

**Human Rights Council****Fifty-sixth session**

18 June–12 July 2024

Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building**Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 11 July 2024****56/15. Informing the Human Rights Council on the human rights adviser
programme**

The Human Rights Council,

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

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

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

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for ensuring respect for and for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that, in the context of technical cooperation and capacity-building, the enhancement of international cooperation contributes to the effective promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to promote, protect and fulfil all human rights, to prevent human rights violations and to comply with their human rights obligations,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 7 January 1994 and the mandate given to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights therein, and bearing in mind the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as described by the Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, including with regard to the promotion of advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, and the provisions of Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 that aim to enable the Council to fulfil such a mandate,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020 and Human Rights Council resolution 54/28 of 12 October 2023,

Reiterating that one of the responsibilities of the High Commissioner and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to provide advisory services and technical assistance, at the request of the State concerned, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights, and to coordinate activities to promote



and protect human rights throughout the United Nations system, in accordance with the mandate of the Office,

Stressing that technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights continue to be based on consultations with and with the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their requests, needs and priorities, as well as their national context, and the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and are aimed at making a concrete impact on the ground, at all levels,

Underlining the importance for relevant entities within the United Nations system, especially the United Nations country teams, within their respective mandates, of mainstreaming technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in their work and programmes,

Underlining also the importance of enhancing technical cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and States in the field of human rights, including through the field presences of the Office, with the consent of the countries concerned, in advancing the promotion and protection of all human rights within interested countries and supporting the mainstreaming of human rights in United Nations country presences, in close collaboration with the offices of resident coordinators,

Recognizing the contribution of human rights advisers to the promotion of human rights mainstreaming across United Nations system presences in the field, in assisting States to advance the promotion and protection of human rights and their role in providing advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building,

Noting that 44 of the 95 field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner consist of individual human rights advisers based in the offices of resident coordinators,

Taking note of the decision to close the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund at the end of 2024, and also of the decision to incorporate the human rights adviser programme fully into the work of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Expressing its appreciation to donors who have already provided funding support to the human rights adviser programme, whether generally or with regard to specific positions, and invites States and other prospective donors to consider providing further support to the programme in the future,

Noting the increasing demand from both interested States and United Nations country teams for the creation of new human rights adviser positions, and noting also the ongoing shortfall in extrabudgetary support for the Office of the High Commissioner and for the human rights adviser programme, including with respect to meeting the overall cost of the programme as well as individual positions, the reduction in posts this already precipitated since 2022, and the risk this poses to the long-term stability of the programme,

Noting with concern that a lack of funding support for individual human rights adviser positions may prevent the creation of these positions, that existing ones cannot be maintained in specific countries and that demand for the creation of new posts will not be met, and that any shortfall in funding for individual positions will have a disproportionate impact on the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance and capacity-building and to promote human rights mainstreaming across the United Nations system in specific interested countries,

Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the current status and work of the human rights adviser programme, its key achievements, the challenges it faces and the future vision for the programme, including with voluntary submissions made by States and other relevant stakeholders, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session.

*35th meeting
11 July 2024*

[Adopted without a vote.]