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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution [71/197](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-second session a substantive report on the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights based on those views, including recommendations on ways to address the subject. The responses received from the Governments of Algeria, Argentina, Iraq, Madagascar, Morocco, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal and Serbia are summarized in section II of the present report. Common concerns and topics of interest are set out in section III and summarized in section IV, which also contains recommendations on how to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of human rights

* [A/72/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [71/197](#), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and requested the Secretary-General to continue to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-second session a substantive report on the subject based on those views, including recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent a request on 9 February 2017 to Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system inviting them to share their views on the issue. As of 21 June 2017, OHCHR had received responses from the Governments of Algeria, Argentina, Iraq, Madagascar, Morocco, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal and Serbia.¹ No views were received from agencies of the United Nations system.

II. Summary of replies

A. Algeria

3. According to Algeria, globalization, in particular its economic dimension, involves transnational corporations and other businesses seeking to make the maximum profit, to the detriment of labour conditions. They do this by relocating their operations to countries in which the cost of labour is so cheap that many workers are unable to meet their basic needs or to provide sufficient food for their families and households. In general, transnational corporations do not respect adequate labour standards, including with regard to working hours, in particular at sites located in poor countries, taking advantage of the legislation that often does not offer minimum protection to workers. The situation directly affects the human right to an adequate standard of living.

4. Algeria suggests that all stakeholders should join efforts to effectively implement human rights norms, including those enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations and its Member States should be fully dedicated to addressing this challenge so that the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms will not remain a matter of wishful thinking that has no impact on the daily lives of millions. This is particularly relevant for people in developing countries and those living in extremely difficult conditions, whether as a result of natural (e.g., droughts and other natural disasters) or man-made (e.g., armed conflict, terrorism and the persecution of religious and other minorities) events. Some businesses take advantage of the migration crisis resulting from such emergencies, without any regard for the human rights of migrants.

5. The free flow of goods is often accompanied by restrictions to the flow of migrants from countries of the global South to those in the global North. Such migrants are overwhelmingly motivated by economic considerations, fleeing extreme poverty in countries that have no means of ensuring economic development. Social injustice and its consequences, including poverty and

¹ The texts of the original submissions are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.

migration, offer investment opportunities to businesses motivated by low labour costs and corrupt Governments. Some transnational corporations and other businesses resort to pillaging natural resources and try to keep countries manifestly and permanently underdeveloped.

B. Argentina

6. Argentina describes the policies and programmes it has adopted to address the consequences of globalization in its economic, social, political, cultural, environmental and legal dimensions. These include policies for reducing inequality between the rich and the poor through the universalization of benefits; cooperation with multilateral bodies such as the Summit of South-American-Arab Countries, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Organization of American States, the United Nations system and the Group of 20; and initiatives for South-South cooperation. The agreements between Argentina and its MERCOSUR partners underscore the role played by regional development programmes and economic cooperation in reducing the negative economic and social impacts of international financial instability.

7. Argentina points to the experience of its National Council for the Coordination of Social Policy as the body responsible for follow-up on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Council includes the Goals in public policy priorities established by the State, including by ministries and other national bodies, and coordinates adaptation procedures at the provincial and regional levels. The Council is also responsible for cooperation with civil society organizations, universities, businesses and other stakeholders.

8. As a response to the serious crisis faced by the Syrian Arab Republic, Argentina indicates that it has established a special humanitarian visa programme for people affected by that armed conflict. The programme provides concrete solutions to address what is considered to be one of the worst humanitarian crises, which necessitates a commitment by States to protect the Syrian population. Argentina includes Syrian refugees in its human rights protection and other policies, in particular to ensure the reunion of their families. Argentina also indicates that, at the international level, it is responding to the continued calls on the issue by international bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In such a way, it is expressing solidarity in the international context in a concrete and significant manner, sharing the great burden currently borne by the neighbouring countries of the Syrian Arab Republic.

C. Iraq

9. According to Iraq, the high rates of unemployment in many developing countries are largely a result of globalization. For example, the role of the Government of Iraq in economic development has weakened since international businesses have begun to outsource new technologies that reduce the need for human resources. As a result the country's employment opportunities have declined. While abiding by the appropriate dictates of globalization, Iraq recommends that Governments intervene in the economic and social sectors and at the same time increase spending in order to achieve sustainable development and promote foreign direct investment.

10. Iraq considers that the enhancement of small and medium-sized investments contributes to the development of the economy and augments employment opportunities. Programmes aimed at developing the skills of manual labourers are a

response to the adverse effects of globalization. Such programmes include training that enables workers to adapt their labour activities in response to developments in modern technology. Iraq supports increased investment in the development and production of human capital, thereby creating sustainability in the development of human resources.

11. According to Iraq, the safeguarding of human rights is important (including in efforts against global terrorism), taking into account the side effects of globalization. It underlines the importance of international efforts, which contribute to reducing the adverse effects of globalization on the economy, culture and communities in general.

D. Madagascar

12. According to Madagascar, globalization generates challenges that must be addressed in order to enable people from all countries to realize all their human rights. In this regard, Madagascar refers to its national development plan and its implementation. The plan is aimed at the implementation of government policies that promote economic growth with respect for human rights in all areas, including poverty reduction.

13. In accordance with the Paris Principles, the objective of the independent National Commission on Human Rights of Madagascar is to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights. Madagascar is also committed to the fight against corruption in order to ensure that its population freely and fully enjoys its fundamental rights and freedoms.

14. In the field of communication, the new code of publicized communication was promulgated in 2016. It regulates the exercise of the right to information, freedom of the press, and freedom of opinion and expression. The code decriminalizes offenses committed by the press. Madagascar has adopted a law on combating cybercrime, mainly in order to establish new procedural rules related to new information and communication technologies.

15. Madagascar describes its national response to address the trafficking of persons, including the temporary suspension of sending workers to high-risk countries, the enactment of a specific anti-trafficking law, the establishment of a national anti-trafficking mechanism and the development of a national action plan on combating trafficking.

E. Morocco

16. The contribution of Morocco focuses on the relationship between globalization and labour rights, the rights of migrants and freedom of expression.

17. According to Morocco, increased international competition resulting from globalization has led to more flexible labour markets in many countries, exposing workers to difficult situations, in particular in circumstances in which they are not protected by appropriate labour rights and social security provisions. International labour conventions offer direct guidance to businesses on social policies and inclusive, responsible and sustainable labour practices. Morocco emphasizes its adherence to these principles and indicates that it has taken measures to ensure respect by all businesses for fundamental workers' rights. It recommends harmonizing existing social policies with the Sustainable Development Goals; promoting tripartite dialogue; strengthening capacity for implementing international labour norms and inclusive development, taking into account the special needs of

migrant workers; and supporting the most affected sectors against the adverse effects of social dumping.

18. Globalization leads to increased mobility. In this regard, Morocco believes that collective efforts are necessary in order to build a tolerant society that would enable migrants to unleash their potential, including by promoting coexistence and respect for religious, ethnic and cultural diversity. According to Morocco, globalization has a positive impact on the enjoyment of freedom of expression. However, an increased gap between developed and developing countries, reinforces notions of western cultural hegemony and exposes other cultures to permanent degradation. The boom in data flows has negatively affected reliability and authenticity, and the increased availability of information has given rise to more disinformation, manipulation, propaganda, indoctrination and extremism. The proliferation of incitement and hate speech increases the prospects of violence and instability. Often, the right to privacy is not respected or is adversely affected by legal gaps. The quality of the press is also affected by unfair competition from Internet giants. For these reasons, Morocco recommends that support be provided to developing countries through capacity-building activities in the fields of technology and communications and that national and international regulations on social networks and copyrights be enhanced, in order to encourage harmonized codes of ethics, and tame the power of Internet giants.

F. Philippines

19. The Philippines recognizes that the self-regulation of transnational corporations and other business enterprises can contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, as stated in the resolutions of the General Assembly on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights. It is also necessary to give equal importance to the role of States in performing their regulatory functions. The engagement of States in intergovernmental cooperation provides a means to define standards of conduct and guarantee the accountability of transnational corporations and business enterprises.

20. The Philippines sees the assessment by the General Assembly of the impacts of globalization on societies as a contribution towards ensuring that States fully perform their regulatory functions. It suggests that the international community come up with a standard methodology or institutionalize impact assessment studies for all Member States, including environmental and regulatory impact assessments for programmes, projects, activities and regulations relating to business and trade activities. This would provide more evidence-based analyses and decision-making support on economic, business and trade relationships among various States, together with more rational estimates of the comparable financial, economic and social benefits and costs of programmes and regulations for their societies.

21. According to the Philippines, the General Assembly should encourage regional economic cooperation organizations (e.g., the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) to align their interrelationship policies with strategies on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as these will support the security of human lives. Although national development plans are to be harmonized with international commitments, the international community should respect the diversity and the different priorities of each Member State in providing support towards achieving its most needed development goals.

G. Portugal

22. With regard to migration and refugees, Portugal has adopted policies of integration for humanitarian reasons and as part of the strategy to address its demographic deficit. It has reached agreements with other members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries based on the human right to have or change citizenship. It has undertaken efforts to recognize the qualifications of immigrants and refugees in the context of their integration; to promote similar measures for new nationals; and to empower emigrants, promoting their reintegration into the country. Portugal has made a commitment to receive 5,000 refugees over a two-year period and pays particular attention to the situation of refugees who are unaccompanied minors, women and girls. It also plans to enhance access to legal aid to all, including foreigners. Portugal also intends to expand its Committee for Religious Freedom and create a national initiative for interreligious dialogue to prevent discrimination and radicalization.

23. Under the auspices of the United Nations system, Portugal intends to promote sustainable development models to counter global competitiveness trends that are based on social erosion. It has endorsed finance for development, private sector and non-financial cooperation and has expressed concern that North-South education cooperation has decayed in the past decade.

24. For Portugal, recent global labour market trends have reinforced the disadvantages faced by women as a result of the implementation of austerity policies and fast-paced technological advances. These trends have been accompanied by deregulation, flexible work and less accountability for employers. With women traditionally holding more precarious, less flexible and less well-paid jobs, these new trends have exacerbated their marginalization. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Portugal is combating structural sex discrimination through a number of measures to address the pay gap, occupational segregation, parenthood, work-life balance, and access to decision-making positions, as part of its agenda on labour market equality.

25. Considering the asymmetries created by globalization, Portugal believes that multinational enterprises, as drivers of globalization, have a duty to incorporate responsible business practices by undertaking social, environmental and human rights-related due diligence in their risk management systems throughout their entire supply chains and investment policies.

H. Senegal

26. Senegal refers to the fact that globalization has social, political, environmental, cultural and political aspects. It considers that globalization must first promote a win-win, equitable global partnership that crosses linguistic barriers. Globalization must have a human face aimed at developing solidarity among the peoples of the world.

27. Senegal believes that globalization must also guarantee and respect racial and cultural diversity. It considers that reflection on globalization must be driven from a sociocultural point of view, not an economic one. Good governance must therefore be the first solution to be promoted in addressing the impact of globalization on human rights. This entails good resource management and active diplomacy that upholds citizens' values, ensures accountability and, above all, combats impunity. Proposed solutions must also promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth.

I. Serbia

28. Serbia is party to eight core human rights treaties and is committed to keeping the impact of globalization within sustainable boundaries both in terms of the impact on the economic standing of the population and on human rights. Serbia has carried out a social impact assessment of economic policy measures on society after implementing a programme of economic reforms, following the European Commission Guidelines on Impact Assessment.

29. Serbia has launched a series of initiatives focusing on various thematic areas, such as employment, education, social security and rural development. The aim is to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate strategic and legal frameworks in areas relevant to social inclusion and poverty reduction by establishing cooperation structures to engage relevant stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors at the local and regional level.

30. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media are guaranteed by the Constitution, providing safeguards in the area of culture and information. These include the prohibition of any form of monopoly in the sphere of public information, in order to maintain competition and ensure the diversification of ideas.

31. Serbia has adopted a distinct approach in the region, in its resolve to treat migrants in a humane manner and to refrain from putting up borders and fences. It pays special attention to international, regional and bilateral cooperation when resolving issues related to migrants and their human rights.

32. Global climate change and new global technologies in the agricultural sector have had a harmful impact on the production of agricultural goods intended for human consumption, the right to food, global trade and economic interconnections, which has led to the importing and marketing of various products of foreign origin. In the interest of public health, the accredited laboratories of the Institute of Public Health perform testing of pesticides in accordance with a number of appropriate scientific parameters, and strict criteria have been adopted on the maximum concentration of pesticide residue in processed food.

III. Common concerns and topics of interest

33. Issues raised in relation to human rights in the context of globalization include transnational corporations, labour rights and standards, migration, gender, corruption and good governance, sustainable development, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to take part in cultural life.

A. Transnational corporations and other businesses

34. In their responses, Member State identified transnational corporations and other businesses as a driving force of globalization. Foreign direct investments by transnational corporations had the effect of augmenting available resources for promoting human rights. However, corporations were also responsible for adverse effects on the enjoyment of human rights. They often took advantage of, and relocated their operations to, countries that have more fragile tax systems and labour and regulatory standards, and populations that have less bargaining power, including undocumented migrants and underprivileged women. One Member State expressed concern about the fact that some transnational corporations and other businesses resorted to questionable means in order to make a substantial profit from the

exploitation of natural resources, providing little or no benefit to the local economies and communities. Some corporations received contracts through the privatization of services essential to the realization of civil, political, economic and social rights, thereby reducing State policy space to realize those rights. When company profits trump State resources for supplying basic needs, the progressive realization of human rights is compromised. In addition, Member States stated that the globalization of communications had turned a few businesses into Internet giants, storing immense amounts of users' personal information, which raised issues related to the right to privacy.

35. In its response, Portugal argued that businesses should be obliged to undertake due diligence regarding risks to social, environmental and human rights throughout their supply chains and investment policies. Morocco and the Philippines emphasized that, as a means of defining standards of conduct and guaranteeing the accountability of transnational corporations and other businesses, self-regulation by transnational corporations and other businesses should be given equal importance to the regulatory functions of the State and the engagement of States in intergovernmental cooperation. This was emphasized with regard to copyrights and social networks, owing to the power of certain so-called Internet giants. Iraq stated that investment in small and medium-sized businesses could have a positive effect on the economy and the enjoyment of human rights. Senegal noted that transnational corporations and other businesses should be guided to promote environmentally sustainable economic growth. To address the possible adverse effects of their activities, Algeria recommended that all stakeholders engage in implementing human rights norms, including those described in the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution [A/41/128](#)) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Right to work

36. Member States emphasized that the right to work, including the right to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work, was one of the human rights most affected by globalization. They were of the opinion that the competition for foreign investment in a globalized world drove States to approve more flexible labour regulations increasing working hours, decreasing salaries and reducing the level of protection afforded to workers. The decline in the enjoyment of labour rights also affected the enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living. Some Member States argued that the increased practice of outsourcing labour further weakened the protection of workers since it could create hurdles to holding businesses accountable for violations of labour rights. For some Member States, evolving technologies reduced the need for labour in many areas that had previously been unaffected by modernization, increasing rates of unemployment. Some groups, including women, immigrants, and indigenous and tribal peoples, were particularly vulnerable to changes in labour trends caused by globalization.

37. Iraq, Morocco, Portugal and Serbia reported good practices or presented recommendations related to training and capacity-building programmes to help affected workers, including migrants and women, to adapt to labour markets shifts caused by globalization. Furthermore, Morocco recommended that Member States harmonize labour and social policies with the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization, and with the Sustainable Development Goals. It also encouraged tripartite dialogue among representatives of Governments, employers and employees and the provision of support to the sectors most affected by social dumping.

C. Migration

38. Several Member States pointed out that the international movement of people was an integral part of a globalized world. Globalization expanded the global circulation of capital, goods, services and technology, and migration responded to growing demands for skills and labour in receiving countries. These factors, together with ageing populations and declining workforces in high-income countries, increased international migration, including mobility of labour and skills. Member States therefore recognized that migration often presented itself as an opportunity to receiving countries facing demographic deficits. However, they also stressed serious concerns about the human rights of migrants. Undocumented migrants were seen as the most vulnerable. Migrants were often subjected to violations of basic labour standards. Moreover, many migrants were victims of human trafficking, including women and unaccompanied minors. Many victims of trafficking also became victims of contemporary forms of slave labour and/or sexual exploitation. Many people migrated owing to serious violations of human rights that they faced in the context of extreme poverty, armed conflict, terrorism and persecution based on ethnic, religious or similar grounds. Xenophobic expressions against migrants imposed hurdles that impeded migrants from being able to unleash their potential. In some cases, migrants had found themselves in a situation of statelessness.

39. Algeria suggested that enhanced financing for development could prevent poverty in conventional countries of origin of migrants, thereby reducing migration pressures. Argentina reported its initiative to grant humanitarian visas to individuals affected by the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and its international engagement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other international organizations to address the plight of those forced to migrate owing to armed conflict. Serbia also described its endeavours to ensure that the over 900,000 migrants passing through its territory had their basic human rights respected, including with regard to food, shelter and health care, and the right to be informed of regulations concerning seeking asylum in the country and about the prevention of human trafficking. Portugal called for steadfast human rights-based action at all levels to address the refugee crisis. It reported several initiatives that it had introduced to facilitate the acquisition of nationality and access to services, including legal advice, for migrants. It also provided information on assistance given to its own nationals who migrated to other destinations. Morocco recommended the promotion of coexistence and respect for the religious, ethnic and cultural identity of migrants.

D. Women and girls

40. Member States reported that women and girls were disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of globalization. They believed that because women have been traditionally employed in more precarious jobs, they have been more vulnerable to labour market trends caused by globalization. Migrant flows, in particular of refugees and those fleeing harsh economic conditions, have resulted in a large number of unaccompanied children. In these situations, girls have been more vulnerable to abuse and more likely to be subjected to human trafficking.

41. As an example of good practices, Senegal described the engagement of governmental bodies dedicated to the rights of women and girls in debates on the effects of globalization on the enjoyment of human rights. Portugal described the concrete policies contained in its agenda for labour market equality that were aimed at combating structural sexual discrimination.

E. Freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to take part in cultural life

42. Some Member States emphasized the impact of globalization on the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Globalization had contributed to the exercise by individuals of their freedom of expression both within and beyond national borders. However, concerns were expressed in relation to the impact of the unregulated flow of information. It was acknowledged that hate speech had fuelled extremism, threatening the dignity and physical integrity of certain religious and cultural groups. Developing countries, in particular, had faced challenges in terms of their capacity to regulate various sorts of cybercrimes. Member States also argued that the Internet favoured the cultural hegemony of the West, undermining cultural diversity.

43. Madagascar reported that it had adopted legislation that decriminalized press offenses and aimed to combat cybercrimes. Morocco recommended that support be provided to developing countries for capacity-building to deal with social networks, including in areas such as ensuring cultural diversity. Portugal described an initiative it had introduced to promote interreligious dialogue and prevent radicalization and discrimination. Serbia detailed how its national legislation ensured freedom of thought, speech and of the media, in accordance with international standards.

F. Corruption and good governance

44. Some Member States linked globalization to governance and corruption. They contended that globalization had made it easier for illicit funds, or those resulting from corruption, to circulate across borders. Some Member States had adopted tax and secrecy policies that undermined the enjoyment of human rights abroad, by facilitating tax evasion and tax avoidance in other countries. Corruption was one of the biggest obstacles to the realization of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development. Other factors related to globalization also affected the effectiveness of policies and agreements in promoting better standards of living. For example, the lack of human rights impact assessments of trade and investment treaties and policies aimed at implementing them prevented adverse effects from being anticipated and effectively mitigated.

45. Madagascar expressed its commitment to fighting corruption in order to ensure the enjoyment of human rights by its people. Senegal recommended the promotion of good governance as a solution to challenges imposed by globalization. The Philippines recommended the development of an international standard methodology for environmental and regulatory impact assessments activities and regulations relating to business and trade. Argentina reported how regional and South-South cooperation reduced the negative social impacts of international financial instability.

G. Sustainable Development Goals

46. In almost all of their responses, Member States linked globalization to the challenges and opportunities presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. They perceived the Goals as an opportunity for redirecting globalization towards the creation of a more just and equitable world.

47. Algeria called for joint efforts to effectively implement human rights in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As an example of good practices, Argentina described the activities of its National Council for the Coordination of Social Policy, which was responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Goals. Iraq and Morocco recommended lifelong learning opportunities and other social policies as measures for promoting sustainable jobs. The Philippines suggested that the General Assembly encourage regional economic cooperation organizations to align their policies in order to contribute to the achievement of the Goals. It also encouraged the development of national plans for implementing the Goals and stressed the importance of respecting cultural diversity. Portugal and Senegal encouraged the use of inclusive and environmentally sustainable development models to counter global competitiveness trends that are based on social erosion. Serbia reported good practices, including efforts to address the impact of climate change on the sustainability of food crops and the impact of new technologies on human health.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

48. The information set out below is based on the responses received.

A. Conclusions

49. Respondents reaffirmed that while some effects of globalization were positive, others tended to deepen inequalities and disproportionately affect the enjoyment of human rights for people in both developed and developing countries.

50. Activities carried out by transnational corporations and other business enterprises result in both positive and negative trends for human rights. The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework provide a direction for enhancing standards and practices with regard to business and human rights, and thereby contribute to a socially sustainable globalization (Human Rights Council resolution 17/4, para. 4). Businesses can support sustainable development by ensuring respect for human rights across all operations and value chains. The open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (Human Rights Council resolution 26/9) provides an opportunity to engage in constructive efforts to enhance the protection of human rights in the context of business activities and to ensure accountability and access to effective remedies in situations in which rights have been abused. General comment No. 24 (2017) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on State obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of business activities also offers guidance in this context, in particular with regard to the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil and to provide remedies and ensure non-discrimination, together with guidance on extraterritorial obligations (see [E/C.12/GC/24](#)). Micro-, small and medium-sized businesses are a significant source of employment for groups that are particularly vulnerable to social and economic deprivation, including women, older persons and less-skilled workers ([A/HRC/35/32](#), para. 7).

51. Investments and new market opportunities can create work vacancies and promote shifts in labour markets that encourage just and favourable working

conditions. This is only possible, however, if Member States avoid a race to the bottom in labour standards by adopting internationally recognized rules that protect vulnerable groups. Those employed in more traditional jobs are most affected by changes in market trends caused by globalization ([E/C.12/GC/23](#), para. 47), and special programmes should be directed at them.

52. A rights-based approach to migration provides opportunities for those fleeing persecution, climate-related disasters or extreme poverty and enables host countries to promote cultural diversity and address demographic challenges. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable, however, to discrimination based on racial, national or religious grounds. Undocumented migrants are particularly vulnerable to rights violations.

53. New job opportunities and the flow of information facilitated by globalization provide openings for promoting gender equality. Women and girls, however, are likely to be more adversely affected in the labour market and in the context of large migrant flows.

54. Globalization has contributed to the free flow of ideas, on the one hand; on the other, it has also facilitated the spread of hate speech. According to information provided by Member States, it has also arguably increased cultural and technological divides both within and among countries. The Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence ([A/HRC/22/17/Add.4](#), appendix) provides a framework to address hate speech. The Internet and modern means of communication fostered by globalization should be used to promote an inclusive information society that addresses the digital divide between the information-rich and the information-poor ([A/HRC/7/14](#), para. 62). An independent and diverse media can help to protect the rights of media users, including members of ethnic and linguistic minorities, to receive a wide range of information and ideas (see [CCPR/C/GC/34](#)). In this context, strengthening dialogue among religions and holders of different beliefs is important to promote tolerance, respect and mutual understanding.²

55. Good governance, including measures to combat corruption, preventive measures and adequate planning of policies, is crucial for ensuring that globalization has a positive effect on human rights. Fighting corruption, in particular, illicit financial flows (see [A/HRC/31/61](#)), should be done at the national and intergovernmental levels. Preventive measures should include, inter alia, the protection of whistle-blowers ([A/70/361](#), paras. 26-57), awareness-raising, information-sharing, education and the training of all stakeholders involved ([A/HRC/28/73](#), para. 51). Adequate planning should include the promotion of human rights impact assessments of policies and projects (see [A/HRC/19/59/Add.5](#)). It is also crucial to preserve the capacity of Member States to implement policies for protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights (Human Rights Council resolution 25/16, para. 8 (b)).

56. Globalization produces major challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. However, the opportunities it affords can be optimized if Member States and other stakeholders cooperate in the spirit of international solidarity, as evidenced by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and accelerate national and international efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Development is the key to preventing

² As emphasized in Human Rights Council resolution 6/37, para. 12; and stressed in Human Rights Council resolution 22/20, para. 9.

conflict and achieving sustained peace. International commitments to human rights, and inclusive, equitable and sustainable development must be upheld and must guide processes of globalization towards peace, human rights and development.

B. Recommendations

Transnational corporations and other business enterprises

57. Recommendations include the following:

(a) Member States and businesses should implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, cooperate with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and engage constructively in the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights;

(b) Relevant laws, both domestic and international, should address accountability for the activities of corporation that adversely affect the full enjoyment of all human rights by everyone, everywhere; and businesses should be encouraged to help to raise standards of human rights to be enjoyed by consumers and workers, and local communities;

(c) Member States should encourage and facilitate the activities of micro-, small and medium-sized businesses;

(d) Legislation on Internet communications should respect and protect the right to privacy and other relevant human rights.

Right to work

58. Member States should adopt specific policies to assist workers in the sectors most affected by globalization, including through vocational training and training programmes in non-traditional fields of study and work.

Women and girls

59. Recommendations include the following:

(a) Member States should adopt policies addressing structural sex discrimination in the labour market and workplace;

(b) Member States should consider affirmative action to promote women's participation in government and appointment to leadership positions in the private sector.

Migration

60. Recommendations include the following:

(a) Member States should consider issuing humanitarian visas to migrants in vulnerable situations;

(b) All relevant actors should fight exclusion, harmful stereotyping and the stigmatization of migrant workers and refugees;

(c) Member States should ensure that migrants and refugees have access to information on their rights in a language they understand.

Freedom of opinion and expression and the right to take part in cultural life

61. Recommendations include the following:

- (a) **Member States should encourage an independent and diverse media;**
- (b) **Member States and all stakeholders should cooperate with developing countries to bridge the digital divide between and within countries;**
- (c) **Member States should ensure freedom of opinion and expression, including by dissenting voices and media outlets;**
- (d) **All relevant actors should continue and strengthen initiatives to promote dialogue among and within different religions and holders of different beliefs, at all levels.**

Corruption and good governance

62. Recommendations include the following:

- (a) **Intergovernmental efforts to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption should be carried out with increased synergy, including through coordination among relevant international agencies;**
- (b) **Member States should implement the human rights principles of transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and meaningful participation in order to fight effectively against corruption, both locally and globally;³**
- (c) **Member States and international organizations should adopt or revise and implement normative frameworks protecting whistle-blowers;**
- (d) **Human rights impact assessments should be carried out for domestic policies and international trade and investment agreements;**
- (e) **International financial institutions and creditors should respect and preserve the capacity of Member States to design and implement policies and programmes, including national budgets that enable the realization of rights.**

Sustainable Development Goals

63. Recommendations include the following:

- (a) **Member States should fulfil their commitments adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, in line with the Declaration on the Right to Development;**
- (b) **Member States should take into account recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies and special procedures) in the design and implementation of policies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

³ See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/GoodGovernance/Pages/AntiCorruption.aspx>.