenous women and girls, and ensuring access to justice, thereby improving the response of law enforcement and justice systems. It called upon Canada to work with communities to improve meaningful access to the Internet as part of its strategy to address violence against indigenous women. It noted that, in May 2013, the Privacy Commissioner had confirmed that the Government had unlawfully spied on the executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada after the organization filed a human rights complaint over funding of child services on reserves. It called upon Canada to ensure protection of the right to privacy for indigenous groups, and all Canadians.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

665. The delegation thanked delegations that acknowledged the efforts made by Canada to promote and protect human rights. Canada had sought to provide solid information on issues raised during its review, including during meetings held in Geneva with delegations and civil society organizations.

666. Canada had provided additional comments on some of the issues raised by delegations and stakeholders. Governments at all levels had worked hard to foster the social inclusion of all Canadians; numerous measures had been taken to ensure that systemic racism and discrimination would not become a problem. Canada had a strong legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, and an independent court system.

667. Several delegations had pointed out the importance of national plans of action. Plans of action did not, however, necessarily equate to effectiveness; local, provincial and territorial

initiatives could also effectively address issues and, in many instances, better reflected the local context.

668. The issue of violence against women was taken extremely seriously. The Government was working in partnership with aboriginals and non-aboriginal Canadians and all stakeholders to address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women.

669. With regard to engagement with United Nations mechanisms, Canada recalled that it had had one country visit by a special procedure mandate holder in 2013, and a second had been organized for October.

670. In closing, the delegation pointed out that Canada attached serious importance to the universal periodic review process, and would continue to work with delegations to follow up on accepted recommendations. The Government was determined to maintain and strengthen its commitment to achieve the full realization of all human rights.

Bangladesh

671. The review of Bangladesh, held on 29 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Bangladesh in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/BGD/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/BGD/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/BGD/3).

672. At its 23rd meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Bangladesh (see sect. C below).

673. The outcome of the review of Bangladesh comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/12), the views of the State concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/12/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

674. The head of the delegation of Bangladesh thanked all delegations participating in the second review of the State, held on 29 April 2013. Bangladesh appreciated the overwhelmingly positive review that it had received. As the current Government of Bangladesh neared the end of its term in office, it had been encouraging to observe the strides made by the State over the past four and a half years being duly recognized by the international community. It acknowledged the value of the constructive recommendations made to address some existing gaps and challenges in the overall situation of human rights in Bangladesh.

675. Bangladesh expressed its gratitude to the members of the troika (the Czech Republic, Ethiopia and Pakistan) for their diligent support. Bangladesh appreciated the efforts of the staff of the secretariat, whose hard work had contributed to making the universal periodic review a success.

676. Bangladesh had received a total of 196 recommendations during its review, of which it had accepted 164 at the time of the adoption of the report. That decision had been reached following extensive consultations within the delegation, which comprised representatives of several key ministries and agencies. The views of the national human rights commission and the office of the Attorney General had also been considered. Bangladesh had deferred its decision on 27 recommendations. The responses with regard to those recommendations were

available on the OHCHR website. Bangladesh had accepted some of the recommendations, and partially accepted some others.

677. Bangladesh had held extensive discussions with national human rights commission while considering the recommendations. The delegation conveyed its sincere gratitude to the commission for its constructive engagement.

678. Actions had already been initiated to implement some of the recommendations. Immediately after the review, the report of the Working Group was submitted to the Cabinet, which instructed relevant ministries to conduct subsequent actions.

679. As promised by the Minister for Foreign Affairs during the review of Bangladesh, the State had amended and adopted the National Children Act in June 2013 in order to ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The new law defines a child as any person below the age of 18.

680. On the basis of a judgement by the Supreme Court, the Government of Bangladesh had prohibited all forms of corporal punishment in all educational institutions.

681. As mentioned by the Minister for Foreign Affairs during the review of Bangladesh, the Government had demonstrated its strong commitment to implement the provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord concluded in 1997. There has been some condemnable incidents in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, instigated to disrupt efforts to secure a secular and inclusive society. The Government had rebuilt 19 Buddhist temples and several private houses that had been destroyed. The Prime Minister recently visited the area for the inauguration of 12 Buddhist temples and *Bihars*. The renovation project had cost \$2.6 million.

682. The delegation of Bangladesh, at the review in April, had pledged to consider 27 recommendations for further consultation at the national level, and to report back to the Human Rights Council at the present session. Some recommendations were on becoming a party to certain international instruments. Prior to becoming a party to any international instrument, however, Bangladesh had to give due consideration to its capacity to fulfil the obligations entailed.

683. Even though Bangladesh was not a party to the Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, or to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, it had always adhered to the core principles of the international protection regime, including the principle of non-refoulement. Despite being a least developed country itself, Bangladesh continued to host a large number of refugees in one of the most protracted refugee situations in the world.

684. Bangladesh was attempting to enter into an understanding with UNDP for support to facilitate reporting to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

685. The Government of Bangladesh was actively considering of a Uniform Family Code as it reviewed and held consultations on the personal family laws of different religions. The Government also gave priority to implementing the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2010).

686. Bangladesh had been cooperating fully with the special procedures. After the holding of the review, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, visited Bangladesh. The Government was deciding on mutually convenient dates for visits of some special procedures.

687. The Government of Bangladesh had already initiated actions to protect rights and the well-being of garment workers through legal and administrative measures, in cooperation with ILO, as follow-up to the agreement reached. The National Parliament had enacted the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, aimed at protecting the interests and rights of workers, with a focus on enhancing collective bargaining rights and ensuring occupational health and safety, particularly in the garment sector. The Government would continue to ensure fair wages and social protection for workers in the handcraft sector.

688. Bangladesh did not have reservations to any article of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Therefore, recommendation 130.10 had been accepted by Bangladesh.

689. Bangladesh had not been able to accept five recommendations. Its consideration of the recommendations had to be contextualized within the parameters of existing social, cultural and religious norms and the reality on the ground. Bangladesh could not accept them recommendations as they conflicted with the State's constitutional and legal provisions, and deeply rooted sociocultural values. The laws of the land should be in conformity with the prevalent sociocultural norms and values of the country. Activities subject to the article in the Penal Code mentioned in recommendation 131.5 were not generally an accepted norm in Bangladesh.

690. The Government was vigilant that the media always performed their function in full freedom. There were 14 new private television channels, 14 new community radio channels and seven new private FM radio channels.

691. Bangladesh considered non-governmental organizations important partners in the Government's efforts to promote and protect human rights, and in development and good governance. There are currently some 2,170 non-governmental organizations operating in Bangladesh. The State noted the value of their comments.

692. The Government of Bangladesh, in accordance with its constitutional obligations, was committed fully to the protection of human rights. The International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh observed international standards and was fully transparent. The rights of accused persons were fully protected.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

693. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Bangladesh, 13 delegations made statements.***

694. Malaysia appreciated the commitment shown by Bangladesh during the universal periodic review process, including its frank consultations with the national human rights institution. It was pleased with the updates and responses provided and the continued positive engagement to implement the recommendations accepted. It noted with appreciation that most of the recommendations made had been accepted, including those made by Malaysia.

695. Maldives noted that Bangladesh had accepted its two recommendations. It was pleased to note also the positive steps taken to bring domestic legislation and policies into line with the State's obligations under core international instruments. It noted with satisfaction the State's support for the recommendation to accede to Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure as the earliest opportunity.

696. Morocco congratulated Bangladesh on the action taken to promote human rights since its first review. Bangladesh faced important challenges posed by a lack of resources, climate change and natural catastrophes. Nonetheless, it had made important progress in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the realization of the right to health, the promotion of gender equality and human development. Morocco praised Bangladesh for having accepted most of the recommendations made, including those made by Morocco.

697. Nigeria commended Bangladesh for its cooperation with OHCHR and the importance it attached to the universal periodic review mechanism. It urged Bangladesh to continue its efforts to ensure the rule of law and to maintain its commitment to the protection of human rights of its citizens.

*** The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are posted, if available, on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

698. Oman paid tribute to the manner in which Bangladesh was considering improving the situation of human rights in a manner that was compatible with international standards. In its national policies, Bangladesh tried to protect and promote human rights, which reflected its commitment to United Nations human rights mechanisms and its constructive cooperation with relevant actors and mechanisms.

699. Pakistan valued the constructive engagement shown by Bangladesh throughout the review process. It appreciated the State's decision to accept most of the recommendations made during the review. It noted the commendable steps taken to strengthen the national human rights commission and to eliminate domestic violence, and efforts made to promote the socioeconomic development of its people.

700. The Philippines recognized the efforts made by Bangladesh to advance human rights, and noted in particular its acceptance of the recommendations made by the Philippines on harmonizing the national normative and institutional framework with international human rights norms and obligations, and on continuing efforts to reduce migration costs and to provide greater skills development for aspiring migrants. It acknowledged the challenges faced as a climate-vulnerable country, and referred to their common quest to place human rights and climate change high on the agenda of the Human Rights Council.

701. Romania commended Bangladesh for its participation in the second cycle of the periodic review, and the spirit of openness and transparency it had demonstrated. A large majority of the recommendations made had been accepted by Bangladesh, including the recommendation made by Romania on the need for further measures aiming at the empowerment of women. The implementation of the recommendations would reflect concrete progress towards compliance with international human rights standards.

702. The Russian Federation thanked Bangladesh for its presentation of information on the recommendations, and noted that most of them had been accepted, including those made by the Russian Federation. This showed the State's readiness to cooperate further with the international monitoring mechanism. The Russian Federation welcomed the Government's willingness to ensure civil and political rights and freedoms, to expand rights and opportunities for women in political and economic spheres, and also to support the institution of the family.

703. Saudi Arabia thanked Bangladesh for the information provided concerning the recommendations made. It commended Bangladesh for its efforts to reduce poverty, to improve food security and public health, and to increase investment in education and information technology, in compliance with the relevant Millennium Development Goals. Bangladesh had described the means to improve education and awareness of human rights in society, which would require ongoing efforts with the support of the international community.

704. South Africa appreciated the ongoing efforts made by Bangladesh for the realization and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development by all citizens of Bangladesh. It noted the national education policy on prioritizing and improving the right to education, and the national sanitation strategy on achieving universal sanitation. It commended Bangladesh for its acceptance of a large number of recommendations and its strong engagement with the review process.

705. Sri Lanka congratulated Bangladesh on the recommendations that it had accepted, including the two recommendations that Sri Lanka had made. It noted with appreciation the efforts and progress made in human rights, and particularly the fact that the Government had initiated action to protect workers in the garment sector through a series of legal and administrative measures, including the enactment of the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act.

706. The State of Palestine commended Bangladesh for its commitment to implement measures to strengthen human rights. It congratulated Bangladesh on having accepted most of the recommendations made, in particular those on harmonizing its domestic legislation with its international human rights treaty obligations. It also noted the efforts and legislative changes made to improve education.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

707. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Bangladesh, 10 other stakeholders made statements.***

708. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development was concerned at the deteriorating situation of freedom of expression and association. It drew attention to the arrest in August 2013 of the secretary of Odhikar, a human rights organization, and also a member of the executive committee of Forum Asia. It called upon the Government to ensure due process and that that person did not face further harassment. It urged the Government to take into serious account its suggestions to equip the national human rights commission with an effective complaints mechanism and to publicly set out a comprehensive, measurable and time-bound plan for the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

709. The Jubilee Campaign was concerned that Bangladesh was undermining the progress made in recent years, noting the regressive measures taken in 2013 in the areas of legislative reform and law enforcement. It noted that, during its review, Bangladesh had described efforts to ensure human rights for all, but also that, the same month, four bloggers were arrested for “hurting peoples’ religious sentiments” and that a process of developing strict laws on this issue had begun. While it welcomed the support for Hindu and Buddhist communities in the reconstruction of houses and places of worship attacked over the past year, it pointed out the link between increased violence against religious minorities and the ongoing trials on war crimes.

710. Human Rights Watch noted that little progress had been made on ending impunity and that the Government had yet to fulfil its promise on a recommendation made at its review, on “zero tolerance” for extrajudicial killings by creating an independent investigation mechanism, with no successful criminal prosecution of any member of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) or army for the abuses committed. The trials before the International Crimes Tribunal, which should be beyond reproach, had been marred by irregularities. It expressed concern over the crackdown on civil society, including the detention of the secretary of Odhikar. It also noted that, even though recommendations to improve occupational health and safety had been accepted, almost no progress had been made on the ground.

711. Action Canada for Population and Development appreciated the Government’s willingness to improve laws and policies to eliminate discrimination against women, and hoped this would include lesbian and transgender women. It was disappointed by the rejection of the recommendation on considering repealing section 377 of the Penal Code. It noted that this provision was invoked by law enforcement agencies to harass and incite violence against Hijra, Kothi and LGBT communities. It recommended that Bangladesh repeal section 377, and incorporate the issue of sexual and gender non-conforming persons into its national AIDS policy and strategy plans.

712. The Center for Environmental and Management Studies noted that the birth of Bangladesh was followed by one of the most brutal conflicts of the twentieth century. It referred to testimony from families of survivors that had provided the basis for the international war crimes trials, and stated that the human rights community should pay tribute to the courage of the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh for having attempted to bring closure. Bangladesh was the first country with a Muslim majority to have witnessed street demonstrations against fundamentalist groups. The growth of *madrassas* was a major danger to development, modernization and progress.

713. The International Lesbian and Gay Association appreciated the fact that the Government of Bangladesh had recognized the existence of the LGBTI population during the session of the Working Group. It regretted, however that Bangladesh had rejected the recommendation on abolishing section 377. It asked the Government proactively to stop intolerant groups from making inflammatory homophobic remarks, which had often resulted in violence against the LGBT community, and to take concrete steps to implement the

*** The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are, if available, posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

recommendations on protecting all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

714. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues and the World Organisation Against Torture, as partners in the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, welcomed the pledges made by the Government of Bangladesh to support most of the review recommendations, including those on the investigation of allegations of human rights violations by security forces, and on the protection of human rights defenders. They denounced the harassment of Odhikar and in particular the fact that, since August 2013, its secretary, also a member of the General Assembly of the World Organisation Against Torture, had been detained in relation to a fact-finding report on the killing of 61 people during an operation by security forces. They urged Bangladesh to extend an invitation to the special procedures on the situation of human rights defenders and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

715. Save the Children, on behalf of the Child Governance Assembly, welcomed the acceptance by Bangladesh of the review recommendations, particularly those relating to children's rights. The effective implementation of the recommendations would require the allocation of sufficient resources. It particularly welcomed the acceptance of the recommendation on appointing an ombudsman for children. Increasing investment in children through national budget allocations and developing a monitoring accountability mechanism for budgetary expenditure across ministries was an issue that demanded more attention.

716. The African Technology Development Link stated that the Government of Bangladesh was committed to fighting terrorism and protecting minorities. As part of that effort, the Government had banned the Islamic group Jamaat-e-Islami, a fundamentalist organization operating in the guise of a political group. The ban was justified, given that the party manifesto violated the Constitution of Bangladesh. It pointed out that many of its leaders had been indicted on war crimes during the liberation war by the Supreme Court, and that two international crimes tribunals had put the spotlight on the role of Jamaat-e-Islami in the events of 1971.

717. Amnesty International noted that, although Bangladesh had accepted recommendations on ensuring the protection of human rights defenders, it had nevertheless detained Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of Odhikar, for reporting on human rights violations in May 2013. It considered him to be a prisoner of conscience, and called for his immediate and unconditional release. Bangladesh should commute immediately all death sentences, including that of a senior member of the Jamaat-e-Islam for crimes committed during the war of independence. It was concerned that at least four bloggers had been charged under the Information and Communications Technology Act and faced up to 10 years of imprisonment.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

718. The head of delegation expressed his gratitude to the States that had appreciated the efforts made by Bangladesh. The State recognized that there were many areas that required further attention. Most of the human rights challenges that Bangladesh faced stemmed from poverty and underdevelopment. Lack of economic empowerment was a major impediment to the full enjoyment of civil, political, social and cultural rights.

719. Bangladesh had time and time again reiterated its unequivocal support for and commitment to the universal periodic review mechanism, which had created an opportunity for openness and a platform for constructive dialogue for the promotion and protection of human rights. Engagement with the process had encouraged Bangladesh to continue its efforts in the realization of human rights. It had raised awareness of human rights issues within the country and improved the promotion and protection of human rights in many areas.

720. The head of delegation reiterated the pledge made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Bangladesh would make every effort to follow up on the recommendations accepted by the State. He looked forward to engage further in constructive dialogue during the third cycle of the universal periodic review, and would remain open to suggestions and advice.

Azerbaijan

721. The review of Azerbaijan, held on 30 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Turkmenistan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/AZE/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/AZE/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/AZE/3).

722. At its 23rd meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Azerbaijan (see sect. C below).

723. The outcome of the review of Azerbaijan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/13), the views of Azerbaijan concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/13/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

724. The head of delegation of Azerbaijan, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressed the State's gratitude to all Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council for their constructive participation in the review. The review had allowed Azerbaijan to consider and analyse the measures taken since 2009 to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as its achievements and existing problems.

725. Azerbaijan had accepted fully or partially 158 recommendations, some of which were at the stage of implementation. The State had provided for measures with regard to the other remaining recommendations.

726. As a result of economic development, social guarantees for the different strata of society, reforms in State governance and the strengthening of civil society had created more favourable conditions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

727. State programmes for regional socioeconomic development implemented in 2004 and 2009 had played an important role in the development of the country. As a result of the implementation of the programmes, more than 1 million jobs had been created, mostly in the non-oil and agricultural sectors.

728. Access to medical services was a priority area of government activity, and essential measures had been taken in this direction. Approximately 500 health-care institutions, 70 per cent of which is located in the rural areas, were equipped with new medical equipment and had been fully upgraded. Some 17 health-care facilities had been built in rural areas in cooperation with the World Bank.

729. Improving the quality of medical services provided to mothers and children was another priority of the State's social-oriented policies.

730. Almost 2,000 school buildings had been constructed or fully overhauled, and provided with modern equipment. Investment projects to provide the educational system with information and communications technology and the means for on-line education had also been implemented.

731. The presidential election to be held in October 2013 would play an important role in the sociopolitical life of the country. The Government took all measures necessary to ensure the active and passive voting rights of citizens, including seminars and training sessions on election issues, conducted in partnership with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

732. Azerbaijan assured the Human Rights Council that the participation of local and foreign observers, and of international mass media representatives, would be allowed during the election.

733. With regard to the remarks made by the Venice Commission in 2008, amendments had been made to the law on freedom of assembly, which the Commission now considered to be fully consistent with European standards.

734. The executive authorities of each city and the districts of Baku allocated appropriate places to hold meetings. Azerbaijan had actively cooperated with all special procedure mandate holders, to whom the State issued a standing invitation in April 2013. Besides the arrangements being made for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and of association, the State was also planning and coordinating the visits of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

735. The law on the suppression of domestic violence had been adopted in 2010. On the basis of the law, amendments and modifications were made to the Family Code, which provided for 18 years of age as the lowest age limit for marriage. The amendments also forbade early and forced marriage, and toughened punishments for infringements of that prohibition. Moreover, in 2011, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, in cooperation with UNICEF, implemented a “social communications and behavioural change” programme to prevent early marriages.

736. A law was adopted in November 2011 providing for new sanctions for early marriage.

737. The fight against corruption and for its eradication were major guarantees for ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard, Azerbaijan attached great importance to international cooperation in the fight against corruption. The number of staff members of the State agency for civil services and social innovations had been increased from 120 to 260. In addition, as of 2012, the establishment of agency service centres was being continued in different regions of Azerbaijan.

738. The national programme of action to improve the protection of human rights and freedoms in Azerbaijan, approved by presidential decree, envisaged the preparation of a bill on defamation. In September 2012, Azerbaijan requested the Venice Commission to assist in the preparation of the bill. In April 2013, representatives of the Commission met with representatives of relevant State bodies, press services and civil society organizations to discuss the bill. On May 22 2013, a public debate on the bill was held in Baku with the participation of representatives of the administration of the President, the Parliament, the Press Council, the media and other stakeholders. The bill envisaged applying case law of the European Court of Human Rights to legal cases concerning defamation.

739. Guided by international practice, Azerbaijan was constantly taking steps to improve legislation in the area of non-governmental organizations to create the conditions necessary for the development of civil society. Amendments had been made to the law on grants and the law on non-governmental organizations to regulate subsidies as a form of financial assistance. In addition, a law on public participation had been adopted by Parliament. Proposals prepared on the basis of recommendations of the Venice Commission in the area of legislation on non-governmental organizations, including their registration process, were being considered.

740. Azerbaijan had not accepted four recommendations, which it believed reflected the policy of aggression of Armenia, which had pursued a policy of ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijan since 1988, committed the Khojaly genocide in 1992 and occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven other adjacent districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

741. Armenia raised a point of order to request Azerbaijan to remain within procedural norms. In this regard, Armenia referred to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, which stated that the universal periodic review should be conducted in an objective, constructive, non-politicized and non-confrontational manner. Armenia stated that, during its presentations and statements, Azerbaijan should be reminded that it was necessary to avoid using disrespectful, false and imaginary expressions, and not to bring up political and territorial issues. Armenia pointed out that Azerbaijan was free to reject the recommendations made by Armenia. It was,

however, necessary to stress that the most horrible crimes had been committed because certain Governments and individuals tried to justify grave violations of human rights.

742. The head of the delegation of Azerbaijan responded that he was surprised by the behaviour and comments of the representative of Armenia. He emphasized that he had presented the reasons for rejecting the recommendations made by Armenia, and in this regard Azerbaijan had remained within the rules and procedures of the Human Rights Council.

743. In another point of order, the representative of Armenia stated that this was not the first time that the delegation of Azerbaijan had insulted the delegation of Armenia and her personally. She asked the President of the Human Rights Council to recall that the head of the delegation of Azerbaijan represented his country and the image of his country. She also pointed out that she also represented her delegation and country, and was defending her country. She requested the President to remind the delegation of Azerbaijan that it should be respectful to her delegation.

744. The President reminded all concerned that, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Human Rights Council, in particular rule 113, points of order should focus on procedural matters. He reminded all delegations that the Council was not the competent body or appropriate forum for discussing bilateral issues of a territorial nature.

745. Azerbaijan thanked all representatives who had taken part in the interactive dialogue, the members of the troika (from Libya, Maldives and Peru), the secretariat and the interpreters, who had made the interactive dialogue possible.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

746. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Azerbaijan, 12 delegations and UNICEF made statements.***

747. China welcomed the progress made by Azerbaijan in promoting and protecting human rights. It appreciated the State's positive response to the recommendations made during the review. China thanked Azerbaijan for having accepted the recommendation made by China on promoting socioeconomic development, to eliminate poverty and thus establish a solid foundation for the full enjoyment of human rights by the population. China welcomed the State's commitment to improve the situation of education and health, and to provide better education and health services, especially in rural areas.

748. The Council of Europe pointed out the recommendations and requests made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Commissioner for Human Rights in his 2010 report on freedoms of expression and association, conduct of law enforcement officials and administration of justice, and the recommendations contained in the third report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. It also noted that the Committee of Ministers was considering three main cases or groups of cases revealing structural problems relating to the non-execution of final judicial decisions ordering the eviction of internally displaced persons, unjustified convictions for defamation and/or the unjustified application of prison sanctions for mere defamation, the arbitrary application of anti-terror legislation, and excessive use of force or ill-treatment by the police and/or absence of effective investigations. The Council of Europe would welcome the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

749. Cuba welcomed the State's acceptance of the large majority of the recommendations and the progress made in implementing them. It thanked Azerbaijan for having accepted its recommendation on continuing to implement and promote the programme for special social assistance and other poverty-reduction programmes. Cuba acknowledged the progress made

*** The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are, if available, posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

in the fight against domestic violence and in improving maternal and child health, reproductive health and the reduction of maternal mortality.

750. Djibouti commended Azerbaijan for having accepted most of the recommendations. It noted with satisfaction the acceptance by Azerbaijan of its recommendation on implementing the plan of development for social protection.

751. Malaysia appreciated the State's forthcoming engagement with the universal periodic review and its commitment to implement the recommendations accepted. Malaysia was pleased to note that its recommendations had been considered and accepted by Azerbaijan.

752. Morocco thanked Azerbaijan for having accepted its recommendations on education, human rights education and the fight against corruption. Morocco noted the State's efforts in the fight against corruption, to put in place adequate mechanisms and to make necessary institutional reforms. Morocco also noted the State's plans of action to combat corruption, and praised its cooperation with the international community in that regard.

753. Nigeria praised Azerbaijan for its cooperation with OHCHR to ensure the effective implementation of its obligations under relevant human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, and urged it to strengthen that cooperation further. Nigeria endorsed the State's determination to devote its attention to the promotion and protection of human rights in compliance with international human rights law.

754. Pakistan noted that Azerbaijan had taken a number of steps to promote and protect human rights, including the adoption of a national plan of action and the appointment of a commission for human rights. Pakistan also noted the State's efforts to eliminate domestic violence and to protect children's rights, and its actions against torture.

755. The Philippines stated was aware of the challenges faced by Azerbaijan in implementing its human rights obligations. It commended Azerbaijan for having implemented the recommendations received and accepted following the first review cycle. It had been encouraged by the ongoing efforts of Azerbaijan to improve its migration management process, including by providing migrants with better social protection.

756. The Russian Federation noted that Azerbaijan had accepted most of the recommendations, which showed the State's willingness to improve the situation of human rights and the national human rights protection system.

757. Sri Lanka noted with satisfaction that Azerbaijan had accepted its recommendations. It also noted the detailed information provided by Azerbaijan on the implementation of measures and policies targeting, inter alia, gender equality, the realization of children's rights and socioeconomic advancement.

758. UNICEF congratulated Azerbaijan on having established a mechanism under the Deputy Prime Minister to report annually on progress in implementing the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In view of the forthcoming review of the first report submitted by Azerbaijan to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, many recommendations concerning persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, should be given urgent attention. UNICEF hoped that the Parliament of Azerbaijan would commit to passing the draft law on juvenile justice in the near future. It highlighted the importance of the continuous work to eradicate unregistered marriages, in particular those involving children under the age of 18 years.

759. The United Arab Emirates noted with satisfaction that Azerbaijan had accepted a large number of recommendations, which reflected the political will of Azerbaijan to ensure progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. It commended the measures taken by Azerbaijan at the national level, which showed its determination to continue to improve the situation of human rights.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

760. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Azerbaijan, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

761. The Human Rights House Foundation called upon Azerbaijan to put an end to direct and indirect restrictions on freedom of expression and to ensure that journalist and media workers were able to work freely and without governmental intimidation. It also called upon Azerbaijan to reform the law on defamation and to refrain from initiating defamation lawsuits against civil society activists and journalists. It also requested Azerbaijan to review laws, policies and practices regulating the freedom of assembly and the right to peaceful demonstration. The recommendation on eliminating the unlawful postponement of registration of, or refusal to register, non-governmental organizations, including international ones, and those critical to the Government should be implemented. It recalled that, since 10 March 2013, the Human Rights House Foundation had been forced to suspend its activities, and partner non-governmental organizations, including the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre, had been denied registration.

762. According to Human Rights Watch, the State's record with regard to the freedoms of expression, assembly and association had been steadily worsening for some years; it had in fact witnessed a dramatic deterioration since mid-2012 in the run-up to the presidential election in October 2013. The authorities had used bogus charges against human rights activists, including charges of possessing drugs and weapons, hooliganism, incitement and even treason. Azerbaijan had a long-standing record of deep-seated antagonism against independent and opposition media. Since January 2013, at least six journalists had been sentenced to prison, apparently in retaliation for critical and investigative journalism. Azerbaijan had also imposed a blanket ban on all opposition demonstrations in Baku. Human Rights Watch also noted that Parliament had adopted amendments to laws that increased more than a hundred-fold the fines for participating in and organizing unauthorized protests. The now-accepted visits by several special procedures should be among the first steps towards urgently needed reforms.

763. SUDWIND stated that the education strategy was not enough to limit endemic corruption, which had not only prevented the development of the country but also affected the health of the population. It recommended that Azerbaijan invest in a decent national health-care system for all. It also urged Azerbaijan to show willingness to accede to the International Criminal Court.

764. Action Canada for Population and Development and the Federation for Women and Family Planning expressed concern at the rising rates of sex-selective abortion. Forced abortion violated a woman's fundamental rights, such as the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including the right to make an informed decision about any medical procedure and respect for private and family life. They called upon the Government to take all measures necessary to enact a comprehensive law on women's reproductive rights free from gender and sexual stereotypes and harmful discriminatory attitudes, and to adopt the concepts of dignity, self-determination and respect for family and private life.

765. Amnesty International noted that it was increasingly difficult for people of Azerbaijan to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms. At least 14 civil society activists, journalists and human rights defenders had been detained solely for exercising peacefully their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Dozens of others had become the target of harassment and intimidation and even physical attacks by unknown individuals. The law on defamation extended on 3 June 2013 applied to Internet-based content and opinions expressed online, including in social media. On numerous occasions, the authorities had prevented peaceful demonstrators from holding rallies in Baku. Amendments to the law on non-governmental organizations obstructed civil society with additional registration hurdles and stricter funding requirements.

766. Reporters sans Frontières stated that, in the run-up to the presidential election in October 2013, the situation of human rights was critical in Azerbaijan, giving some recent examples of human rights violations against journalists and independent media and noting the adoption of laws on the criminalization of defamation. It called upon Azerbaijan to accept recommendations 109.105 and 109.130 on the right to freedom of expression.

767. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation noted that, despite repeated reminders from the Council of Europe and recommendations by the Human Rights Committee, there were still no alternative to military service in Azerbaijan. Over the years, a number of

conscientious objectors had been imprisoned for up to 12 months for their refusal to serve military service. It therefore urged Azerbaijan to refrain from any further imprisonment of conscientious objectors.

768. In a joint statement with the Centre for National and International Studies, CIVICUS noted that civil society organizations faced a number of unwarranted restrictions that imperilled the freedom of association in the country. It was gravely concerned about reports of continued intimidation and harassment of independent media outlets, journalist and “netizens”. Amendments to the law on defamation approved in May 2013, which extended criminal defamation to Internet speech, ran counter to a number of recommendations made. CIVICUS called upon the Government of Azerbaijan to reform the law on defamation in compliance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to put an immediate end to the practice of detaining individuals engaging in the exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

769. United Schools International noted that Azerbaijan had posted an average growth in GDP of 12.6 per cent. It also noted the statement made by the Minister for Economic Development, who forecasted that the economy would effectively be able to surpass the targets set out in the Azerbaijan 2020 development concept.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

770. The delegation of Azerbaijan thanked all the delegations and organizations that had taken part in the discussion of the State’s review. Azerbaijan greatly valued the work of the Human Rights Council, and in the future would support cooperation with and within it. The State’s objectives were to continue its socioeconomic development, including the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It acknowledged that Azerbaijan had problems relating to conflict and other factors, and had to cope with a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

771. The State’s policies were directed at creating civil society, achieving the full realization of human rights, and ensuring legal guarantees for every citizen of Azerbaijan.

772. The delegation reiterated the State’s thanks to the President, the secretariat and the troika for having made constructive dialogue possible during its review.

773. Armenia requested clarification regarding a footnote on page 4 of the report of the Working Group on Azerbaijan. According to the institutional-building package contained in the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and President’s statement PRST/8/1, the outcome of the review should be a factual report containing the summary of interactive dialogue and conclusions and recommendations made during the review process. Armenia also noted that, in the report of the Working Group, Nagorno-Karabakh was mentioned only in the declaration of Azerbaijan and that of Armenia on the recommendations. The positions of Armenia were clearly summarized in paragraphs 97 and 110.4, which did not relate to the formulation of the footnote. Azerbaijan had not made such a reference; the information contained in the footnote therefore had never been delivered by any delegation during the review process. In this connection, Armenia requested clarification as to whether the reference made in the footnote had been delivered by any State. Armenia stated that the sole aim of the footnote was to misinterpret and modify the nature of the recommendations made by Armenia, which ran counter to all norms and principles of the universal periodic review process. Armenia also noted that the mention of the footnote contradicted the provisions of the United Nations Editorial Manual, particularly the chapters on the usage of footnotes in United Nations documents. The footnote, by its imperative and political content focusing on territorial issues, fully contradicted the ruling made by the President that the universal periodic review should not be used for political or territorial issues. Armenia added that, in view of the foregoing, the draft decision presented for adoption contained serious substantive problems, because it would imply the adoption of report of the Working Group that contained factual errors. Armenia argued that this would set a dangerous precedent and have unpredictable consequences, which would seriously undermine the credibility and universality of the universal periodic review.

774. The President of the Human Rights Council recalled that the Working Group had gathered to adopt the outcome of the review on Azerbaijan by means of a standardized

decision, of which the report of the Working Group was only one element, and that the segment of the Council plenary session on the universal periodic review was intended for the Council to adopt the outcome of the review of States, not to reopen discussions held during the session of the Working Group. He added that the Working Group, in its report on the review of Azerbaijan, did not purport to provide any legal interpretation of or comment on territorial issues, which was outside the competence of the Working Group and indeed of the Human Rights Council. Nothing in the reports of the Working Group should be seen as modifying or interpreting the recommendations made by States during the review.

775. On behalf of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) comprising France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, the representative of the United States stated that the report of the Working Group on the review of Azerbaijan did not purport to provide a legal interpretation of or comments on the issues that were subject to ongoing negotiations in the Minsk Group.

Russian Federation

776. The review of the Russian Federation, held on 28 April 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by the Russian Federation in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/RUS/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/RUS/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/RUS/3).

777. At its 24th meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Russian Federation (see sect. C below).

778. The outcome of the review of the Russian Federation comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/14), the views of the Russian Federation concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

779. The delegation of the Russian Federation reaffirmed the commitment of the State to the objectives and principles of the universal periodic review process, and expressed its trust in the value of this type of cooperation, as it provided an effective way to contribute to the advancement of human rights in all States, without exception.

780. During the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the Russian Federation had received 231 recommendations. The delegation expressed its gratitude for the consideration given to its second national report during the review and, in particular, to those delegations that had noted the significant progress made in the country in many areas of human rights protection.

781. The Russian Federation had carefully examined all recommendations in a constructive manner. Its position on the recommendations was set out in two documents submitted to the Secretariat: the first provided a brief response to the recommendations, which summarized the outcome of the Government's consideration of the recommendations; the second contained extended clarifications on the recommendations in table form in order to ensure maximum thoroughness and transparency in the review process.

782. Owing to a technical error in the documents submitted, the delegation made a clarification regarding its position with regard to a recommendation on the ratification of two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The recommendation had actually been partially accepted, not accepted, and this position was identical to its position

with regard to the subsequent recommendation. Overall, the Russian Federation had fully accepted 148 recommendations, partially accepted 15 and did not accept 68.

783. The Russian Federation accepted the recommendation whose content and wording the authorities supported, and those that had already been put into practice or were being implemented. It had partially accepted recommendations that could not be fully supported because they contained elements that, for various reasons, could not be put into practice. This group included recommendations made up of a number of separate recommendations on questions that were unrelated to one another and with which the authorities did not concur. The Russian Federation did not support the recommendations that contradicted the letter, spirit or practical implementation of existing legislation or certain trends in its development, or because the assertions made in them were factually inaccurate or contained inconsistencies.

784. The delegation also pointed out that the recommendations referred to in the footnote to paragraph 141 could not be considered in the framework of the review of the Russian Federation. They were factually incorrect and did not fall within the basis of the review as stipulated by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, and therefore did not apply to the Russian Federation.

785. The recommendations accepted would be considered guidelines to be followed in the State's future efforts to ensure the protection of human rights. The main directions for development set out in the recommendations would serve as a constructive framework for continuing active cooperation between the State and civil society organizations. The universal periodic review process would continue to contribute to the positive development of the Russian Federation as a democratic State based on the rule of law, where the individual and his/her rights and freedoms had the highest value.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

786. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Russian Federation, 15 delegations made statements.***

787. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted with appreciation the comprehensive presentation made by the Russian Federation of recent developments in the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. It was pleased to note the State's acceptance of a large number of recommendations made during the sixteen session of the Working Group and the steps taken for their implementation. It commended the Russian Federation for the progress made in legislation, law enforcement, the strengthening of the national human rights mechanism and the increase in civil society participation in decision-making processes.

788. Malaysia commended the Russian Federation for its active participation in, commitment to and engagement with the universal periodic review process. It noted that the Russian Federation had accepted most of the recommendations made during the session of the Working Group, and commended the Government for its commitment to implement the recommendations accepted.

789. Morocco noted the commitment of the Russian Federation to the universal periodic review process, as demonstrated by the Government's acceptance of a large number of recommendations, including the recommendations made by Morocco on anti-corruption and on reforms to the legal system. In that regard, Morocco noted with satisfaction the progress made in access to justice, including in ensuring transparency in the judiciary. It also welcomed the adoption of laws regulating access to information on the work of the judiciary on the Internet and the provision of legal aid.

790. Nigeria commended the Russian Federation for its commitment to the universal periodic review. It also noted with satisfaction the Government's readiness to implement its obligations with regard to the protection and promotion of human rights, in accordance with

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international law. Nigeria urged the Russian Federation to continue its constructive engagement with OHCHR.

791. Pakistan noted the constructive engagement of the Russian Federation with the Human Rights Council, and appreciated the Government's acceptance of most of the recommendations received, including the recommendations made by Pakistan on combating discrimination, eliminating different forms of extremism and encouraging racial, ethnic and religious tolerance. The Russian Federation had taken positive steps to ensure free legal assistance and to address the grievances of persons against security personnel.

792. The Philippines noted with appreciation the establishment of the post of Commissioner for Children's Rights, and the attention paid to the protection of the rights of women. In that regard, it welcomed the Government's acceptance of a recommendation made by the Philippines on legal protection against domestic violence. The Philippines remained confident that, despite the fact that the Russian Federation did not support the recommendation made by the Philippines on ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Government would continue to engage with the international community in looking for ways to provide for better social protection to migrants, including migrant workers.

793. South Africa commended the Russian Federation for its commitment to the universal periodic review and the steps taken to ratify key international human rights instruments. It noted with appreciation the progress made with regard to the initiatives undertaken to ensure the practical realization and full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encouraged the Government to continue the positive steps taken.

794. Sri Lanka noted that the Russian Federation had accepted most of the recommendations received, including those made by Sri Lanka. It noted the measures taken to safeguard human rights, including the establishment of the post of Regional Commissioner for the Rights of the Child, the efforts made to formulate a federal bill on the prevention of domestic violence, and the training of personnel of law enforcement agencies. It also welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

795. The State of Palestine appreciated the commitment, transparency and engagement of the Russian Federation in the universal periodic review process. It commended the Government for having accepted most of the recommendations and for having adopted and implemented a law prohibiting the use of confessions obtained under torture. It also welcomed the establishment of a mechanism for interreligious dialogue to promote tolerance and respect on distinctive religious and cultural values, and the measures taken to ensure that legal provisions did not create disproportionate restrictions on the exercise of freedom of assembly or expression.

796. Cuba noted the commitment of the Russian Federation to human rights demonstrated during its second universal periodic review. The interactive dialogue had provided an opportunity to document the efforts and achievements of the Government in promoting and protecting human rights. It noted with satisfaction the acceptance by the Russian Federation of a significant number of recommendations, including those made by Cuba on international cooperation in the area of human rights, the provision of free medical services and cultural and ethnic development.

797. Thailand welcomed the State's acceptance of the recommendations made by Thailand on considering incorporating the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) into the programme to improve conditions of detention. It also noted with appreciation the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In order to strengthen the child protection mechanism further, Thailand encouraged the Russian Federation to continue to consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

798. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted with disappointment that its recommendation on the implementation of the recommendations made by OSCE had

been rejected, and also enquired what the partial acceptance of its recommendation on human rights defenders would mean in practice. It urged the Government not to place groups advocating the protection of fundamental freedoms under special scrutiny. The United Kingdom expressed its concern about the new law, which imposed penalties on the promotion of “non-traditional sexual relations among minors”, given that it could in effect prevent individuals in the LGBT community from fully enjoying the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. It also reiterated its statement that all recommendations should have been included in the report of the Working Group; the exclusion of recommendations went against the review process and should not be repeated.

799. Uzbekistan noted with appreciation the State’s acceptance of most of the recommendations, including those made by Uzbekistan. It noted with satisfaction the achievements in the liberalization and the humanization of the judicial system, the protection of the rights of children, women, and persons with disabilities, and the Government’s cooperation with the treaty bodies.

800. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the State’s cooperation with the universal periodic review. It also noted the inclusiveness of the national report, which contained solutions and plans in various areas to improve the living conditions of its people. It further noted that the State had met its social obligations, including by improving the well-being of the most vulnerable members of the population, in particular the elderly.

801. Viet Nam noted with satisfaction the State’s ongoing efforts to strengthen legislative frameworks and the national mechanism for improving the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Russian Federation had maintained its important role and made contributions to international affairs in order to strengthen global peace and security, cooperation and development, and the protection of human rights. Viet Nam commended the engagement, commitments and seriousness of the Government in implementing all the recommendations accepted, including the two made by Viet Nam.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

802. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Russian Federation, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

803. The Centre for Reproductive Rights welcomed the State’s acceptance of the recommendation on putting in place sexual and reproductive health education programmes, and urged the Government to ensure that this subject became compulsory in the school curriculum. It highlighted the existing barriers in access to reproductive health services, including to contraception and abortion, and stated that marginalized women were particularly vulnerable to violations of their reproductive rights. It urged the Government to remedy those human rights violations by developing laws and policies that guarantee access to affordable and acceptable reproductive health services to all women.

804. Human Rights Watch noted that the crackdown on civil society by requiring non-governmental organizations to register as a “foreign agent” and the unprecedented wave of inspections of those organizations were the most widely addressed issues. It reported that more than 80 groups had received a warning or orders to register as a “foreign agents” or had been taken to court, and that many organizations had endured harassment from both officials and private actors. It noted with regret the State’s rejection of the recommendations on those issues. While the Government had committed to lowering fines for violation of rules on public protests, concrete steps had yet to be taken. It also regretted the rejection of recommendations on repeal the law banning “homosexual propaganda”, and urged the State to introduce a bill to repeal the law. Human Rights Watch also regretted the rejection of the recommendations on investigating violations of the rights of migrant workers building Olympic infrastructure.

805. Belarus appealed to the President of the Human Rights Council to call upon non-governmental organizations to observe procedures and to focus their statements on the report of the Working Group rather than to bring up issues not related to the universal periodic review.

806. Action Canada for Population and Development stated that women's reproductive rights were restricted, especially in regard to women's access to modern contraception and family planning services. It called upon the Government to include the issue of accessible and affordable contraception and family planning services in national health policies. It urged the Government to acknowledge the risk posed to the health of a pregnant woman by legal provisions requiring mandatory waiting periods for women who wish to have an abortion. It expressed concern that newly adopted legal provisions did not protect persons from discrimination on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation, and contained harmful provisions referring to the concept of "homosexual propaganda".

807. The International Lesbian and Gay Association noted that the Russian Federation had accepted some of the recommendations on the protection of the rights of the LGBT community. Since the start of the review process, however, the State Duma had adopted laws forbidding "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations between minors" and envisaging administrative responsibility, which was considered discriminatory by several international and regional human rights organizations. New draft laws submitted to the State Duma would further limit the rights of LGBT persons. It referred to cases of hate crimes against LGBT persons and the lack of a proper investigation into such cases. The Association called upon the State to repeal regional and federal laws on so-called "homosexual propaganda" and to take measures to ensure that effective investigations of hate crimes against LGBT persons were conducted, and to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

808. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues noted with regret that the State had rejected key recommendations, in particular with regard to non-discrimination, LGBT persons and the freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association. While noting the State's acceptance of a number of recommendations, it recalled that serious human rights violations continued and the large-scale crackdown on civil liberties initiated in 2012 through a series of repressive measures continued in 2013. In June, the State Duma had adopted a bill on "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations", which banned de facto any demonstration or gathering by LGBT persons and allowed silencing them online. It urged the Government to ensure that non-governmental organizations and civil society could operate freely without fear, to repeal legislation requiring them to register as "foreign agents" and stop administrative and judicial harassment of them, to investigate all acts of violence and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, and to invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to visit the Russian Federation.

809. Amnesty International noted with regret that the State had rejected a number of important recommendations on the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, and that some of those rights had been continually encroached upon. Some of the recommendations referred to new legislation restricting those freedoms; since the review in April, two more such laws had been adopted. One law outlawed blasphemy and provided for considerable penalties, including imprisonment, while the other introduced a legal framework for fines and other sanctions for "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations between minors". It also noted with regret that the State had rejected recommendations on revising or repealing the requirement for non-governmental organizations to register as a "foreign agent". Amnesty International noted that harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and defence lawyers remained an unaddressed issue.

810. The International Commission for Jurists welcomed the State's acceptance of recommendations on address the lack of judicial independence, although it regretted that the Russian Federation had not supported a recommendation on establishing an independent body for the removal of judges. It also regretted the fact that key recommendations concerning the law on non-governmental organizations requiring their registration as a "foreign agent", and many recommendations on the rights of LGBT persons, had been rejected. It called upon the State to establish grounds for disciplinary action against judges, to ensure the right of all detainees to have access to a lawyer, to amend the law on the activities of non-governmental organizations and to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds.

811. Reporters without Borders International, recalling the recent deaths of independent journalists and the impunity prevailing in this area, felt it necessary to reiterate recommendations addressed to the Russian Federation at the previous cycle of the universal

periodic review. In particular, it recommended again that the Government end impunity by addressing cases of the journalists killed since 2000; protect journalists in carrying out their professional work, in particular in the North Caucasus; decriminalize defamation; and stop the practice of controlling the content of the Internet and other practices of censorship of online information.

812. Freedom House recalled that the State had not supported the majority of the most specific and meaningful recommendations on repealing or amending legal provisions restricting the exercise of the freedoms of association, assembly and expression. Those laws in essence outlawed nearly any type of independent activity in defence of human rights by making it punishable by either administrative or criminal sanctions, and such legal provisions had been criticized by a number of human rights institutions of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, as not being in compliance with international human rights standards. Freedom House recommended that the Government extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

813. The Mother's Legacy Project encouraged the Government to develop a plan of action for women, and expressed its hope that efforts would continue to promote children's rights and to enhance opportunities for the rights of women. It expressed its concern at the insufficient representation of women in decision-making positions, and encouraged the Russian Federation to empower women to participate in political life. It stressed that adopting a gender equality law would promote a positive image of women. It was confident that the authorities would make an effort to strengthen mechanisms to eliminate gender discrimination.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

814. The delegation of the Russian Federation was grateful for all the statements and comments made, and noted that a number of them had been already addressed at the sixteenth session of the Working Group and in the addendum to the report of the Working Group. The delegation reassured that all comments made would be carefully examined by the Government. The protection and promotion of human rights remained an important priority and goal in the activities of the authorities. The Government would continue to improve legal mechanisms in this area, taking into account the current reforms and challenges at the national and intergovernmental levels.

815. Statements were made before the adoption of the outcome of the review.

816. The United States of America asked for additional clarification from the delegation of the Russian Federation on whether it accepted or rejected the recommendations contained in the footnote of paragraph 141 of the report of the Working Group on the Russian Federation.

817. Georgia stated that the delegation of the Russian Federation had referred to the recommendations mentioned in paragraph 141 as if they did not apply to the Russian Federation. Georgia stressed that two Georgian provinces mentioned in the report, namely Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, remained under the occupation of the Russian Federation, which constituted a violation of all Security Council resolutions on Georgia, norms and principles of international law and the cease-fire agreement brokered by the European Union. The Russian Federation exercised effective control over those two provinces of Georgia, and therefore bore entire responsibility for the human rights violations committed in them.

818. The President of the Human Rights Council noted that the delegation of the Russian Federation had not pronounced its position on all recommendations. According to Council resolution 5/1, recommendations that enjoyed the support of the State concerned were to be identified as such. Other recommendations, together with the comments of the State concerned thereon, would be noted. Both would then be included in the outcome report to be adopted by the Council. In this regard, Poland requested the Russian Federation to clarify its position.

819. The delegation of the Russian Federation reiterated that the recommendations mentioned in the footnote of paragraph 141 could not be considered in the framework of the review of the Russian Federation. The recommendations were factually incorrect and did not

fall within the review as stipulated in Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, and therefore did not apply to the Russian Federation. The President stated that he would therefore note that the Russian Federation could not support the two recommendations.

820. The delegation stated again that the recommendations mentioned in the footnote of the paragraph 141 could not be considered in the framework of the review of the Russian Federation. The recommendations were factually incorrect and did not fall within the review as stipulated in relevant Council resolutions, and therefore did not apply to the Russian Federation.

Cameroon

821. The review of Cameroon, held on 1 May 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Cameroon in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CMR/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CMR/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CMR/3).

822. At its 24th meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Cameroon (see sect. C below).

823. The outcome of the review of Cameroon comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/15), the views of Cameroon concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/15/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

824. Cameroon had seriously and thoroughly examined each of the 171 recommendations made during the review, bearing in mind that the recommendations had been made by friendly States wishing to contribute to the improvement of the situation of human rights in Cameroon.

825. Broad consultations had been held in 22 governmental institutions, with the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms and members of civil society. The Government wished to “take the pulse” of Cameroonian society on topics that were subject to recommendations, to examine the feasibility of their implementation, and to define precise commitments for each recommendation.

826. The addendum to the report of the Working Group had been validated by the Committee for Follow-Up of Recommendations and Decisions of International and Regional Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

827. Cameroon had accepted 121 recommendations on the ratification of human rights instruments to which Cameroon had agreed at its first review; the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups; guarantees of economic, social and cultural rights; and international cooperation in the area of human rights. With regard to the latter, Cameroon had accepted the principle of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council by accepting eight relevant recommendations. With regard to the recommendations on either ratifying several international instruments or issues on which Cameroon had held a different position, Cameroon had accepted them only partially.

828. Cameroon did not support 50 other recommendations owing to the fact that they were not accepted by the majority of society, as reaffirmed during civil society consultations, and

to the difficulties in implementing them by 2017. With regard to the recommendations on ratify international instruments other than those of which ratification had been accepted during the first cycle, the ratification of these instruments was not possible owing to the requirements of internal procedures, prior national consultations and parliamentary autonomy.

829. Cameroon explained its reasons for not supporting 14 recommendations on decriminalizing homosexuality, 14 on abolishing the death penalty and 9 on decriminalizing offences committed through the media.

830. With regard to the issue of homosexuality, legislation in Cameroon was based on article 29 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 29 (7) of the African Charter of Human Rights. The enjoyment of any right or service on the basis of alleged sexual orientation had not been denied to homosexuals, and there had not been any *prima facie* investigation or illegal entry into their privacy. The President of Cameroon, Paul Biya, had stated in January 2013 that that attitude could change, but that, currently, homosexuality was an offence. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, stated in May 2013, homosexuality was not currently seen as a value accepted by society, and the legislator had simply enshrined this dominant sociological view in law. Cameroon drew the attention of the international community to the risk of radicalization that constant pressure to decriminalize homosexuality had imposed on its society. Such pressure could indeed be counterproductive, as it did not favour the enjoyment by homosexuals of their rights, and threatened social stability in Cameroon.

831. In Cameroon, the media, which were characterized by their diversity, had enjoyed freedom of expression and were even outspoken. In addition to the public media, there were eight private television channels, 54 private radio stations, 17 audiovisual producers and 500 cable companies. Three international radio stations had been allowed to broadcast from Cameroon, and 700 print titles had been published. An annual public subsidy had been allocated to support private media. Cameroon had, however, faced a lack of training and professionalism among journalists. The profession had unfortunately been perceived by journalists as an exemption from their liability for common offences. For Cameroon, journalists and human rights defenders were subject to the law and regulations, in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 18 of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

832. Cameroon had made clear, precise and realistic commitments for each recommendation, whether accepted or rejected. For instance, with regard to the issue of homosexuality, the State had a commitment not to aggravate current criminal penalties, to continue to apply legal provisions, to guarantee a fair trial for alleged homosexuals, and to continue not to apply any discriminatory measure against them. With regard to the issue of freedom of expression, Cameroon was committed to strengthening the professionalism of journalists, continuing to allocate public subsidies to the private media, strengthening the capacity of journalists and human rights defenders in the area of ethics and a professional code of conduct, continuing to promote freedom of expression and respecting that of the media, continuing to apply measures applicable to press-card holders in order to protect the State, and supporting the mission of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in Cameroon in October 2013.

833. Similar commitments had also been made for each of 171 recommendations with a view to implementing the recommendations accepted or strengthening guarantees for and the enjoyment of relevant rights in the recommendations that the State had rejected.

834. Cameroon would strive, within its capacity, to implement its commitments in good faith so that it could be assessed in 2017 on that basis.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

835. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Cameroon, 13 delegations made statements.***

836. Angola commended the constructive spirit of the State in the review, and its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Cameroon attached great importance to the enjoyment of human rights in the country, in particular by improving living conditions. Angola appreciated the State's acceptance of numerous recommendations, including those made by Angola on strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and of penitentiary personnel.

837. Benin welcomed the State's ratification of several international instruments and the adoption of measures aimed at protecting women's rights, including measures against female genital mutilation. It noted the improvement of the legal and institutional framework and the concrete measures taken to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, to fight poverty and human trafficking, and to protect vulnerable groups. Benin welcomed the establishment of an interministerial committee in charge of implementing regional and international human rights mechanisms. It encouraged Cameroon to continue its efforts to improve conditions in and overpopulation problem of prisons, and the freedoms of expression and association.

838. Botswana appreciated the efforts made by the State to fight corruption, the development of a national strategy against corruption, and the establishment of the Special Criminal Court and of a ministry in charge of public contracts. Botswana thanked Cameroon for having accepted the recommendations made by Botswana on continuing to address concerns expressed by the treaty bodies and the ILO Committee of Experts regarding the trafficking and exploitation of women and children for commercial purposes.

839. China commended Cameroon for its constructive participation in the review process, and appreciated the positive responses to the recommendations made. China appreciated the fact that Cameroon attached great importance to food security, improving education facilities, high standards of health services and the promotion of gender equality. China believed that these efforts would lay a solid foundation for the full enjoyment of human rights by the people of Cameroon, and for the country to achieve socioeconomic development.

840. The Congo welcomed the State's commitments as demonstrated by its ratification of several regional and international human rights instruments, and the establishment of an interministerial committee in charge of following up on the implementation of recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms. It encouraged Cameroon to continue to implement the recommendations accepted at its first and second reviews by developing a plan of action and a road map, and called upon the international community to assist it in this regard.

841. Cuba commended Cameroon for having accepted most of the recommendations, in particular those made by Cuba on implementing the national strategy to fight HIV/AIDS and continuing action aimed at improving health insurance coverage. It appreciated the efforts made to improve the quality of health services, in particular child health, and of the education system, which had made important progress in the past four years. It encouraged Cameroon to continue to take measures contributing to the promotion and protection of all human rights.

842. Djibouti commended the State for its acceptance of most of the recommendations, including the ones it made. It welcomed the progress made by Cameroon to strengthen the legal framework, such as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and of other international human rights instruments. It encouraged Cameroon to continue to strive for human rights and to cooperate with the universal periodic review process.

*** The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are, if available, posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

843. Equatorial Guinea commended Cameroon for having fulfilled its obligations under the human rights treaties that it had ratified and under its voluntary commitments taken at the renewal of its membership of the Human Rights Council. It noted the State's success in implementing the recommendations made during the first cycle, and its cooperation with the treaty bodies, the special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms.

844. Ethiopia was pleased by the positive progress made in several areas since the first review of Cameroon, and noted the State's engagement in a fruitful and constructive dialogue during the second cycle. It commended Cameroon for its commitment to continue to implement the recommendations accepted in 2009 and those accepted in the second review. It appreciated the State's decision to develop a plan of action and a road map for the implementation of the recommendations, the ongoing cooperation with the subregional United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, and its consultation with civil society.

845. Gabon welcomed the State's ratification of several international and regional instruments. It commended the numerous actions taken to implement some categories of fundamental rights, and the establishment of several institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights. It recommended that Cameroon continue its efforts to implement economic, social and cultural rights by guaranteeing the rights of minorities and of indigenous peoples.

846. Malaysia commended State's active participation in the review process, and its commitment, transparency and forthcoming engagement. Malaysia was satisfied with the updates and responses, and applauded Cameroon for its ongoing positive commitment to implement the recommendations it had accepted. Malaysia was pleased that its own recommendations had been accepted by Cameroon.

847. Maldives was encouraged by the steps taken by Cameroon to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and women, in particular through its efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation and gender-based violence. It encouraged Cameroon to continue its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and to take appropriate measures to secure the rights of the child. Given the constructive engagement of Cameroon with the Human Rights Council, Maldives hoped that the implementation of recommendations had moved forward with national consultations.

848. Morocco welcomed the concrete initiatives taken by Cameroon to improve the general situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It noted the efforts made in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular through the adoption of its strategy document for growth and employment to ensure food security and create jobs in rural areas. It welcomed the State's constructive dialogue in the review, and noted the commitments as demonstrated by the plan of action and the road map for the implementation of recommendations.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

849. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Cameroon, 11 other stakeholders made statements.

850. The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms appreciated the broad consultations conducted with multiple stakeholders and the measures taken since 2009 to implement the recommendations accepted during the first review. It welcomed the recommendations on developing a national plan of action for protecting and promoting human rights, the human rights education programme, and on strengthening the Commission. It remained committed to continue to urge the State to pay attention to a large number of important human rights areas, and to encourage civil society organizations to work with the Commission and the Government for the improvement of human rights.

851. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative welcomed the State's ratification of various international human rights treaties. It noted the cases of harassment against journalists, human rights defenders and political parties that criticized government policies, and called upon Cameroon to respect the freedom of expression. It was concerned about the provisions criminalizing consensual adult same-sex conduct. It urged Cameroon to accept

the recommendations on reviewing the law, and on investigating and addressing threats, harassment and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation.

852. Human Rights Watch was pleased to note the State's acceptance of recommendations to investigate police violence against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation, and violence against human rights defenders. It urged Cameroon to take immediate steps in that regard. It regretted the state's non-acceptance of several common-sense recommendations, on protecting the security and life of LGBTI individuals, and on ending arbitrary arrests for same-sex conduct.

853. The International Lesbian and Gay Association referred to the recent case of an individual who allegedly had been tortured and assassinated for his defence of LGBTI rights. It urged Cameroon to implement the recommendation accepted on investigating violence against LGBTI defenders, and the rejected recommendations on protecting LGBTI persons. It called upon the State to investigate the above-mentioned case and other cases of violence against human rights defenders, to prosecute those responsible, and to condemn all manifestations of and incitement to homophobia and related crimes.

854. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues welcomed the commitments made by Cameroon, but regretted its non-acceptance of all recommendations on protecting human rights defenders and on decriminalizing homosexuality. It referred to the rising number of threats and acts of violence against LGBTI defenders, including the recent murders of two individuals, allegedly for their defence of LGBTI rights. It urged Cameroon to implement without delay all recommendations made during the review in order to guarantee the security of human rights defenders, particularly those working for LGBTI rights.

855. Franciscans International recalled that Cameroon had accepted in the first cycle recommendations on ending and preventing trafficking in children through the adoption of a specific law and a plan of action; nevertheless, the phenomenon remained persistent. It noted the constant practice of early and forced marriage of young girls in the north of the country. It regretted the State's non-acceptance of the recommendations on aimed at strengthening the legal framework to protect children. It urged Cameroon to investigate trafficking in children, and to protect the victims of trafficking and street children.

856. Amnesty International stated that it had received reports of government and security officials using violence, arrest and detention to obstruct the work of human rights defenders. It was shocked at the recent brutal murder of an individual allegedly for his outspokenness and activities for LGBTI rights. It welcomed the State's support for recommendations on protecting human rights defenders. It noted great violations of human rights of individuals because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, and the criminalization by the Penal Code of same-sex sexual acts. It urged Cameroon to reconsider its rejection of relevant recommendations, and to take measures to eliminate discriminatory treatment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

857. Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale (OCAPROCE International) was pleased to witness the State's achievements and commitments. It welcomed the national plan of action for human rights and the other measures against violence against women and the use of corporal punishment for children. It appreciated the strategy for growth and employment and the recruitment of 20,000 young people for the administration. It urged Cameroon to adopt specific legislation to combat violence and discrimination against women and to prohibit forced marriages, and to realize the economic, social and cultural rights of women and children.

858. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme commended the positive contribution made by Cameroon to peace and stability in the region, and its efforts to combat poverty and corruption and to promote transparency. It urged Cameroon to create a special mechanism for the rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of women victims of female genital mutilation; to strengthen the capacity of the national commission with a view to promoting human rights education; to improve conditions of detention; and to protect the indigenous Mbororo victims of abuse by religious leaders.

859. The Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association thanked the Government for its recent efforts in supporting indigenous pastoralists, who were still victims of various

forms of discrimination, including hatred and racism promoted by powerful individuals through the media in certain African countries and across Cameroon in order to eliminate the Mbororo name, identity and culture. It called upon the Council to invite Cameroon to review, update and implement its own findings by the Jani interministerial commission set up in 2004 by the President of the Republic.

860. Defence for Children International, on behalf of Coalition des ONG camerounaises pour les droits des enfants, welcomed the State's acceptance of recommendations on protecting children's rights. It encouraged Cameroon to accept several recommendations on, inter alia, protecting women and children against violence and promoting universal birth registration and education among the indigenous population. It called upon Cameroon to adopt a realistic plan of action and to allocate adequate measures to ensure the effectiveness of institutions. It looked forward to working with the Government on follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

861. Cameroon recalled that, like all other States, it was not perfect, but it would do its utmost to improve the situation of human rights.

862. Cameroon recalled the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs about possible changes in social attitudes regarding homosexuality. It regretted the tone of presentations in which stakeholders addressed that issue only. Cameroon reiterated that this issue remained sensitive for its society, culture and civilization. The State rejected all accusations regarding the murder of an individual for his alleged homosexuality because its authorities do not enter into the private lives of citizens, and that the murder could have been due to other behaviours he had in his private life.

863. Cameroon thanked all delegations and other stakeholders that had offered support and positive comments.

Cuba

864. The review of Cuba, held on 20 September 2013 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Cuba in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CUB/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CUB/2 and Corr.1);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 16/21, paragraph 5 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/16/CUB/3 and Corr.1).

865. At its 24th meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Cuba (see sect. C below).

866. The outcome of the review of Cuba comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/16), the views of Cuba concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/24/16/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

867. The delegation of Cuba expressed its support for the universal periodic review, which considered the human rights record of all countries, on an equal ground, on the basis of mutual respect, constructive dialogue and cooperation. Under those principles, Cuba took full responsibility for its presentation.

868. The Government of Cuba had studied each recommendation thoroughly, and broad consultations had been carried out to decide on the State's position. A legal, political and institutional analysis had been made, during which 16 ministries, various civil society organizations and other relevant actors had participated. The addendum to the report of the Working Group reflected the State's position on each recommendation made.

869. Cuba had accepted most of the 230 recommendations received, and had already complied with most of them, was in the process of implementing them or making them part of its future priorities. Those currently being applied or to be applied at a later date would be implemented in accordance with the possibilities of the State and the development of circumstances.

870. Cuba had decided that it would not support 20 recommendations because they were politically biased and false, based on attempts to discredit the country by those with hegemonic ambitions, that resisted accepting the right of self-determination of the Cuban people and the diversity of political, economic and institutional systems. These attitudes were incompatible with the constitutional principles and national legal order of Cuba, and the spirit of cooperation and respect that should predominate during the universal periodic review.

871. Cuba had noted 42 recommendations, for which it was unable to ensure compliance, even though the State had been working on many of them.

872. Cuba commended the large majority of delegations participating in the debate for recognizing its achievements, including universal health coverage and free education, its commitment to the right to life, liberty and security of person, and its respect for human dignity.

873. The delegation appreciated the comments by many against the ill-fated impact of the blockade of the United States of America on the enjoyment of human rights of the Cuban people, which was a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of those rights.

874. The delegation also noted the condemnation of the unfair and prolonged solitary imprisonment of five Cuban anti-terrorist fighters in the United States of America that had lasted 15 years, who had been sentenced without the guarantees of due process, in a climate of revenge and hate, their legal defence obstructed, under a slanderous government-paid press campaign and submitted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

875. The State would, on the basis of its capacity and needs, work to implement all the recommendations accepted. The inter-institutional working group in charge of follow-up to the universal periodic review would remain active, and include the participation of members of civil society.

876. Cuba would continue to analyse the small group of recommendations that it had noted in accordance with Cuban law, institutional procedures and the principles governing the political system. Moreover, the State took the ratification of an international treaty seriously; it was therefore dedicating time to conduct broad consultations and a detailed study on the legal order and current policies and programmes with a view to assessing the compatibility of national legislation and the current situation on the ground with the international obligations proposed by the treaty.

877. Cuba opposed the death penalty and favoured its elimination, in the proper conditions.

878. Cuba had a system that received, processed and responded to any claim or petition regarding human rights effectively, and an institutionalized system of independent tribunals that offered procedural guarantees and impartial, fair hearings.

879. The freedoms of expression and assembly had constitutional status. Cuba recognized the importance of information and communications technology in this regard, but pointed out that the main obstacle to the extension of Internet services was the blockade by the United States of America. There was nonetheless the political will necessary to overcome these obstacles. Cuba called for the urgent democratization of the Internet and an end to the monopoly of technology.

880. Cuba was open to respectful and fair dialogue based on the principles of objectivity and impartiality, and reiterated its commitment to continue to deepen and improve conditions for all its people.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

881. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Cuba, 13 delegations made statements.***

882. Saudi Arabia thanked the deputy Attorney General of Cuba for the clarification of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group. It underscored the State's interest in human rights; its determination to achieve these rights on the ground had indeed been seen in the adoption of initiatives at the legislative and institutional levels. Cuba had cooperated at the international level and with human rights special procedures, developed laws and institutions regarding human rights, and accepted a large number of the recommendations made.

883. Singapore understood the development challenges that Cuba faced, and commended its constructive approach to and high-level delegation participating in the universal periodic review, which reflected its commitment to improving the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people. It noted the large number of recommendations accepted by Cuba, and welcomed the acceptance of the two recommendations that Singapore had made.

884. South Africa welcomed the delegation of Cuba and expressed its appreciation for its continued and strong commitment to the universal periodic review process, for its comprehensive responses and the update provided to the Human Rights Council on the recommendations, and for its ongoing efforts to ensure the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of its people. South Africa commended Cuba for providing human rights protection and health-care services in Africa, and also for its continued cooperation and interaction with the procedures and mechanisms of the United Nations system.

885. South Sudan noted the State's acceptance of the recommendations made, including those that South Sudan itself had made, and its cooperation with the Human Rights Council. It took the opportunity to pay tribute to Cuba for its progress in health care – offering one of the best systems in the world – and the priority accorded by the Government to education.

886. Sri Lanka acknowledged the State's transparent and proactive engagement during the universal periodic review. It commended Cuba for having accepted most of the recommendations, including made by Sri Lanka, on, inter alia, food security and access to adequate housing. Cuba had continued to guarantee free access to universal education and health care to its people despite the significant challenges that it faced, and economic and social reform had yielded positive results.

887. Thailand expressed its appreciation for the State's full cooperation and engagement with the Working Group and the troika, and its active role and participation in the work of the Human Rights Council, including the initiative on the right to development and its efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals. It was pleased that Cuba had supported a significant number of recommendations, including those made by Thailand, which offered to share with Cuba its experiences and best practices.

888. The Sudan commended the delegation of Cuba and thanked it for the clarifications provided. Cuba had received a large number of recommendations, mostly positive and constructive, even though a small number of them were subject to politicization. The Sudan encouraged Cuba to show openness and cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights. It appreciated the fact that Cuba had accepted most of the recommendations, including those made by the Sudan.

*** The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are, if available, posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/24thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

889. The Russian Federation noted that Cuba had accepted most of the recommendations, including the ones that it had made. This showed once again that Cuba gave priority attention to human rights issues and was ready to continue to cooperate with international monitoring mechanisms. The Russian Federation emphasized the significant progress made by Cuba in the promotion and protection of human rights, first and foremost in the area of socioeconomic rights, which was impressive in the light of the unilateral sanctions against the State.

890. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the State's determination to uphold its commitment to implement the recommendations accepted during its second review. It noted the efforts made by Cuba to enshrine the culture of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take specific measures in all areas to ensure human dignity and equal opportunities for all. The delegation appreciated the measures taken to promote economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of women, sustainable development and social justice.

891. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the engagement of Cuba with the universal periodic review, and the recent domestic reforms that had introduced new economic and travel freedoms for Cubans. It expressed its disappointment at the rejection of recommendations on freedom of expression, and reiterated its concern at the State's continued detention and harassment of peaceful opposition and human rights activists. It was discouraged by the rejection of a recommendation on improving due process in the judicial system, considering the detention of suspects without trial or charge and the lack of an independent system of judges and lawyers. It continued to call upon Cuba to improve conditions for those in places of detention.

892. The United States of America regretted the fact that Cuba had dedicated considerable time to distorting the policy of the United States towards Cuba, given that it was, *inter alia*, one of Cuba's principal trading partners. The delegation noted the State's will to examine all recommendations, and referred to those on bringing an end to short-term, extrajudicial detentions, acts of harassment and other repressive measures against human rights defenders and activists. The Cuban authorities frequently prevented the freedom of peaceful assembly of members of independent civil society, and called upon the State to allow an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Oswaldo Paya and Harold Cepero.

893. Uzbekistan expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive information provided by Cuba and the comments on the recommendations made. It welcomed the State's constructive participation in the review, and its acceptance of most of the recommendations made during the second review, including those made by Uzbekistan on continuing efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, supporting youth in education and employment and improving national legislation in the area of human rights. Cuba was a State party to the main international human rights instruments, and implemented their provisions in national legislation. By implementing the recommendations that it had accepted, Cuba would contribute to the strengthening of the human rights system in the country.

894. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the importance that the Government of Cuba gave to the compliance with the review recommendations that it had accepted. The review had shown the great achievements of the Cuban revolution in the enjoyment of human rights, despite the difficulties faced because of the inhumane blockade imposed. It expressed its solidarity with Cuba and acknowledged its men and women for their cooperation and unconditional friendship offered to many countries, including the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the framework of the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in the areas of health, education, culture and sports.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

895. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Cuba, nine other stakeholders made statements.

896. The Jubilee Campaign highlighted the substantial increase in the number of violations to freedom of religion and belief reported, and referred to reports of the violent beating of church leaders. It noted the increasing reports of threats of the closure, confiscation and demolition of church buildings. It also referred to the use of frequent, temporary, arbitrary detention without charge as a tactic that had been applied to religious leaders, many reported

having been detained and imprisoned various times in the past year. It urged Cuba to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and to ensure the freedom of religion or belief for all its citizens.

897. The International Association of Democratic Lawyers congratulated Cuba on its efforts and achievements made in the area of human rights, despite the difficult economic conditions caused by the illegal blockade. It highlighted the essential work of Cuba before the United Nations, which had allowed important advances in such fundamental areas as international solidarity, the right to peace and the right to food. It greeted the recent legal measures approved to modify the law on migration, the housing law and Criminal Procedure law, and appreciated the consultations held on decisions with a deep impact on the population, a practice that should be followed by other countries. It welcomed the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, and requested the Government to consider its definitive abolition. It also requested the Government to strengthen its efforts to secure the liberation of the five Cubans unjustly detained in the United States.

898. Amnesty International regretted the fact that Cuba had rejected the recommendations that aimed at improving respect for the freedoms of expression, association and assembly. It welcomed the reforms to the migration law, but expressed concern at the routine harassment, detention and even sentencing of independent journalists and human rights activists for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. It expressed disappointment at the State's rejection of recommendations on ratifying key human rights instruments. While it welcomed the fact that no death sentence had been carried out, it was disappointed that Cuba remained unable to accept recommendations calling for the abolition of the death penalty. It welcomed the release of Calixto Ramon Martínez Arias, who had spent almost seven months in prison without charge, and urged the authorities to release immediately Alexeis Vargas Martin and his twin brother, Emilio Planas Robert, Rafael Montes de Oca, Iván Fernández, and others arrested solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

899. The comments of United Nations Watch were delivered by Yris Perez Aguilera of the Rosa Parks Women's Movement for Civil Rights. She referred to the information in the stakeholder's summary on the growing use of violence against human rights defenders, arbitrary arrests and death threats in Cuba, and highlighted the recommendations made by the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Germany and Hungary, which addressed those abuses. She gave personal testimony on the assaults and threats used by the Cuban authorities against her and other human rights activists, and requested the United Nations to protect her and the lives of other activists.

900. Liberation congratulated Cuba on having implemented the recommendations accepted at the first review, and having accepted the vast majority of the recommendations made during the second cycle. It recognized the ratification of international instruments, and commended the priority the State had given to the promotion and protection of all human rights and the achievements made in the economic, political and social fields, especially in education and health, the right to food, as well as in access to information and communications technology, freedom of religion and social security.

901. The International Buddhist Relief Organization expressed its satisfaction at the acceptance by Cuba of the majority of recommendations made during the second cycle, including those on religious freedom and assistance, which the Government guaranteed without discrimination. It commended the priority that Cuba attached to the promotion and protection of human rights in all areas. Cuba had also effected significant economic and social changes that had benefited its citizens. It requested the Government to continue to give priority to its cooperation programmes with other States.

902. According to Fundación de Ayuda y Promoción de las Culturas Indígenas Rosa Collleldevall, Cuba protected and promoted all human rights and was an example of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular in the fields of universal health and education, and also promoted indigenous cultures and traditions. The State would, despite the blockade it faced, continue to work for an increasingly fair society. The organization

called upon Cuba to continue its success by taking further measures to promote and protect human rights.

903. The Federation of Cuban Women acknowledged the State's commitment to and serious attitude in the defence of human rights, and that Cuba had accepted most of the recommendations made. It also highlighted the efforts made by Cuban women to improve the quality of life, despite the blockade. It underscored the new norms in social security, housing, non-State work, the creation of cooperative enterprises and the allocation of land to more than 17,000 women in recent times. Following the elections held in February 2013, 48.86 per cent of deputies to Parliament were women.

904. The National Union of Jurists of Cuba congratulated Cuba on having accepted most of the recommendations. Since 2009, important new laws had strengthened the individual rights of Cubans. Judicial organs now operated with extensive guarantees. It called upon the Government of Cuba to strengthen the effectiveness of the system responsible for handling and processing individual or collective claims or petitions on human rights.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

905. The adoption of the report of the Working Group on Cuba marked a new stage in the follow-up to the findings of the review.

906. The review should not be used to launch attacks or to make false allegations by those who were mercenaries paid by a foreign power, or to make recommendations that ran counter to certain inalienable principles, such as the sovereignty of the State, and self-determination. False and distorted statements should not be permitted, and neither should those resulting from a lack of information about the reality of a country, or from attempts to manipulate it or take it out of context in order to reach specific political ends.

907. Comments and recommendations intended to question the political, economic and social system established by Cubans were contrary to the exercise of the peoples' right to self-determination and to the spirit of cooperation and respect that the review required. The delegation asked their authors to follow the principles and modalities agreed upon by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

908. Cuba reiterated that the blockade was the main obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights of Cubans, and stated that the delegate of the United States of America had lied when claiming that his country was a major exporter of food to Cuba, and that the citizens from his country were the first source of incoming tourists. The blockade obstructed normal commercial transactions between the two States. Cuba called upon the delegate of the United States of America to refute the fact that the citizens from his country were the only ones who could not travel freely to Cuba. The accidental nature of the deaths of Cuban citizens Oswaldo Paya and Harold Cepero had been determined in an exhaustive investigation and under due legal process, with all guarantees, as recognized by other States.

909. The delegation highlighted the enormous efforts made by Cuba despite the difficult conditions, in particular, the impact of the blockade, and that the State would continue its irrevocable decision to advance in its socialist development, autochthonous, original, democratic and freely participatory.

B. General debate on agenda item 6

910. At its 25th meeting, on 23 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 6, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Estonia, Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Malaysia, Maldives, Republic of Moldova, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

* Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Armenia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Georgia, Morocco, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Uruguay;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: International Organization of la Francophonie;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, African Technology Development Link, Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists, International Institute for Peace, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, UPR Info, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization.

911. At the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a statement in relation to the universal periodic review mechanism.

C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Turkmenistan

912. At the 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/101 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Burkina Faso

913. At the 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013 the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/102 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Cape Verde

914. At the 19th meeting, on 18 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/103 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Tuvalu

915. At the 20th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/104 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Colombia

916. At the 20th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/105 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Uzbekistan

917. At the 20th meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/106 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Germany

918. At the 22nd meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/107 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Djibouti

919. At the 22nd meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/108 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Canada

920. At the 22nd meeting, on 19 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/109 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Bangladesh

921. At the 23rd meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/110 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Azerbaijan

922. At the 23rd meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/111 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Russian Federation

923. At the 24th meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/112 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Cameroon

924. At the 24th meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/113 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

Cuba

925. At the 24th meeting, on 20 September 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 24/114 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. II).

VII. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

926. At the 25th meeting, on 23 September 2013, the Deputy High Commissioner presented the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 22/28 (A/HRC/24/30).

General debate on agenda item 7

927. At its 25th and 26th meetings, on 23 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 7, during which the following made statements:

(a) The observer for the State of Palestine as the party concerned and the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic as the State concerned;

(b) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Brazil (on behalf of Brazil, India and the South Africa Forum), Chile, Ecuador (also on behalf of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas), Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)* (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(c) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights (by video message);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Africa Culture Internationale, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Family Planning Association, I.R. Iran, General Arab Women Federation, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Islamic Women's Institute of Iran, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Prevention Association of Social Harms, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch.

VIII. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

A. Panel discussion on the integration of a gender perspective

928. At the 8th meeting, on 12 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held, in accordance with Council resolution 6/30, an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective into its work, with a focus on civil society's contribution to the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

929. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made opening remarks. The Secretary-General of the World Young Women's Christian Association, Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, moderated the discussion.

930. At the same meeting, the panellists Chaloka Beyani, Mozn Hassan, Neha Sood and Penny Williams made statements.

931. The ensuing panel discussion was divided into two parts, which were held at the same meeting, on the same day. During the first speaking part, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Chile, Costa Rica (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ireland, Kuwait, Maldives, Montenegro, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bulgaria, Cuba, Mexico, Turkey;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Environmental and Management Studies, International Service for Human Rights, Servas International.

932. At the end of the first speaking part, the moderator and the panellists answered questions and made comments.

933. The following made statements during the second speaking part:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Brazil, Libya, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, China, Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: European Union of Public Relations, Indian Law Resource Centre, World Organisation Against Torture.

934. At the same meeting, the moderator made concluding remarks.

B. General debate on agenda item 8

935. At its 27th meeting, on 24 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 8, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Cuba* (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Maldives, Slovenia* (also on behalf of Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland), Thailand, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, China, Egypt, Morocco, Netherlands;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for national human rights institutions: Canadian Human Rights Commission, International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, Agence internationale pour le développement, Amnesty International, British Humanist Association, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Il Cenacolo, Indian Council of South America, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Lesbian and Gay Association, International Service for Human Rights, Liberation, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Mothers Legacy Project, Presse Embleme Campagne, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization, World Muslim Congress.

936. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, Cuba and Egypt.

IX. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

A. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

937. At the 27th meeting, on 24 September 2013, a member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Mirjana Najchevska, presented the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/24/52 and Add.1-2).

938. At the same meeting, the representatives of Panama and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements as the States concerned.

939. Also at the same meeting, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission made a joint statement.

940. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 28th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the representative of the Working Group questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Sierra Leone, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Colombia, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

941. At the 28th meeting, the member of the Working Group answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

B. General debate on agenda item 9

942. At its 28th meeting, on 24 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 9, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ecuador, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan* (also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan), Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa* (on behalf of the Group of African States), United States of America, State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Africa Culture Internationale, Agence internationale pour le développement, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Family Planning Association, I.R. Iran, Fraternité Notre Dame, Inc., Indian Council of South America, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists,

* Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Islamic Women's Institute of Iran, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE Internationale, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Prevention Association of Social Harms, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment, Under the Same Sun Fund, United Nations Watch, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization, World Muslim Congress.

C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

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

943. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of South Africa introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.25, sponsored by Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

944. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa orally revised the draft resolution.

945. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

946. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

947. At the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, Switzerland and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

948. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 32 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/26).

X. Technical assistance and capacity-building

A. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia

949. At the 28th meeting, on 24 September 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Surya P. Subedi, presented his report (A/HRC/24/36).

950. At the same meeting, the representative of Cambodia made a statement as the State concerned.

951. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 30th meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, China, France, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Human Rights Now, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany, World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace.

952. At the 30th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia

953. At the 30th meeting, on 25 September 2013, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Shamsul Bari, presented his report (A/HRC/24/40).

954. At the same meeting, the representative of Somalia made a statement as the country concerned.

955. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, also at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Spain, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Chad, Djibouti, France, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, International Educational Development, Inc.

956. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

957. At the 30th meeting, on 25 September 2013, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, Mashood A. Baderin, presented his report (A/HRC/24/31).

958. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan made a statement as the State concerned.

959. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 30th and 31st meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Society Studies Centre.

960. At the 31st meeting, the representative of the Sudan made a statement.

961. Also at the 31st meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

B. Stand-alone high-level interactive dialogue on Somalia

962. At the 29th meeting, on 24 September 2013, pursuant to its decision 23/114, the Human Rights Council held a stand-alone high-level interactive dialogue with the aim of exploring how all stakeholders could work effectively towards the finalization and implementation of the road map and the realization of human rights in Somalia.

963. The Deputy High Commissioner made an opening statement on behalf of the High Commissioner, followed by the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, Abdi Farah Shirdon.

964. At the same meeting, the following speakers made introductory statements: the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Shamsul Bari; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Nicholas Kay; and Fartuun Adan, Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Mohamed Abdi Mohamed, Zahra Nur and Abdinasir Yasin Salad. The discussion was divided into two parts, both held at the 29th meeting.

965. During the first part, the following made statements and asked the speakers questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bahrain, Djibouti, Eritrea, Mexico, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, International Educational Development, Inc., International Federation of Journalists.

966. During the second part, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the speakers questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ireland, Japan, Maldives, Switzerland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Sudan, Turkey, Yemen;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: International Development Law Organization;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Watch, Mothers Legacy Project.

967. At the same meeting, the speakers answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

C. Interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic

968. At the 31st meeting, on 25 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to its decision taken on 18 September 2013, an interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic.

969. The Deputy High Commissioner presented the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic (A/HRC/24/59).

970. At the same meeting, the representative of the Central African Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

971. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 31st and 32nd meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Montenegro, Morocco* (on behalf of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: African Union, European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Femmes Afrique Solidarité, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues.

972. At the 31st meeting, representatives of the Central African Republic made statements.

973. At the 31st meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

D. General debate on agenda item 10

974. At the 32nd meeting, on 25 September 2013, the Deputy High Commissioner introduced country reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General submitted under agenda items 2 and 10 (A/HRC/24/32, 33 and 34).

975. At the 32nd meeting, on the same day, the representatives of Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka and Yemen made statements as States concerned.

976. At its 32nd meeting, on the same day, and at the 33th meeting on 26 September 2013, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 10, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania* (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Maldives, Montenegro, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal* (on behalf of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine* (on behalf of the Group of Arab States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Sudan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asian Legal Resource Centre, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Liberation, Maarj Foundation for Peace and Development, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Society Studies Centre, United Nations Watch, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace.

977. At the 33rd meeting, on 26 September 2013, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China and the Sudan.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Technical assistance and capacity-building for human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

978. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.9, sponsored by Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

979. At the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are also members of the Council, Switzerland and the United States of America made general comments on the draft resolution.

980. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made a statement as the State concerned.

981. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/27).

Technical assistance for the Sudan in the field of human rights

982. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Gabon, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.10/Rev.1, sponsored

by Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

983. At the same meeting, the representative of Gabon orally revised the draft resolution.

984. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Estonia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are also members of the Council, Switzerland and the United States of America made general comments on the draft resolution.

985. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan made a statement as the State concerned.

986. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

987. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, decision 24/28).

Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia

988. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Japan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.19, sponsored by Japan and co-sponsored by Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Sweden. Subsequently, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

989. At the same meeting, the representative of Cambodia made a statement as the State concerned.

990. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision.

991. At the same meeting, the draft decision was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, decision 24/29).

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

992. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representatives of Somalia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.20, sponsored by Australia, Austria, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Norway, Qatar, Somalia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yemen and co-sponsored by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Thailand. Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Switzerland and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

993. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland orally revised the draft resolution.

994. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Somalia made a statement as the State concerned.

995. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, decision 24/30).

Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

996. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Thailand introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.26, sponsored by Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Mauritius, Morocco, Norway, Singapore, Thailand and Turkey and co-sponsored by Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Maldives, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Spain, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. Subsequently, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Guatemala, Ireland, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

997. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made an explanation of vote before the vote.

998. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/31).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

999. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representatives of the Netherlands and Yemen introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.33, sponsored by the Netherlands and Yemen and co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of Arab States). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

1000. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/32).

Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism

1001. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of Gabon introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.36, sponsored by Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Guatemala. Subsequently, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

1002. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

1003. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/33).

1004. At the same meeting, the representatives of Switzerland and Sierra Leone made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

Technical assistance to the Central African Republic in the field of human rights

1005. At the 37th meeting, on 27 September 2013, the representative of the Gabon on behalf of the African Group of States introduced draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.39, sponsored by Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland,

Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

1006. At the same meeting, the representative of Gabon orally revised the draft resolution.

1007. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Estonia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are also members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

1008. At the same meeting, the representative of the Central African Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

1009. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chap. I, resolution 24/34).

1010. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Annex I

Attendance

Members

Angola	Germany	Philippines
Argentina	Guatemala	Poland
Austria	India	Qatar
Benin	Indonesia	Republic of Korea
Botswana	Ireland	Republic of Moldova
Brazil	Italy	Romania
Burkina Faso	Japan	Sierra Leone
Chile	Kazakhstan	Spain
Congo	Kenya	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Kuwait	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Libya	Uganda
Czech Republic	Malaysia	United Arab Emirates
Ecuador	Maldives	United States of America
Estonia	Mauritania	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Ethiopia	Montenegro	
Gabon	Pakistan	
	Peru	

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Afghanistan	El Salvador	Netherlands
Albania	Eritrea	New Zealand
Algeria	Finland	Nicaragua
Andorra	France	Nigeria
Armenia	Georgia	Norway
Australia	Ghana	Oman
Azerbaijan	Greece	Panama
Bahrain	Guinea	Paraguay
Belarus	Honduras	Portugal
Bangladesh	Hungary	Russian Federation
Belgium	Iceland	Rwanda
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Saudi Arabia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iraq	Senegal
Bulgaria	Jordan	Serbia
Cambodia	Kyrgyzstan	Singapore
Cameroon	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Slovakia
Canada	Latvia	Slovenia
Cape Verde	Lebanon	Solomon Islands
Central African Republic	Lesotho	Somalia
Chad	Liechtenstein	South Africa
China	Lithuania	South Sudan
Colombia	Luxembourg	Sri Lanka
Croatia	Madagascar	Sudan
Cuba	Malta	Sweden
Cyprus	Mauritius	Syrian Arab Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mexico	Tajikistan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Monaco	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Denmark	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
Djibouti	Morocco	Togo
Equatorial Guinea	Mozambique	Tunisia
Egypt	Myanmar	Turkey
	Namibia	Turkmenistan
	Nepal	Ukraine

United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern
Ireland

Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam

Yemen
Zimbabwe

Non-Member States represented by observers

Holy See
State of Palestine

United Nations

Joint United Nations Programme on
HIV/AIDS

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Population Fund

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Office

Intergovernmental organizations

African Union
Council of Europe
European Union

International Development Law
International Organization of la Francophonie
Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Other entities

International Committee of the Red Cross
Sovereign Military Order of Malta

National human rights institutions, international coordinating committees and regional groups of national institutions

Canadian Human Rights Commission
Defensoría del Pueblo – Colombia
(by video message)
German Institute for Human Rights
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia
(SUHAKAM) (by video message)

National commission on Human Rights and Freedoms –
Cameroon
National Council for Human Rights – Egypt

Non-governmental organizations

Action Canada for Population and
Development
Action internationale pour la paix et le
développement dans la région des
Grands Lacs
Africa Culture Internationale
African Association of Education for
Development
African-American Society for
Humanitarian Aid and Development
African Technical Association
African Technology Development Link
Agence internationale pour le
développement

Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme
Aliran Kesedaran Negara National
Consciousness Movement
Al-Hakim Foundation
Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man
Aliran Kesedaran Negara National
Consciousness Movement
Al-Zubair Charity Foundation
Amman Center for Human Rights Studies
Amnesty International
Arab NGO Network for Development
Arab Organization for Human Rights
Arab Penal Reform Organization

Article 19 – The International Centre against Censorship	Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (CIRAC)
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches
Asian Centre for Human Rights	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia)	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (AITPN)	Defence for Children International
Asian Legal Resource Centre	Company of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul
Association of World Citizens	Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Association for the Prevention of Torture	Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations
Association for Progressive Communications	Corporación para la Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos Reiniciar
Association Points-Cœur	Defence for Children International
Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII	Development Innovations and Networks
Auspice Stella	Disabled People's International
Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Resource Rights	Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers
Baha'i International Community	Earthjustice
British Humanist Association	East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project
Bridges International	Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Edmund Rice International Limited
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education
Canners International Permanent Committee	European Disability Forum
Care International	European Law Students' Association
Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)	European Union of Public Relations
Center for Reproductive Rights	Family Planning Association, I.R. Iran
Centre africain de recherche industrielle (CARI)	Federation for Women and Family Planning
Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'information des peuples autochtones (doCip)	Federation of Associations for the Defense and the Promotion of Human Rights – Spain
Centre Europe – Tiers Monde – Europe-Third World Centre	Federation of Cuban Women
Center for Environmental and Management Studies	Femmes Afrique Solidarité
Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy	Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS
Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Food and Water Watch
Center for Inquiry	Foodfirst Information and Action Network
Centre indépendant de recherches et d'initiatives pour le dialogue	Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action Aboriginal Corporation
Centre international des formations en droits humaines	Foundation for GAIA
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil	Foundation for International Relations and Development Studies
Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims	France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand
Child Development Foundation	Franciscans International
Childlink Foundation	Fraternité Notre Dame
Civicus – World Alliance for Citizen Participation	Freedom House
Colombian Commission of Jurists	Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)
	Fundación de Ayuda y Promoción de las Culturas Indígenas Rosa Collélldevall
	Fundación País Libre
	General Arab Women Federation
	Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training

Global Helping to Advance Women and Children	International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)
Global Hope Network International	International Federation of Journalists
Grupo Intercultural Almaciga	International Federation of University Women
Hawa Society for Women	International Fellowship of Reconciliation
Helios Life Association	International Human Rights Association of American Minorities
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights	International Humanist and Ethical Union
Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation	International Indian Treaty Council
Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)	International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies
Human Rights House Foundation	International Institute for Peace
Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International	International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human Rights
Human Rights Law Centre	International Lesbian and Gay Association
Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa	International Movement against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism
Human Rights Now	International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples
Human Rights Watch	International Muslim Women's Union
Human Security Initiative Organization	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development
Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries	International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
Il Cenacolo	International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education
Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Indian Council of South America	International Service for Human Rights
Indian Law Resource Centre	International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development –VIDES
Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information	International Women Bond
Indigenous World Association	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
Ingenieurs du Monde	International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations
Initiatives of Change	Iranian Elite Research Center
Institute for Planetary Synthesis	Islamic Women's Institute of Iran
Institute for Women's Studies and Research	Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco
International Association for Democracy in Africa	Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights
International Association of Democratic Lawyers	Jubilee Campaign
International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists	Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Violence
International Association for Religious Freedom	L'auravetli'an Information and Education Network of Indigenous People (LIENIP)
International Association of Schools of Social Work	Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
International Bridges to Justice, Inc.	Liberal International (World Liberal Union)
International Buddhist Relief Organisation	Liberation
International Catholic Child Bureau	Light for the World – Christoffel
International Catholic Migration Commission	Development Cooperation
International Commission of Jurists	Lutheran World Federation
International Committee for the Indians of the Americas (Incomindios Switzerland)	Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development
International Council of Jewish Women	Make Mothers Matter International
International Educational Development, Inc.	Mandat International
International Federation for Human Rights Leagues	

Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights	Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies
Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association	Syriac Universal Alliance
Minbyun – Lawyers for a Democratic Society	Teresian Association
Mothers Legacy Project	Transparency International
Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples	Terre des Hommes International Federation
Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation)	Under the Same Sun Fund
National Alliance of Women's Organizations	UNESCO Centre Basque Country (UNESCO Etxea)
National Union of Jurists of Cuba,	Union for International Cancer Control
New Humanity	Union of Arab Jurists
New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	United Nations Association of the United States of America
Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty	United Nations Watch (UN Watch)
Nord-Sud XXI	United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders)
Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale	Women Organization for Development and Capacity Building
Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale (OCAPROCE International)	Women's Human Rights International Association
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights	Working Women Association
Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association	World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace
Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation	World Barua Organization
Pax Romana	World Environment and Resources Council
Penal Reform International	World Evangelical Alliance
People for Successful Corean Reunification	World Federation of Democratic Youth
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy	World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
Permanent Assembly for Human Rights	World Federation of United Nations Associations
Plan International, Inc.	World Medical Association
Presse Emblème Campagne	World Muslim Congress
Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH)	World Organization against Torture
Rencontre africain pour la défense des droits de l'homme	World Vision International
Reporters sans Frontières International – Reporters without Borders International	Worldwide Organisation for Women
Saami Council	World Young Women's Christian Association
Save the Children International	
Servas International	
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas	
Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany	
Society for Development and Community Empowerment	
Society for Threatened Peoples	
Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment	
Society Studies Centre	
Soka Gakkai International	

Annex II

Agenda

- Item 1. Organizational and procedural matters.
- Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.
- Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.
- Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention.
- Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms.
- Item 6. Universal periodic review.
- Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.
- Item 8. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building.

Annex III

Documents issued for the twenty-fourth session

Documents issued in the general series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/24/1 and Corr.1 and 2	1	Annotations to the agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/24/2	1	Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-fourth session
A/HRC/24/3	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Turkmenistan
A/HRC/24/3/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/4	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burkina Faso
A/HRC/24/5	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cape Verde
A/HRC/24/6	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Colombia
A/HRC/24/6/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/7	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uzbekistan
A/HRC/24/7/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/8	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Tuvalu
A/HRC/24/8/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/9	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Germany
A/HRC/24/9/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/10	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Djibouti
A/HRC/24/11	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Canada
A/HRC/24/11/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/12	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Bangladesh
A/HRC/24/12/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/13	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Azerbaijan
A/HRC/24/13/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/14	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Russian Federation
A/HRC/24/14/Add.1	6	Addendum

Documents issued in the general series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/24/15	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon
A/HRC/24/16	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cuba
A/HRC/24/16/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/24/17	1	Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/24/17/Add.1	1	Addendum
A/HRC/24/18	2 and 3	Question of the death penalty: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/24/19	2 and 3	Role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/24/20	2 and 3	Proceedings of the workshop on the various aspects relating to the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations in the States targeted: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/24/21	1-10	Communications report of special procedures
A/HRC/24/22 and Corr.1 and 2	2 and 3	Summary of information from States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders on best practices in the application of traditional values while promoting and protecting human rights and upholding human dignity: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/24/23	2 and 3	The safety of journalists: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/24/24	2 and 3	Views of States, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders on the target sectors, focus areas or thematic human rights issues for the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/24/25	2 and 3	Summary report of the consultation on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/24/26	2 and 3	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples
A/HRC/24/27	2 and 3	Consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development

Documents issued in the general series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/24/28	2 and 3	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights in the administration of justice: analysis of the international legal and institutional framework for the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty
A/HRC/24/29 and Corr.1	2 and 5	Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/24/30	2 and 7	Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/24/31	10	Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
A/HRC/24/32	2 and 10	Role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/24/33	2 and 10	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights and the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
A/HRC/24/34	2 and 10	Situation of human rights in Yemen: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/24/35	3	Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict: note by the Secretary-General
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A/HRC/24/NGO/1	7 Written statement submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster
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A/HRC/24/NGO/4	3 Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/6	4 Written statement submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/7	8 Written statement submitted by Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/10	3	Joint written statement submitted by Centre Europe – Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre and the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), non-governmental organizations in general consultative status; France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and the Women's Human Rights International Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the Indian Council of South America (CISA), International Educational Development, Inc. and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, non-governmental organizations on the roster
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A/HRC/24/NGO/26	3	Written statement submitted by the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/30	3	Joint written statement submitted by Europe – Third World Centre and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/36	3 Written statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/37	3 Written statement submitted by Centre Europe – Tiers Monde – Europe, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/38	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/39	5 Joint written statement submitted by the International Service for Human Rights, Action Canada for Population and Development, Amnesty International, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Conectas Direitos Humanos, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, the Human Rights House Foundation, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and the World Organisation Against Torture, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/40	4 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/44	3	Joint written statement submitted by the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice and People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/45	3	Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/46	2	Joint written statement submitted by Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities) and New Humanity, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, and Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Association Points-Coeur, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDE), the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES and Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/50	10	Written statement submitted by the Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/51	7	Joint written statement submitted by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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A/HRC/24/NGO/56	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
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A/HRC/24/NGO/64	10	Joint written statement submitted by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Amnesty International, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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A/HRC/24/NGO/68	3	Written statement submitted by the Aliran Kesedaran Negara National Consciousness Movement, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/69	4	Written statement submitted by the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/70	3	Written statement submitted by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/71	3	Joint written statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and Defence for Children International, the Geneva Infant Feeding Association, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Institute for Child Protection and SOS Kinderdorf International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/72	7	Joint written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Defence for Children International and the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/73	3	Written statement submitted by Hope International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/74	3	Joint written statement submitted by France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/75	4	Written statement submitted by the African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		Development, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/76	3	Written statement submitted by African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/77	3	Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/78	7	Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/79	4	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/80	3	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/81	6	Written statement submitted by the Habitat International Coalition, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/82	3	Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/83	3	Written statement submitted by Liberal International (World Liberal Union), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/84	3	Written statement submitted by Penal Reform International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/85	2	Written statement submitted by Penal Reform International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/86	4	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/87	2	Written statement submitted by Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/88	4	Joint written statement submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand and the Women's Human Rights International Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and Mouvement

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/89	3 Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/90	10 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/91	3 Joint written statement submitted by Amnesty International, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, the International Service for Human Rights and the World Organisation Against Torture, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/92	4 Written statement submitted by International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/93	5 Joint written statement submitted by Amnesty International, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, the International Service for Human Rights and the World Organisation Against Torture, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/94	3 Written statement submitted by Servas International, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/95	2 Written statement submitted by the Carter Center, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/96	4 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/97	4 Written statement submitted by the Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/98	4 Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/99	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/24/NGO/100	4	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/101	4	Written statement submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/102	3	Written statement submitted by the Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/103	4	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/104	4	Written statement submitted by International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/105	3	Written statement submitted by the Academic Council on the United Nations System, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/106	3	Written statement submitted by the Women Organization for Development and Capacity Building, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/107	3	Written statement submitted by the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/108	6	Written statement submitted by the National Union of Jurists of Cuba, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/110	4	Written statement submitted by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/111	3	Written statement submitted by Liberation, a nongovernmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/112	3	Written statement submitted by Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/113	10	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/114	3	Written statement submitted by the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/115	3	Written statement submitted by the Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization, a

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/116	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/117	3	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/118	4	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/119	4	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/120	6	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/121	7	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/122	9	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/123	3	Written statement submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/124	6	Written statement submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/125	3	Written statement submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/126	8	Written statement submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/127	8	Written statement submitted by Liberation, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/128	3	Written statement submitted by the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/24/NGO/129	3	Written statement submitted by the African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/130	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/131	4	Written statement submitted by Al Zubair Charitable Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/132	3	Written statement submitted by Al Zubair Charitable Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/133	3	Joint written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status; the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Asian Women's Human Rights Council, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, Human Rights Now, the International Federation of University Women, Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale and the World Wide Organization for Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/134	3 and 4	Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Asian Women's Human Rights Council, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, Human Rights Now, the

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		International Federation of University Women, Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale and the World Wide Organization for Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/135	3 and 4	Joint written statement submitted by the Union of Arab Jurists, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the General Arab Women Federation, North-South XXI, the Arab Lawyers Union, the United Towns Agency for the North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Asian Women's Human Rights Council, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, Human Rights Now, the International Federation of University Women, Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale and the World Wide Organization for Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/136	3 and 4	Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Asian Women's Human Rights Council, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, Human Rights Now, the International Federation of University Women, Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale and the World Wide Organization for Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/137	3 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for the North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Asian Women's Human Rights Council, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, Human Rights Now, the International Federation of University Women, Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale and the World Wide Organization for Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/138 and Corr.1	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the General Arab Women Federation, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for the North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" and Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/139	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the General Arab Women Federation, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for the North-South Cooperation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status;

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, the Indian Council of South America, the World Peace Council and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/24/NGO/140 and Corr.1	3 Joint written statement submitted by the Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul, Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers, Edmund Rice International Limited, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, Mouvement international d'apostolate des milieux sociaux independants and the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDE), organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/141	3 Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/142	3 Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/143	3 Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/24/NGO/144	3 Written statement submitted by the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Annex IV

Advisory Committee members and duration of terms of membership

<i>Member</i>	<i>Date of expiry</i>
Hoda Elsadda (Egypt)	30 September 2016
Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora (Uganda)	30 September 2016
Mikhail Alexandrovich Lebedev (Russian Federation)	30 September 2016
Fernando M. Mariño Menendez (Spain)	30 September 2016
Kaoru Obata (Japan)	30 September 2016
Yishan Zhang (China)	30 September 2016
Jean Ziegler (Switzerland)	30 September 2016