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Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Third Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled:

“Promotion and protection of human rights:

“(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

“(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

“(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee’s consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 72

Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Human Rights Committee on its 117th, 118th and 119th sessions (A/72/40)

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols [A/72/439](#), [A/72/439/Add.1](#), [A/72/439/Add.2](#), [A/72/439/Add.3](#) and [A/72/439/Add.4](#).



Letter dated 6 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/C.3/72/9](#))

Item 72 (a)**Implementation of human rights instruments**

Report of the Committee against Torture on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions ([A/72/44](#))

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions ([A/72/48](#))

Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions ([A/72/55](#))

Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on its eleventh and twelfth sessions ([A/72/56](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto ([A/72/227](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery ([A/72/229](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture ([A/72/278](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the tenth annual report of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([A/72/168](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their 29th meeting ([A/72/177](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment ([A/72/178](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([A/72/273](#))

Item 72 (b)**Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights ([A/72/132](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities ([A/72/219](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights ([A/72/230](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region ([A/72/256](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization ([A/72/260](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights ([A/72/277](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ([A/72/280](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies ([A/72/284](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity ([A/72/289](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity ([A/72/290](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism ([A/72/316](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity ([A/72/351](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief ([A/72/381](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa ([A/72/518](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation ([A/72/127](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report 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 ([A/72/128](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism ([A/72/131](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities ([A/72/133](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association ([A/72/135](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health ([A/72/137](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences ([A/72/139](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers ([A/72/140](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights ([A/72/153](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights ([A/72/155](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises ([A/72/162](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children ([A/72/164](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues ([A/72/165](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders ([A/72/170](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity ([A/72/171](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity ([A/72/172](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants ([A/72/173](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order ([A/72/187](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food ([A/72/188](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons ([A/72/202](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions ([A/72/335](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression ([A/72/350](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief ([A/72/365](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights ([A/72/502](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights ([A/72/370](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence ([A/72/523](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy ([A/72/540](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education ([A/72/496](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism ([A/72/495](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development ([A/72/163](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General on the right to development ([A/72/201](#))

Item 72 (c)

Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([A/72/279](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran ([A/72/562](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 ([A/72/556](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran ([A/72/322](#) and [A/72/322/Corr.1](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar ([A/72/382](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([A/72/394](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus ([A/72/493](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi ([A/72/281](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) ([A/72/498](#))

Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/580-S/2017/798](#))

Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/581-S/2017/799](#))

Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/582-S/2017/800](#))

Letter dated 27 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/583-S/2017/816](#))

Letter dated 27 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/584-S/2017/817](#))

Letter dated 27 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/585-S/2017/818](#))

Letter dated 27 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/586-S/2017/819](#))

Letter dated 9 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/587-S/2017/852](#))

Letter dated 10 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/C.3/72/11](#))

Letter dated 12 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/588-S/2017/873](#))

Letter dated 20 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/C.3/72/14](#))

Letter dated 23 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/C.3/72/16](#))

Letter dated 8 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/594-S/2017/947](#))

Item 72 (d)

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([A/72/36](#))

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.36/Rev.1](#)

4. At its 48th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “International Day of Sign Languages” ([A/C.3/72/L.36/Rev.1](#)), which replaced draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.36](#) and was submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritius, Morocco, Panama, Sri Lanka, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda made a statement.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.36/Rev.1](#) (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

B. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

8. At its 53rd meeting, on 21 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents considered in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

9. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Day of Sign Languages

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally, as well as of improving the efficiency, performance and transparency of the Organization,

Reaffirming its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,² in which it is reflected that sign languages are equal to spoken languages, and that States parties to the Convention undertake to recognize, accept and promote the use of sign languages,

Recalling further its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, [42/207 C](#) of 11 December 1987, [47/135](#) of 18 December 1992 and [50/11](#) of 2 November 1995 and other subsequent resolutions relating to multilingualism, including resolutions [67/292](#) of 24 July 2013, [68/307](#) of 10 September 2014, [69/96 A and B](#) of 5 December 2014, [69/250](#) of 29 December 2014, [69/324](#) of 11 September 2015, [71/101 A and B](#) of 6 December 2016, [71/262](#) and [71/263](#) of 23 December 2016, [71/288](#) of 24 May 2017, [71/314](#) of 19 July 2017 and [71/328](#) of 11 September 2017,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights relevant to matters of language and fundamental freedoms is a critical prerequisite to the full realization of human rights for deaf people,

Aware that sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from spoken languages, alongside which they coexist, and that, when working with deaf communities, the principle of “nothing about us without us” must be considered and integrated,

Recalling that early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual and critical to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals,

¹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Recognizing the importance of preserving sign languages as part of linguistic and cultural diversity,

1. *Proclaims* 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages, to be observed each year beginning in 2018, in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe the International Day of Sign Languages in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of sign languages;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures to raise awareness of sign languages throughout society;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution regarding the International Day of Sign Languages should be met from voluntary contributions.

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents submitted under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”:

Under item 72:

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee on its 117th, 118th and 119th sessions;¹

Under sub-item 72 (a):

(a) Report of the Committee against Torture on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions;²

(b) Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions;³

(c) Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on its eleventh and twelfth sessions;⁴

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery;⁵

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;⁶

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the tenth annual report of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;⁷

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their 29th meeting;⁸

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;⁹

Under sub-item 72 (b):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report 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;¹⁰

¹ [A/72/40](#).

² [A/72/44](#).

³ [A/72/55](#).

⁴ [A/72/56](#).

⁵ [A/72/229](#).

⁶ [A/72/278](#).

⁷ [A/72/168](#).

⁸ [A/72/177](#).

⁹ [A/72/273](#).

¹⁰ [A/72/128](#).

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism;¹¹

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;¹²

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;¹³

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;¹⁴

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;¹⁵

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;¹⁶

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights;¹⁷

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises;¹⁸

(j) Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development;¹⁹

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;²⁰

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity;²¹

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;²²

(n) Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General on the right to development;²³

¹¹ [A/72/131](#).

¹² [A/72/135](#).

¹³ [A/72/137](#).

¹⁴ [A/72/139](#).

¹⁵ [A/72/140](#).

¹⁶ [A/72/153](#).

¹⁷ [A/72/155](#).

¹⁸ [A/72/162](#).

¹⁹ [A/72/163](#).

²⁰ [A/72/164](#).

²¹ [A/72/171](#).

²² [A/72/172](#).

²³ [A/72/201](#).

(o) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;²⁴

(p) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;²⁵

(q) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;²⁶

(r) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;²⁷

(s) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;²⁸

(t) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education;²⁹

(u) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights;³⁰

(v) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;³¹

(w) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy;³²

Under sub-item 72 (c):

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi;³³

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus;³⁴

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;³⁵

Under sub-item 72 (d):

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.³⁶

²⁴ [A/72/202](#).

²⁵ [A/72/335](#).

²⁶ [A/72/350](#).

²⁷ [A/72/370](#).

²⁸ [A/72/495](#).

²⁹ [A/72/496](#).

³⁰ [A/72/502](#).

³¹ [A/72/523](#).

³² [A/72/540](#).

³³ [A/72/281](#).

³⁴ [A/72/493](#).

³⁵ [A/72/556](#).

³⁶ [A/72/36](#).