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Agenda item 71 (a)

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Robin de Vogel (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2024, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of human rights instruments” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the sub-item jointly with sub-item 71 (b), entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms”, sub-item 71 (c), entitled “Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives”, and sub-item 71 (d), entitled “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”, and heard introductory statements, held interactive dialogues and a general discussion on item 71, entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, as a whole, considered a proposal and took action on the sub-item at its 24th to 27th and 56th meetings, on 22 and 23 October and 21 November 2024. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For the documents before the Committee under this sub-item, see document [A/79/458](#).

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols [A/79/458](#), [A/79/458/Add.1](#), [A/79/458/Add.2](#), [A/79/458/Add.3](#) and [A/79/458/Add.4](#).

¹ [A/C.3/79/SR.16](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.17](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.18](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.19](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.20](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.21](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.22](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.23](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.24](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.25](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.26](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.27](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.28](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.29](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.30](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.31](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.32](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.33](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.34](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.35](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.36](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.37](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.38](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.39](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.40](#) and [A/C.3/79/SR.56](#).



II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.38/Rev.1](#)

4. At its 56th meeting, on 21 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Human rights treaty body system” ([A/C.3/79/L.38/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand, Tunisia and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
5. At the same meeting, Côte d’Ivoire and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
6. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Iceland (also on behalf of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden) made a statement.
7. Also at its 56th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.38/Rev.1](#) (see para. 9).
8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, the Niger, El Salvador and Peru.

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

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

Human rights treaty body system

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,³ the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,⁴ the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁵ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁶ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁷ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁸ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment⁹ and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹⁰

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985,

Recalling further its resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,

Recalling its resolution 77/210 of 15 December 2022 on the human rights treaty body system,

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of international human rights instruments by States parties is of major importance to the efforts of the United Nations to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Recognizing the important, valuable and unique role and contribution of each of the human rights treaty bodies in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through their examination of the progress made by States parties to the respective human rights treaties in fulfilling their relevant obligations and their provision of recommendations to States parties on the implementation of such treaties,

Expressing concern over the continued effect that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and COVID-19-related restrictions had on the work, efficiency and output of the treaty bodies and efforts to address the backlog of State party reports pending review, including full suspension or postponement of sessions between 13 March 2020 and 6 September 2021, as well as the lack of digital tools to support the treaty bodies to carry out their work more efficiently, and also expressing concern

¹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² Ibid.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 2716, No. 48088.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁸ Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁹ Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 2375, No. 24841.

over the ongoing liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations, which has further exacerbated these challenges, including the efficiency of the treaty body system,

Emphasizing the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, including those linked to the promotion and protection of human rights, reaffirming the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations for the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies, and recognizing that multilingualism is essential for enhancing accessibility, transparency and the participation of all States parties in these processes,

Welcoming the ongoing process of the consideration of the state of the human rights treaty body system, and noting the 2020 report on the process co-facilitated by Morocco and Switzerland,¹¹

Taking note of the human rights treaty bodies' continuing efforts, within their respective mandates, towards achieving greater efficiency, transparency, effectiveness, predictability, coordination and harmonization through their working methods outlined in the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth annual meetings,¹² including a clear and regularized cycle for scheduling reporting by States parties and the additional modalities for harmonization for procedural and substantive coordination among the human rights treaty bodies,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the human rights treaty body system;¹³

2. *Welcomes* the annual reports of the human rights treaty bodies submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth¹⁴ and seventy-ninth¹⁵ sessions and to the Economic and Social Council at its 2023¹⁶ and 2024 sessions;¹⁷

3. *Invites* the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its eightieth and eighty-first sessions under the item relevant to the work of the treaty body;

4. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue their efforts for the full implementation of resolution 68/268;

5. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 26 to 28 of its resolution 68/268, in which it set out how the allocation of meeting time to the treaty bodies would be identified and requested the Secretary-General to provide the corresponding financial and human resources, decided that the meeting time allocated would be reviewed biennially and amended on that basis at the request of the Secretary-General in line with established budgetary procedures, and requested the Secretary-General accordingly to take into account the meeting time needed by the human rights treaty body system in his future annual programme budget;

6. *Reaffirms its invitation* to the human rights treaty bodies and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, to continue to work to increase coordination and predictability in the

¹¹ See [A/75/601](#).

¹² See [A/77/228](#), [A/78/354](#) and [A/79/292](#).

¹³ [A/79/336](#).

¹⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/78/18);* *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 38 (A/78/38)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 40 (A/78/40)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 44 (A/78/44)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 48 (A/78/48)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 55 (A/78/55)*; and *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 56 (A/78/56)*.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/79/18);* *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 38 (A/79/38)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 41 (A/79/41)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 44 (A/79/44)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 48 (A/79/48)*; and *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 56 (A/79/56)*.

¹⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 2 (E/2023/22)*.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 2024, *Supplement No. 2 (E/2024/22)*.

reporting process, including through cooperation with States parties, with the aim of achieving a clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties;

7. *Notes* that the COVID-19 pandemic showed the need to strengthen the capacity of the treaty bodies to engage and interact online and that the impact of the pandemic created an urgency to use digitalization for improved efficiency, transparency and accessibility of the treaty bodies and the interaction with all relevant stakeholders;

8. *Invites* the treaty bodies to increase their efforts to further the use of digital technologies in their work, including in their consideration of periodic reports and individual communications, as well as to facilitate participation and accessibility of States parties and all relevant stakeholders in the mandated activities of the treaty bodies, including by means of videoconference, while stressing that in-person interaction and multilingualism remain a crucial component of their work, requests the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in its capacity as secretariat of the treaty bodies, with the assistance of United Nations country teams, as appropriate, through their existing videoconferencing facilities, to provide States parties, upon their request, with necessary assistance in this regard, and welcomes voluntary contributions from Member States to facilitate this work further;

9. *Expresses appreciation* for the organization of discussions on matters related to the implementation of each human rights treaty at meetings of the States parties thereto, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to support such practices;

10. *Also expresses appreciation* for the opportunity to interact with the Chairs of the treaty bodies during their annual meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to support such opportunities;

11. *Further expresses appreciation* for the advisory services, capacity-building and technical assistance provided by the Secretary-General to support States parties in building their capacity to implement their treaty obligations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

12. *Reiterates its request*, made in paragraph 40 of its resolution [68/268](#), that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session a report on the status of the human rights treaty body system.