



Human Rights Council**Fifty-first session**

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 6 October 2022****51/6. 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,

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, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the right not to be discriminated against,

Recalling all previous relevant resolutions and decisions, including Human Rights Council resolutions 20/2 of 5 July 2012, 24/17 of 27 September 2013 and 36/18 of 29 September 2017, and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1998/77 of 22 April 1998 and 2004/35 of 19 April 2004, 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 Human Rights Committee general comment No. 22 (1993) on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on approaches and challenges with regard to application procedures for obtaining the status of conscientious objector to military service in accordance with human rights standards, presented to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session, pursuant to resolution 36/18,¹ and of the analytical report on conscientious objection to military service presented by the Office of the High Commissioner to the Council at its fiftieth session, pursuant to resolution 20/2;²

2. *Encourages* States to consider implementing the recommendations of the above-mentioned reports, where needed, in their efforts to bring or improve national laws,

¹ A/HRC/41/23.

² A/HRC/50/43.



policies and practices, including with regard to application procedures, alternative service and non-discrimination of any kind, in line with States' obligations under international human rights law and applicable international human rights standards;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress and long-standing efforts made in several States to take new or additional steps to recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service in law, policy and practice, and expresses its concern at information on human rights violations with regard to conscientious objection to military service, including those involving arbitrary detention and other forms of punishment, including repeated punishment;

4. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize a half-day intersessional workshop, in a hybrid format and fully accessible to persons with disabilities, on good practices and recent developments in the implementation of the right to conscientious objection to military service in law and in practice, to inform the preparation of a report, in consultation with all States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, with recommendations on legal and policy frameworks to uphold human rights in the context of conscientious objection to military service in accordance with States' obligations under international human rights law and applicable international human rights standards, and to present the report, in an accessible and readable format, to the Council at its fifty-sixth session;

5. *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, as appropriate, information on domestic provisions related to the right to conscientious objection to military service;

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

*40th meeting
6 October 2022*

[Adopted without a vote.]
