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Agenda item 72 (a)

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

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth 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 Committee considered proposals and took action on the sub-item at its 8th meeting, on 16 November. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.¹ Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 6th meetings, from 5 to 8 October.²

3. The Committee, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 5 October, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for its seventy-fifth session and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, convened 20 virtual informal meetings to hear introductory statements and hold interactive dialogues on the sub-item jointly with sub-item 72 (b), entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms”, sub-item 72 (c), entitled “Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives”, and sub-item 72 (d), entitled “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the

¹ A/C.3/75/SR.8.

² See A/C.3/75/SR.1, A/C.3/75/SR.2, A/C.3/75/SR.3, A/C.3/75/SR.4, A/C.3/75/SR.5 and A/C.3/75/SR.6. Pursuant to the organization of work adopted at the 1st meeting, on 5 October, official statements received by the Secretariat for posting on eStatements can be accessed at the following link: <https://journal.un.org/>.



Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in the annex to document [A/75/478](#).

4. For the documents before the Committee under this sub-item, see document [A/75/478](#).

5. At the 7th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.³

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.39](#)

6. At its 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Human rights treaty body system” ([A/C.3/75/L.39](#)), which was submitted by Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United States of America. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland, also on behalf of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden, made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.39](#) (see para. 10).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Japan.

³ See [A/C.3/75/SR.7](#).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

10. 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 73/162 of 17 December 2018 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,

Emphasizing the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, including those linked to the promotion and protection of human rights, and 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,

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.

Recalling paragraph 41 of its resolution 68/268, and in this regard welcoming the process of the consideration of the state of the human rights treaty body system and taking note of the report of the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Morocco and Switzerland to the United Nations, to the President of the General Assembly,¹¹

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the human rights treaty body system;¹²

2. *Welcomes* the annual reports of the human rights treaty bodies submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth¹³ and seventy-fifth¹⁴ sessions and to the Economic and Social Council at its 2019¹⁵ and 2020 sessions;¹⁶

3. *Invites* the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh 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 biennial programme budget;

6. *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;

7. *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;

8. *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;

9. *Reiterates its request*, made in paragraph 40 of its resolution 68/268, that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the status of the human rights treaty body system.

¹¹ See letter dated 14 September 2020 from the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

¹² A/74/643.

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/74/18)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 38 (A/74/38)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 40 (A/74/40)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 44 (A/74/44)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 48 (A/74/48)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 55 (A/74/55)*; and *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 56 (A/74/56)*; see also A/74/256.

¹⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/75/18)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 38 (A/75/38)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 40 (A/75/40)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 41 (A/75/41)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 44 (A/75/44)*; *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 48 (A/75/48)*; and *ibid.*, *Supplement No. 56 (A/75/56)*.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 2 (E/2019/22)*.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 2020, *Supplement No. 2 (E/2020/22)*.