



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

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Agenda item 10

### Technical assistance and capacity-building

**Albania,\* Argentina, Australia,\* Brazil, Canada,\* Chile,\* Ecuador,\* Fiji,\* Honduras, Iceland,\* Indonesia, Italy,\* Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Morocco,\* Nepal, Norway,\* Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru,\* Portugal,\* Qatar, Singapore,\* Somalia, Spain,\* Thailand,\* Türkiye,\* Ukraine, Uruguay\* and Yemen\*:** draft resolution

### 51/... 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 Charter 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 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling all relevant human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

*Recognizing* that, in the context of technical cooperation and capacity-building, the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for 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 human rights, to prevent human rights violations and to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

*Bearing in mind* the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as stated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, to promote 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* all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, in particular Council resolution 33/28 of 30 September 2016 and the report requested therein, and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Current system-wide delivery and financing of, and existing gaps in, technical assistance and capacity-building that support the implementation by States of their international human rights obligations and commitments”,<sup>1</sup>

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\* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/49/68.



*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, which are grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties,

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

*Acknowledging* the role and impact of the activities of the relevant agencies of the United Nations and international and regional organizations, the contribution of national stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and civil society organizations in providing States with technical support and assistance on the basis of the needs and requests of the States concerned, and the support of national parliaments in the implementation of States’ human rights obligations, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations,

*Reiterating* that one of the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 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,

*Noting with concern* the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on States’ implementation of their human rights obligations, as well as of their voluntary pledges and commitments in some areas, which could affect progress on addressing inequalities, systemic discrimination and the needs of persons in vulnerable situations,

*Expressing appreciation* for the important role played by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review in supporting States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of their human rights obligations and the recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review,

*Noting* that a number of States have utilized relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the implementation of their human rights obligations and commitments, and underlining the need to further promote the visibility of these funds and facilitate the way to solicit them,

*Noting with appreciation* the contributions of the Boards of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review through their annual reports to the Human Rights Council, in particular on the components of technical cooperation and the identification of good practices,

*Welcoming and encouraging* new and existing initiatives aimed at providing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building support, in consultation with and with the consent of the Member States concerned, through bilateral, regional, multilateral and international cooperation, including bilateral human rights dialogues and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to assist States in implementing their human rights obligations, as well as voluntary pledges and commitments,

*Stressing* the need to raise awareness about the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, which would accelerate the implementation of activities in this area, with a view to improving human rights situations worldwide, and also the need to maintain the spirit of constructive cooperation and non-politicization,

*Emphasizing* that the recent commemorative event held on the occasion of the fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council offers States an important opportunity to reflect on the progress made and address the challenges faced in technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and to deliberate on ways to further strengthen this important mandate of the Council, and underlining the need for States and all relevant stakeholders to work in complementarity with one another in the delivery of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights,

1. *Emphasizes* that the general debate under agenda item 10 is an essential platform for Members and observers of the Human Rights Council to share their visions and views, and concrete experiences, challenges and information on assistance needed, with regard to promoting more effective technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and that such technical cooperation should remain an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, the private sector and civil society, including women's organizations;

2. *Reiterates* 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, and the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and are aimed at making a concrete impact at all levels on the ground;

3. *Underlines* the importance of addressing the evolving challenges in implementing technical cooperation and capacity-building activities on the ground, and the need to promote constructive dialogue and collaboration, as well as financial support and advisory services for technical assistance in the field of human rights, taking into account the national context;

4. *Underscores* the need to strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in support of the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, with a view to generating sustainable outcomes, and encourages regional human rights bodies to share experiences and exchange good practices in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, including those relating to the empowerment of all women and girls, while engaging with relevant players including national human rights institutions and civil society organizations;

5. *Reaffirms* the ongoing need for enhanced voluntary contributions to the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights, encourages States to continue to make contributions to these funds as well as to the technical assistance and capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner is in a position to respond to the requests for assistance identified in its annual appeals, and encourages the funds and the Office to continue to enhance the efficiency and transparency of their activities;

6. *Encourages* States in need of technical assistance to consider requesting it from the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations agencies in the implementation of their human rights obligations, and their voluntary pledges and commitments, including recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, and strongly encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and the respective United Nations agencies to respond favourably to such requests and to provide information, in a transparent manner, on the technical support available for and provided to States;

7. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies in their technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts, and encourages the sharing of information on a regular basis

between the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and the States concerned on technical assistance and capacity-building efforts undertaken at the national level;

8. *Encourages* the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in their interaction with States, to continue to share information and knowledge relating to best practices and the possibility of providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, including, where applicable and within their respective mandates, those pertaining to the empowerment of all women and girls;

9. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council to support States, upon request, in building their capacity for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, through various activities and engagement, making use also of available virtual platforms where appropriate, where States and a wide range of partners and actors can participate, learn and share experiences and identify needs for assistance;

10. *Welcomes* the panel discussion held by the Human Rights Council at its fiftieth session, pursuant to its resolution 48/24 of 11 October 2021, on the theme “Technical cooperation on the full and effective participation of women in decision-making and in public life and on the elimination of violence, with a view to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, at which participants underlined the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a component to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5, and stressed the need to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of women and girls, and the need for them to be closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes and in public life, as well as to eliminate all forms of violence against them;<sup>2</sup>

11. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Human Rights Council resolution 18/18 of 29 September 2011, to hold, before the fifty-third session of the Council, a half-day intersessional meeting on the theme “Technical cooperation and capacity-building in the Human Rights Council: taking stock of the past for a better discharge of this mission in the future”, in order to allow States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to identify and reflect on the achievements made and obstacles faced, and to share best practices and experiences in this regard;

12. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the above-mentioned intersessional meeting with all necessary services and facilities, and to provide webcasting services for the meeting;

13. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to present a report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-third session, recommending the way forward to improve technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, taking into account the outcomes of the discussions held during the intersessional meeting, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue;

14. *Calls upon* States, international human rights bodies and mechanisms, relevant international organizations, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and civil society to make use of the ideas and issues raised in the intersessional meeting and the enhanced interactive dialogue to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and policy coherence of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts and to build multi-stakeholder partnerships, with a view to improving States’ capacities to promote, protect and fulfil human rights.

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<sup>2</sup> See also A/HRC/50/62.